

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018
2:55 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2107, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

House Bill 2107, House Draft 2 proposes to establish the Plastic Free Hawaii Initiative Program with the mission to eliminate plastic waste impacting native species and polluting the State's environment, establish the Plastic Free Hawaii Advisory Council to collect data regarding plastic pollution and provide recommendations to eliminate plastic waste, and appropriate funds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department recognizes the deleterious impacts of marine debris on wildlife and their habitats as a primary natural resource issue throughout the State. Marine debris degrade land and ocean based habitat through smothering and abrasion and impact a variety of wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial) through ingestion and entanglement. Hawai'i has the highest reported debris accumulations in the United States' Pacific Ocean Coastlines. The Department recently conducted a state-wide survey of marine debris accumulations spanning 1,000 miles of Hawai'i's coastline and detected over 20,000 individual pieces of marine debris, primarily composed of plastics. This was considered a vast under-estimate considering the study focused only on larger, easily identifiable debris items. Smaller microplastics are also prominent throughout Hawai'i's beaches. The study also highlighted the need for marine debris management in remote stretches of coastline, not easily accessed by clean-up groups.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Although a large amount of marine debris arrives from the ocean, it is all of our responsibility to reduce the amount of debris entering and re-entering our ocean and beaches. One of the major challenges we face in managing marine debris in Hawai‘i, is the lack of a coordination among State, City and County, and Federal agencies in addition to clean-up groups, and communities. House Bill 2107, House Draft 2’s Plastic Free Initiative Program is a critical step in helping the Department address this issue by the establishment of an advisory council that can coordinate a state-wide marine debris management plan and fund-raise for the necessary appropriations to address this critical issue.

The Department recommends one change to the bill in that a “Hawai‘i initiative Council” is established rather than a “Hawai‘i initiative Program” with the responsibilities described in the bill. The wording of “Program” may lead to confusion with other Departmental programs, such as the Forestry Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-2107-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 2:50:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii ("DPH"). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2107 HD2** relating to the Plastic Free Hawaii Initiative.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of **HB2107 HD2** and is in favor of its passage.

HB2107 HD2 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes the Plastic Pollution Initiative Program with the mission to eliminate plastic waste impacting native species and polluting the State's environment; establishes the Plastic Pollution Advisory Council to collect data regarding plastic pollution and provide recommendations to eliminate plastic waste; and appropriates funds.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[w]e believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally-friendly modes of transportation, recycling, and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation, and restoration of Hawaii's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage to handle current and future demands for water, we mu assess the current condition of our aquifer and take appropriate action to secure our freshwater resources.

We support the democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in the management of coastal resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous people in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 413-439 (2016)).

Given that **HB2107 HD2** establishes the Plastic Pollution Initiative Program with the mission to eliminate plastic waste impacting native species and polluting the State's environment; establishes the Plastic Pollution Advisory Council to collect data regarding plastic pollution and provide recommendations to eliminate plastic waste; and appropriates funds, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 2:55PM Conference Room 224

In SUPPORT of HB 2107 HD2 Relating to environmental protection

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Riviere and members of the Committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **strongly supports HB 2107 HD2**, which aims to develop a long term plan to eliminate plastic waste in Hawai'i.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, dedicated to exploring, enjoying, and protecting these unique and beautiful islands we call home, have engaged in decades-long efforts to protect public access to trails and beaches in addition to restoring hundreds of trails on public and private land. Part of our dedication to protect is to keep these valuable public areas free of pollution from plastics and other waste. In this case, we advocate for halting harmful plastic pollution at the source. This measure is one of many that support our collective efforts to reduce pollution across the board.

Single-use plastics pollute our lands and freshwater bodies, clog up drainage systems, harm wildlife and ultimately end up in our ocean waters--settling on our reefs and, in some places, creating large plastic island gyres. Plastics, especially for single-use, cannot typically be recycled, and pose harm to marine life. The toxins and heavy chemicals found in them are not compostable or biodegradable, and can take 500 years or more to decompose. They create an overabundance of waste that continually overflows local landfills and overflows our beaches. By reducing single-use plastics at the source, Hawai'i will have the opportunity to take on one of the most toxic and widespread of pollutants, and showcase its state sustainability goals to the

nation. This effort will also enable Hawai'i to invest in the future aesthetics of the island, and more importantly the health and safety of marine life and the local population.

We urge the Committee to pass this measure, which will serve our collective efforts to keep Hawai'i's land, freshwater bodies, and oceans free of plastic pollution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2107 HD2.

HB-2107-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 12:27:57 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Parra	Testifying for Keiko Conservation	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2107-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2018 3:17:37 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 2107 HD2. By reducing single-use plastics at the source, Hawai'i will have the opportunity to take on one of the most toxic and widespread of pollutants, and showcase its state sustainability goals to the nation. This effort will also enable Hawai'i to invest in the future aesthetics of the island, and more importantly the health and safety of marine life and the local population. Pass HB 2107 HD2.

HB-2107-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2018 10:30:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2107-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 3:58:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Markl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello Committee Members And Chair(s):

Please support this bill now towards eliminating plastics since it endangers wildlife and the environment. Thank you.

HB-2107-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 4:37:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2107-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 5:08:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaunette Itsuno	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2107 HD2. It is very disturbing that Hawaii residents produce more waste per capita than the residents of any other state , especially since we have to care for our fragile ocean ecosystems that our islands are surrounded by. I believe that a lot can be done to shift this ridiculously disastrous disregard for our environment that we need to sustain us. Establishing the Plastic Pollution Initiative Program will greatly help to reverse the environmental damages that are being done.

HB-2107-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 10:51:37 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
june chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is June Chee and I am a resident of Honolulu (1888 Kalakaua Ave #3103 96815). I am submitting testimony in support of this bill to establish a Plastic Pollution Initiative Program. This program is much needed as plastic pollution is a serious issue that will impact the longterm health of our islands. This program is also important because solutions for tackling plastic polluton on a statewide scale still need to be identified in a way that supports and takes into account all stakeholders involved. This is not something that the government can fix alone which is why as a resident I take individual action to limit my plastic use, support businesses and products that reduce the use the plastic, and make sure to properly dispose of plastic waste. Please support your residents by supporting this bill to seek out and plan for longterm solutions.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

June

HB-71-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:07:15 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/13/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claire Poh, PhD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the ban of the use of styrofoam. Expanded polystyrene has 0 biodegradability, meaning it will never degrade in a landfill. It also has no potential for Post-secondary use. Hawaii already has a huge trash problem and has to spend millions a year to export the trash we produce. By Banning the use of foam, a significant reduction in the amount of trash Oahu produces that has to be sent to the mainland. There are many alternative materials restaurants can use besides styrofoam. Therefore, I strongly urge you to pass this bill. - Dr. Claire Poh, PhD in Materials Science & Engineering, of Hawaii Kai 96825

HB-2107-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:03:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB2107 as a strong first step to appropriate funds and establish a long term plan to eliminate plastic pollution in Hawaii through the collection of data and the creation of an Advisory Council to chart a long term plan and next steps to address this grave issue. Plastic marine pollution is a serious environmental problem which harms our precious coral reef ecosystem and all its inhabitants, leaches toxins and ends up poisoning fish and ultimately harming humans, too. Particles break down into smaller and smaller pieces making it extremely challenging to remove. Our beaches, coral, human and sea animal health and reef and ocean water quality in general are compromised as is our status as a world-class tourist destination. Please support this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2107-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 9:13:58 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2107-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 9:39:16 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liliana Galicha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mike Gabbard (AEN), Karl Rhoads (WTL)

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN), Water and Land (WTL)

Bill Number HB2107

Hearing is on Wednesday March 14, 2018

2:55 PM in conference room 224, State Capitol

Hello, my name is Liliana Galicha and I am currently testifying on bill number HB2107. This bill would “eliminate plastic waste impacting native species and polluting the State's environment“. I support this measure because I have some concerns on it.

Eliminating plastic will not only help the native species but the people of Hawai'i as well. This is a concern to all of us because a vast majority of Hawai'i native animals and plants are currently endangered or almost extinct. The native plants here are endemic, meaning that they can only be found here in Hawai'i. Reason for that is because when they came to Hawai'i, they evolved over many years (a few hundred insects evolved into thousands). The Hawai'i native species are so special to the culture and are rich in history. The native species had many uses to the early Hawaiians and are still useful to this day. A lot of the animals are also

keystone species, meaning that if one of them are gone then that will pose a huge threat because it will throw off the ecosystem.

This will be beneficial for us as a state because Plastic Pollution Advisory Council will collect data on the pollution and may come up with strategies on how to properly eliminate the plastic. If their strategies are helpful and effective, this could help out other places with the same problem as us. Plastic is very harmful and deadly to the environment because it is non-biodegradable and stays forever. There are not much effective ways on how to properly dispose of these plastics which end up in our oceans which then kill and destruct Hawai'i marine life. Tourism is an important aspect to Hawai'i's economy. If plastics start to ruin our reefs, that will take a toll on our tourism rate. Any type of pollution is bad, but plastic pollution is the worst which is why this bill needs to follow through.

The bill is a good strategy to protect not only our native species, but us as well. This bill needs to be smartly enforced and acted upon immediately. I am in support of this bill and in hope that it goes through.

Liliana Galicha

lilianagalicha@gmail.com

LATE

HB-2107-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:03:26 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaliko Amona	Individual	Support	No

Comments: