

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 Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, April 5, 2018
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2107, HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

House Bill 2107, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1 proposes to establish the Plastic Pollution Initiative with the mission to eliminate plastic waste impacting native species and polluting the State's environment, establish the Plastic Pollution 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.

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

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

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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

State, City and County, and Federal agencies in addition to clean-up groups, and communities. House Bill 2107, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1's Plastic Pollution Initiative 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



April 3, 2018

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Tim Shestek
American Chemistry Council

Re: **HB 2107 HD 2 SD 1– Comments**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2107 HD 2 SD 1, legislation that seeks to establish a long-term plan to eliminate plastic pollution in Hawaii's environment and reduce cleanup costs to taxpayers. ACC stands with the majority of scientists and policy makers who have found that effective marine litter solutions require an array of actions, including increased litter prevention, reducing, reusing and recycling, and other waste management infrastructure improvements.

Tackling marine debris is a complex challenge yet the plastics industry is actively engaged in efforts to respond. A landmark study published in Science Magazine identified developing countries in Asia that lack waste management as the source of the majority of plastic waste entering the oceans. By contrast the United States including Hawaii accounts for less than 1 percent of plastic marine debris.¹ Unfortunately, currents bring some of this unmanaged waste from Asia to Hawaii's shores. Thus, this is a global challenge that the plastic industry is working to address. Building on work in individual regions, trade associations representing both plastic resin makers and converters have come together to work with governments, NGOs, researchers and other stakeholders to prevent marine litter. Under the industry's "Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter" over 350 projects have been launched globally to prevent marine debris. Commitments have been made to:

- Contribute to solutions by working in public-private partnerships aimed at preventing marine debris;
- Work with the scientific community and researchers to better understand and evaluate the scope, origins and impact of and solutions to marine litter;
- Promote comprehensive science-based policies and enforcement of existing laws to prevent marine litter;
- Help spread knowledge regarding eco-efficient waste management systems and practices, particularly in communities and countries that border our oceans and watersheds;
- Enhance opportunities to recover plastic products for recycling and energy recovery; and
- Steward the transport and distribution of plastic resin pellets and products from supplier to customer to prevent product loss and encourage our customers to do the same.

In addition to Asia, we have basic waste management challenges in the US and Hawaii that need to be addressed. Just last year, ACC partnered with the City and County of Honolulu on a project to find and close off potential pathways for trash from land-based sources into the marine environment. One of the primary sources of litter found near waterways and beaches on Oahu is uncovered public trash cans that allow garbage to blow out. Through our partnership, ACC and the City and County of Honolulu identified a better design for outdoor public garbage cans to keep trash out of parks, and most importantly, out of waterways and the ocean. As part of this effort, ACC provided new cans that are now installed. Further studies will be conducted to gauge the effectiveness of this intervention. More information about our activities to help reduce marine debris can be found at: <http://www.marinedebrissolutions.com>.

¹ Jambeck, J.R., Andrady, A., Geyer, R., Narayan, R., Perryman, M., Siegler, T., Wilcox, C., Lavender Law, K., (2015). Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean, *Science*, 347, p. 768-771



Generally speaking, ACC supports the intent behind HB 2107. Nevertheless, we would like to offer some specific suggestions. The bill proposes to create the plastic pollution advisory council consisting of various stakeholders. **Though recent amendments added a representative of the Chamber of Commerce to the advisory council, ACC urges your committee to further expand the makeup of the advisory council to include representatives of restaurants, the plastics manufacturing industry, plastic packaging producers, retailers, and the grocery product industry. Including representation of these sectors will help ensure the advisory council can draw upon an array of expertise and resources related to marine debris, recycling, litter prevention, packaging design and use, as well as potential impacts any public policy option might have on the broader business community.**

ACC also urges you to be mindful of the potential unintended environmental impacts associated with any effort that focuses exclusively on plastic materials. While some may suggest that simply eliminating plastic materials will have a net benefit on the environment, this assumption is not supported by scientific fact. A 2016 study found that the environmental cost of using plastics in consumer goods and packaging is nearly four times less than it would be if plastics were replaced with alternative materials.² Strong, lightweight plastics help us do more with less material, which provides environmental benefits throughout the lifecycle of plastic products and packaging.

This type of information and background is essential for any effort that looks at potential public policy options for addressing marine debris. Thank you for the opportunity to share these comments. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or ACC's Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551.

² https://www.plasticpackagingfacts.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/ACC-report_July-2016_v4.pdf

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition

**To: Senate Ways and Means Committee
Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair**

Re: HB 2107, HD 2, SD 1: re Plastics Pollution in the Oceans

Decision-Making: Thursday, April 5, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Room 211

Position: Strong Support

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – was formed last year by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. We are currently asking the Legislature to pass a handful of very important bills to save our coral reefs – they are bills relating to sunscreens –plus bills on cesspools; plastic straws, bottles and other marine debris; and sea level rise.

We are informed almost daily of the ever-expanding size of the massive amount of plastic trash that is floating in the Pacific between Hawai'i and the U.S. Mainland. It is currently estimated to exceed the size of Texas.

As Hawai'i residents, we see the urgency of getting some level of control over this rapidly expanding expanse of trash. This bill would provide for planning, an important first step toward actions to reduce plastic pollution in the future. Accordingly, we strongly support this bill. Thank you very much for considering our concerns.

Alan B. Burdick for HIROC
Burdick808@gmail.com / 486-1018

HB-2107-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 10:27:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2107 HD2 SD1** relating to the Plastic Pollution Initiative; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2107 HD2 SD1** and supports its passage.

HB2107 HD2 SD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), as it establishes the plastic pollution initiative 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 states, "State and county governments have a key role to play in setting reasonable standards for industry and trade. As market conditions change, government agencies must adapt and revise regulations to promote "green" sustainable industries that are compatible with preserving the natural and scenic beauty of Hawai'i. In this regard, we must find ways to stimulate recycling and biodegradable packaging to minimize landfill needs. We must move from carbon-based power to electric power.

Improvements to infrastructure are critical to providing a healthy base to the Hawaiian economy. Upgrading publicly-owned water works, preserving agricultural water sources, improving public transportation, redesigning mass transit, and supporting universal basic education for all children are key elements in maintaining a strong, sustainable economy in Hawai'i. In addition, we must abandon the "throwaway"

economy to avoid wasting our valuable resources. (Platform of DPH, P. 1, Lines 44-54 (2016)).

We need to give priority to the development of “green” sustainable industries and business. We need financial literacy and asset building programs to strengthen our ‘ohana. Green commerce includes biodegradable or recycling packaging. (Platform of DPH, P. 2, Lines 68-70 (2016)).

The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai‘i.

We 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. (Platform of DPH, P. 8, Lines 407-420 (2016)).

Given that **HB2107 HD2 SD1** establishes the plastic pollution initiative 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 on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

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

HB-2107-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:54:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB2107. 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. Please pass this measure.

HB-2107-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 8:27:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Toole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Sarah Toole, my address is 1128 Ala Napunani St. 96818, and I am a political science student at UH Manoa.

I support this bill.

HB-2107-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 9:43:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii as an ocean state is choking in plastic waste and should act to eliminate plastic waste as soon as possible. This bill provides for planning, an important first step toward actions to reduce plastic pollution in the future. Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

HB-2107-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 12:28:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

The widespread disregard for overuse of plastics is absolutely ridiculous around here because of lack of education about the issue. A startling example or ignorance that I can provide is that when I go out to establishments that serve food or drinks, the workers are usually bewildered by my request to put my orders in my own cup or bowl which I specifically brought for the purpose of reducing plastic waste. If I don't specify that I have brought my own containers because I don't waste plastic, the workers will usually use the one time use plastic to measure out my portion, transfer the food or drink to my personal container then toss the plastic/styrofoam immediately. This almost always happens if I don't explain why I brought my own container, even at places such as Starbucks or Ala Moana food court, and it happened at those places twice last month. This is how I know that the majority of people are completely not aware at all of the damages done to the environment by wasting plastics and other hazardous materials for generally no good purpose at all. The workers obviously don't think about it and they obviously aren't getting many customers who provide their own containers either. The future of our environment could be drastically different if the general public was just slightly more aware of their thoughtless actions regarding wasting plastic.

HB-2107-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 9:06:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Katherine T. Kupukaa
Mililani, Hawaii

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, April 5, 2018
TIME: 10:30 am.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: OPPOSE HB 2107,HD2,SD1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

I oppose this bill because it states that plastics poses significant threats to the State's environment, ecosystems, and beaches. I differ from this belief and this should not be one of the legislature's priority. We have more urgent issues to deal with such as unfunded public liability, high cost of living, more affordable housing, homelessness, and the economy to name a few.

This bill is flawed and one-sided with views and facts that are questionable. Why is it that our beaches are voted among the best and beautiful. Let's be clear about plastics and how is has been very useful in our daily lives. Plastics don't go into the storm drain or in the ocean by itself. As long as plastic bags, foam containers and other plastic material are being manufactured don't deprive us from using them.

While we as good law abiding citizens of the State of Hawaii do care about our environment we don't need more regulations that will lead to more government spending; instead all of us should be doing our part in the cleanup. No funds should be appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii. Please do not pass this bill. It is a waste of tax payer's money.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concern.

HB-2107-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 10:03:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: