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GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
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LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 13, 2018  
8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2625, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

House Bill 2625, House Draft 1 proposes to relinquish the counties from responsibility and instead require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to remove plastic marine debris from shores and beaches, require the Counties to dispose of plastic marine debris collected by the Department, report to the Legislature, and appropriate funds. **The Department opposes this measure.**

Generally speaking along shorelines, the State is responsible for ocean safety, and the Counties are responsible for trash cleanup. Requiring the Department to remove plastic marine debris from shores and beaches would constitute a very significant transfer of responsibilities from the Counties to the Department. The Department does not have the mission or capacity to absorb this new responsibility.

Currently, the Counties are mandated to clean the shores and beaches of seaweed, limu, and debris which are likely to create an unsanitary condition or to otherwise become a public nuisance from the shores and beaches situated within the respective counties pursuant to Section 46-12, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). The chosen phrase "shores and beaches" is broad and can be reasonably interpreted to include the beach area immediately seaward and landward of the shoreline. Therefore, under existing law the counties are already responsible for cleanup of all "debris" found on the beaches seaward and landward of the shoreline, whether marine related debris or plastic debris. Except for the counties simply failing to clean the beaches in accordance with HRS 46-12, there seems to be no reasonable rationale for relieving the counties of their responsibility and shift the burden upon the Department. The Department is mandated by Section 200-3(13), HRS, to remove "nonnatural obstructions and public safety hazards from the shoreline, navigable streams, harbors, channels, and coastal areas of the State to ensure safe navigation."

The Department welcomes and appreciates any support the Counties can provide in disposing of plastic marine debris that may be collected by the Department, but the collection of plastic marine debris on the shoreline and beaches is the sole responsibility of each respective County, pursuant to Section 46-12, HRS.

For years, the Department has been removing marine debris from the shoreline and nearshore waters, including abandoned fishing nets, logs, derelict vessels, and a myriad of other objects. The majority of the removal work is conducted by the Department's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, and funding comes from the Boating Special Fund, which is comprised of user fees and lease rents within the State boating facilities.

The Department notes that this measure would require the Department to remove debris “no less than monthly.” Attempting to remove plastic marine debris from the shores and beaches of the State this frequently is a significant mandate because plastic marine debris cleanup is too large a task to be added to the functions of existing staff. The Department notes that in order to meet the proposed mandate, the appropriation in this measure will need to be sufficient to purchase equipment and hire personnel whose sole function would be to cleanup plastic marine debris.

For ocean safety marine debris, the Department recommends that a self-replenishing marine debris fund be created in the amount of \$1 million. This fund could be used to ensure that the Department can pay for removal of marine debris, such as plastic marine debris, nets, derelict vessels, contrivances, and grounded vessels, etc. from shorelines and nearshore waters. The Department would like to clarify that the marine debris fund would not be intended for removing abandoned structures from the shoreline.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 1:16:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**RE: Testimony in Support** of HB 2625 HD1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

To the Honorable Chris Lee, Chair; the Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No.2625 HD1 relating to ocean and beach marine debris.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2625 HD1 and supports its passage as its purpose is to help protect the beaches and ocean

in the State from plastic marine debris by: (1) Requiring that the department of land and natural resources regularly remove plastic marine debris from shores and beaches and making an appropriation to the department to carry out this purpose; and (2) requiring the counties to dispose of, promptly and at permitted solid waste management systems, the marine plastic debris collected by the department of land and natural resources and volunteers.

House Bill No.2625 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to remove plastic marine debris from shores and beaches and for the counties to dispose of plastic marine debris collected by the department.

The DPH Platform states that the "Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment are 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 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 must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions 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. (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 422-430 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No.2625 HD1 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to remove plastic marine debris from shores and beaches and for the counties to dispose of plastic marine debris collected by the department, 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](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Tel.: (808) 258-8889



**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 11:48:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee and other members of the Committee,

Legislation is needed because both the counties and the DLNR deny responsibility for clean up under current law. Non-Governmental Organizations and volunteer groups have willingly taken up this task, but enough is enough. This is a huge problem for our fragile marine environment that we need to address now. We are a State surrounded by ocean and are being inundated by marine debris from all over the world! Please appropriate enough money for DLNR to develop and implement a plan to tackle this problem long term.

Mahalo for STRONGLY SUPPORTING HB2625

Lisa Bishop

Friends of Hanauma Bay



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

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:30AM Conference Room 325

**In SUPPORT of HB 2625 HD1** Relating to environmental protection

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Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports the intent of HB 2625 HD1**, which establishes a responsible party, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), for the removal of plastic marine debris from public beaches. The bill requires the DLNR to remove plastic marine debris from shores and beaches, no less than monthly, and for the counties to dispose of plastic marine debris collected by the department.

While we agree that the state and counties should take on more responsibility in cleaning up the overwhelming amount of plastic pollution that is washing up on our shores, we also acknowledge that **the DLNR has been chronically underfunded and we advocate for them to be fully funded such that they can first fulfill their existing mission**. Supporting the intent of this bill, we recommend that *the DLNR should receive a substantial appropriation* to fulfill this task and have adequate time to develop a plan that includes best practices, equipment, and technologies.

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.

It is estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish by weight in the world's oceans. Plastic pollution defaces Hawai'i's iconic beaches, which are the very foundation of the State's tourism industry. During island-wide beach cleanups, some of the most stubborn and harmful pieces of pollution found are microplastics. Locals and even tourists have become very aware of these brightly colored microplastics found on beaches all across the islands. These are often single-use plastics, boating debris, or other plastic marine debris, that ultimately pollute our lands and freshwater bodies, harm wildlife, and end up in our food chain. These plastics are known for easily breaking down into the ecosystem, and being easily ingested by both land and marine life. The ingestion of toxic plastic bits can be harmful and even deadly not only to the land and marine life, but to our own bodies. All fish consuming microplastics can be ingested by humans and have the same or similar harmful impact. Microplastics are harming our economy, ecosystem, and the overall quality of life in the Hawaiian Islands. To avoid microplastics from ending up in our fish markets, beaches, and human population, point source reduction and microplastic mitigations must become a priority.

The legislature finds that removal of plastic marine debris from beaches is critical to both the State's economy and environment. However, the removal has been hampered by disagreement among agencies over responsibility and jurisdiction. Currently, there is no responsible party for the removal of plastic marine debris on county shores and beaches. This measure is one of many that support our collective efforts to reduce and re-evaluate the State's priorities on pollution across the board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure, which serves our collective efforts to keep Hawai'i's land and beaches free of plastic pollution.



# Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

*P.O. Box 25284 · Honolulu · Hawai'i · 96825*

*(808) 393 2168 · www.b-e-a-c-h.org*

DATE: 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018

TO: Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Nicole Lowen and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

FROM: Suzanne Frazer and Dean Otsuki, Co-Founders of Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i (B.E.A.C.H.)

RE: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2625HD1**  
Relating to environmental protection  
Committee hearing on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at 8:30AM, Conference room 325

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

We are writing on behalf of Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i (B.E.A.C.H.) in strong support of HB2625HD1 requiring the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources to remove plastic marine debris from shores and beaches. B.E.A.C.H. strongly encourages the committees to pass this important and long overdue bill.

Plastic marine debris is an enormous environmental disaster directly impacting Hawai'i. As the Hawaiian Islands are in the midst of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, plastic marine debris washes up daily mainly on the windward sides of the islands. Occasionally with a change of wind direction from the usual trade winds, marine debris may be found on other parts of the islands.

Marine debris causes harm to marine life through entanglement, ingestion and habitat destruction. It is also an eyesore on Hawai'i's beaches which are important for tourism and therefore the economy. Plastic marine debris has become so small that it is being ingested by coral. Marine debris harms the entire food chain from plankton to whales and humans. The chemicals from the plastic are passed up through the food chain bioaccumulating in the fatty tissues of the animals. Plastic marine debris is toxic due the accumulation of POPs (persistent organic pollutants) that are in the ocean and absorb onto the plastic up to 1 million times more concentrated on the surface of the plastic than in the surrounding sea water. All of these chemicals, both the POPs and the chemicals added during manufacture of the plastic item, are endocrine disruptors. That is they mimic the action of the hormone estrogen, acting like a synthetic form of estrogen. In humans these chemicals cause prostate and breast cancer, obesity, diabetes and many other diseases including autoimmune diseases.

We co-founded B.E.A.C.H. in 2006 as a result of the lack of response to marine debris by government agencies, the public and non-profits. Neither the Counties nor any department in the State or Federal government was willing to address the marine debris problem on Hawai'i's beaches. However even though we were doing as much as we could with the limited funding we had, the marine debris problem was overwhelming and required weekly at minimum and daily removal to keep up and we couldn't be on every island very often due to the cost of travel. When we did go interisland, we found the marine debris problem was enormous there as well as on O'ahu.

So in the 2008 International Year of the Reef we gathered 1,061 signatures on a petition: "Petition to request the State to manage the problem of marine debris on Hawai'i's beaches". The petition said: "We the undersigned

request the State of Hawai'i, which is responsible for beaches up to the high tide mark, to manage the problem of marine debris on Hawai'i's beaches. We are concerned that the problem of marine debris on beaches is not being addressed by the State nor the City and County and as a result, marine debris is accumulating on our beaches. We would like funds to be allocated for weekly removal of marine debris from Hawai'i's beaches".

The petition was delivered in April 2009 to DLNR Chairperson Laura Thielen; Senator Gabbard, Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee; Representative Hermina Morita, Chair of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee; Majority Leader Senator Hooser and Representative Lyla Berg. We had hoped action would be taken. But it wasn't.

However, now you have the chance to change this situation in the 2018 International Year of the Reef. We hope very much that your committees will pass this bill and that this year will be the year that the Hawai'i State Legislature takes action on marine debris. Funds are necessary to hire a team of people whose job it is to remove marine debris from beaches and shorelines promptly before it has a chance to get buried in sand or break down into fragments (which makes it a lot harder to remove). We suggest these people are hired full-time.

The focus needs to be on marine debris (not beach goer trash). Marine debris consists of items that wash ashore from the ocean (not what beach goers leave behind - which is beach goer trash). Why this distinction is important is that beach goer trash is the responsibility of the people who go to the beach and they should clean up after themselves, whereas, marine debris comes from a variety of sources. The money in this bill should not be spent on cleaning up after lazy people who leave litter at the beach, nor cleaning parks which is the responsibility of the county parks and state parks departments. Passing bans on certain items will help reduce this kind of trash.

Hawai'i's beaches have been neglected for far too long by the government. Non-profits can only do so much and should not be having to do it all without government help. No other government land such as parks and schools are left to the public to try to remove all the trash and there are no other places with more trash (besides landfills) than Hawai'i's beaches with marine debris. Community work on beaches is hit and miss as it's not constant - every day, every week, every month. Many volunteers only participate in beach clean-ups once or twice a year at most. Some of us have done multiple clean-ups a week for years at a time, but there aren't many of us. This bill would not be about replacing the work that non-profits and community groups do. It would be in addition to that work. There is so much marine debris to address that full-time people are needed to do the work of marine debris removal just as there are park staff at county and state parks to keep them clean. Beaches with marine debris are much worse off and need even more attention as the consequences of this trash just being left and neglected are huge. We hope you will pass this extremely important bill and help protect Hawai'i's marine life, sea birds and ocean/coastal environment. Thank you. Please accept this as written testimony in strong support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Frazer.  
Co-Founder,  
B.E.A.C.H.

Dean Otsuki.  
Co-Founder,  
B.E.A.C.H.



*Reducing and preventing plastic  
marine debris to protect sea life*

*Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i is an all volunteer, non-profit organization that brings awareness and solutions to marine debris through environmental education, plastic reduction/litter prevention campaigns, and marine debris removal and research in order to protect marine life, sea birds and the ocean/coastal environment.*

## Plastic Marine Debris on Hawai'i Shorelines



Kamilo Beach, Hawai'i Island, Nov. 2007



Kamilo Beach, Hawai'i Island, June 2011





Kamilo Beach, Hawai'i Island, June 2008



Kamilo Beach, Hawai'i Island, Aug. 2011



Kamilo Beach, Hawai'i Island, May 2008



South Point, Hawai'i Island, Nov. 2007



Rope bundle (partly buried), Kahuku coastline, O'ahu, Dec. 2011





Shipwreck Beach, Lana'i, June 2012



Kamilo Beach, Hawai'i Island, July 2010



Kahuku coastline, O'ahu, Dec. 2010



Shipwreck Beach, Lana'i, June 2012



Kahuku coastline, O'ahu, Oct. 2011



Kahuku coastline, O'ahu, March 2011



## Plastic Marine Debris Fragments



Plastic fragments, Kahuku coastline, Dec. 2011



Plastic fragments in tidepool, Kahuku coastline, Dec. 2011





Plastic fragments, Kahuku shoreline, Dec. 2011



Plastic fragments, Kamilo Beach, Hawai'i Island, April 2010



Plastic fragments, Kahuku coastline, March 2012



Plastic fragments in the water, Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, July 2008



## Buried Rope and Net



Buried nets and rope, Kealia Beach, Kaua'i, Feb. 2008



Buried nets and rope, Malaekahana State Recreation Area beach, O'ahu, June 2009



## Plastic Marine Debris Impacting Marine Life



Entangled Hawaiian monk seal, Kahuku coastline, Dec. 2011



Dead sea turtle found entangled in bundle of strapping bands, Lana'i, June 2012





Dead fish in tidepool with marine debris, Kahuku coastline, March 2011



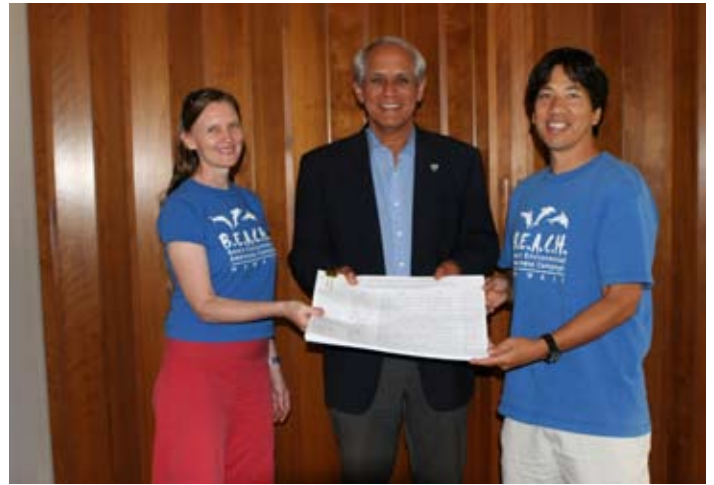
Hawaiian Monk seal among marine debris, Kahuku coastline, December 2010



## Petition Regarding Marine Debris Removal



DLNR chairperson Laura Thielen receiving petition from Suzanne Frazer, B.E.A.C.H., April 2009



Senator Mike Gabbard receiving petition from Dean Otsuki and Suzanne Frazer, B.E.A.C.H. April 2009



House Representative Hermina Morita receiving petition from Dean Otsuki, B.E.A.C.H., April 2009



Senator Gary Hooser receiving petition from Suzanne Frazer, B.E.A.C.H., April 2009



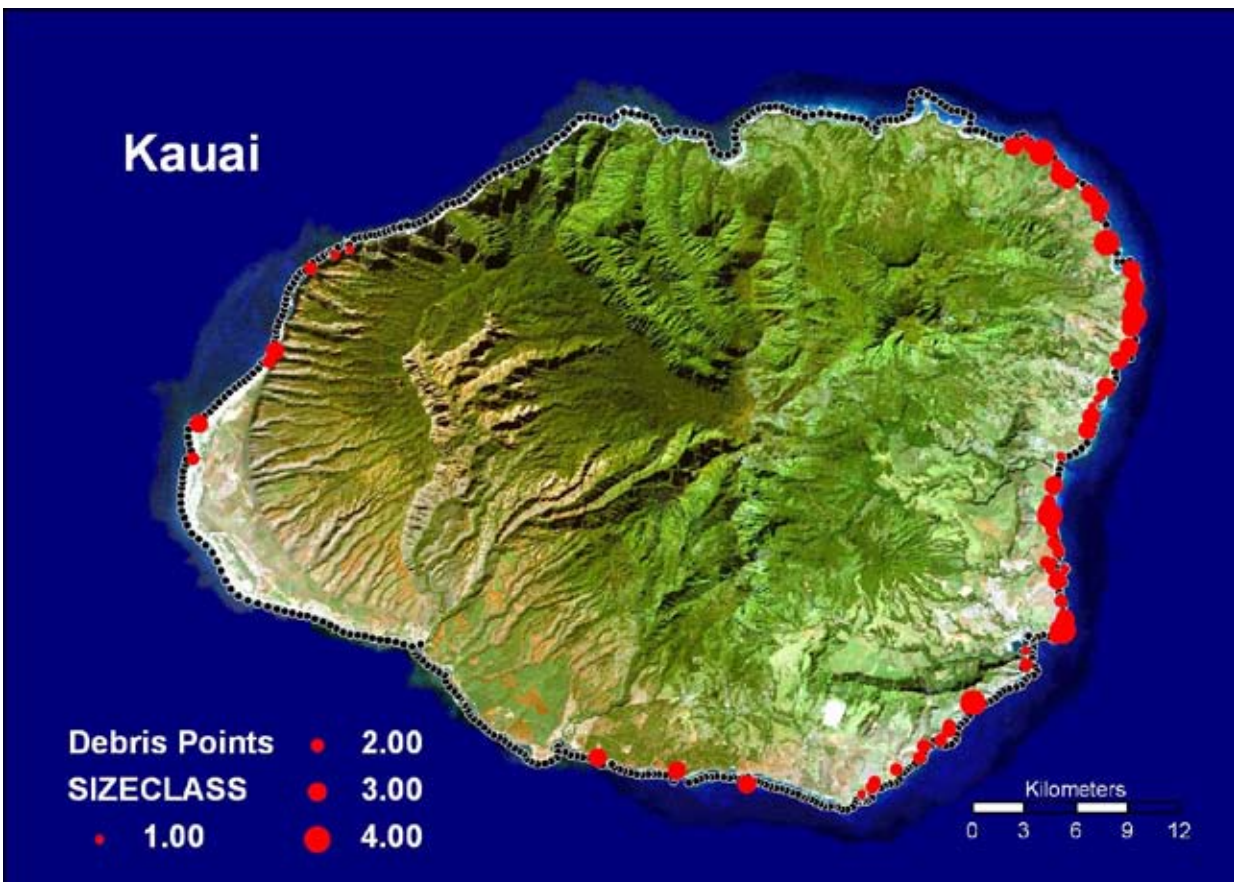
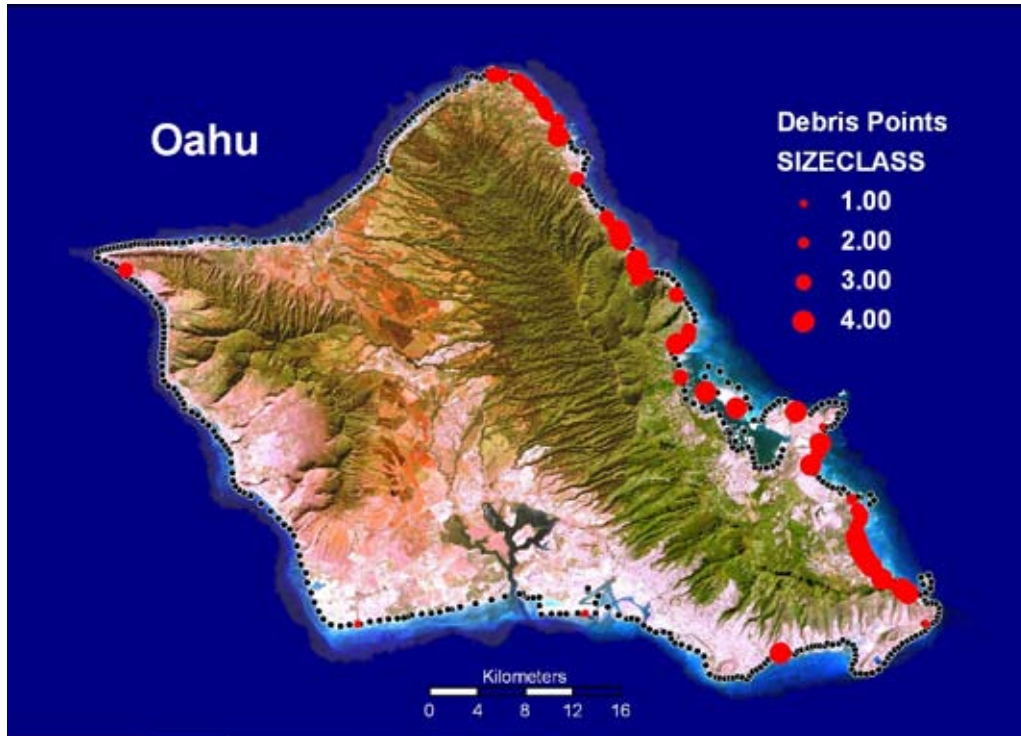
House Representative Lyla Berg receiving petition from Suzanne Frazer, B.E.A.C.H., April 2009



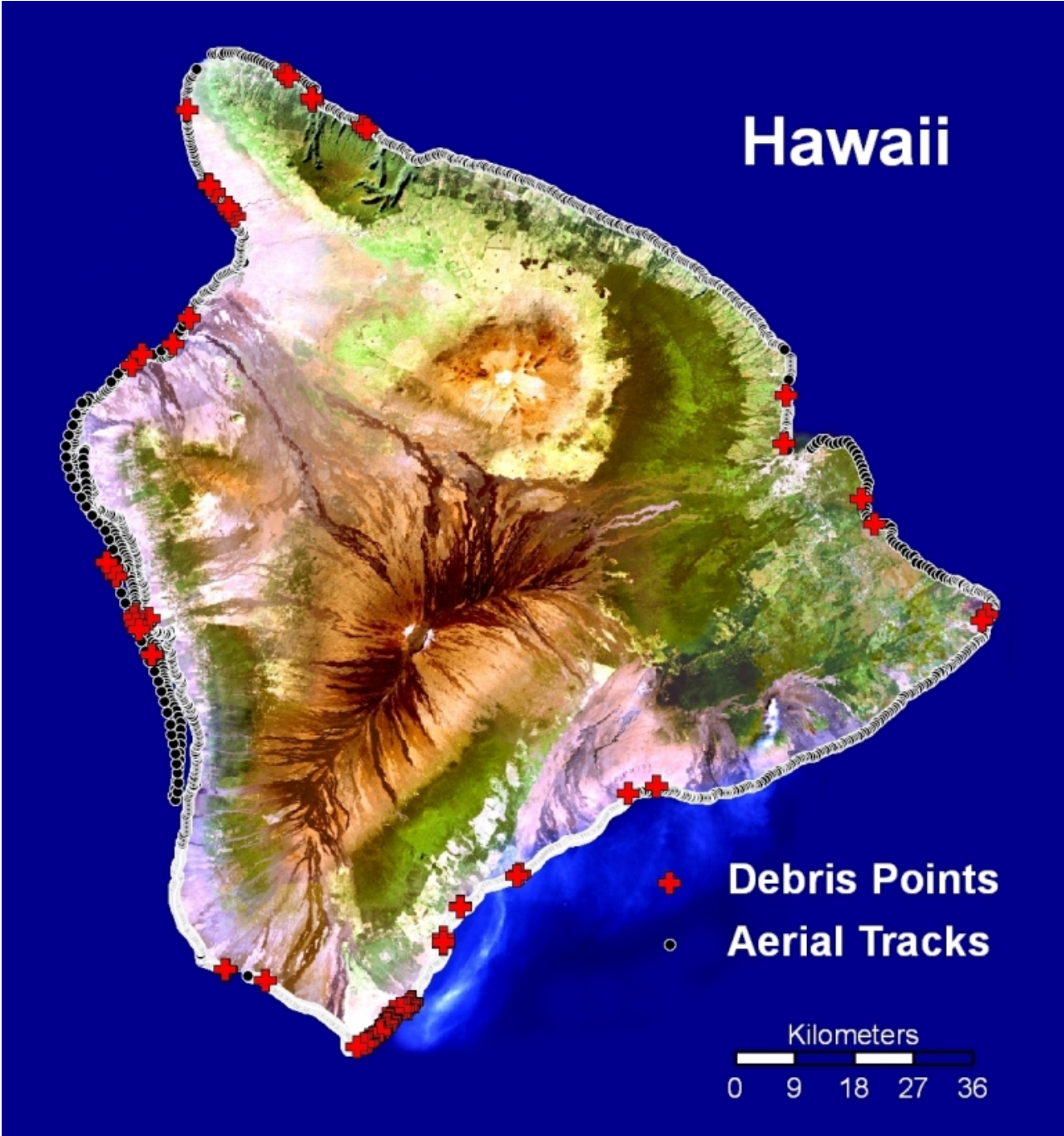
Person signing the petition at International Year of the Reef event at Sunset on the Beach, April 2008



# Where marine debris is found in Hawai'i

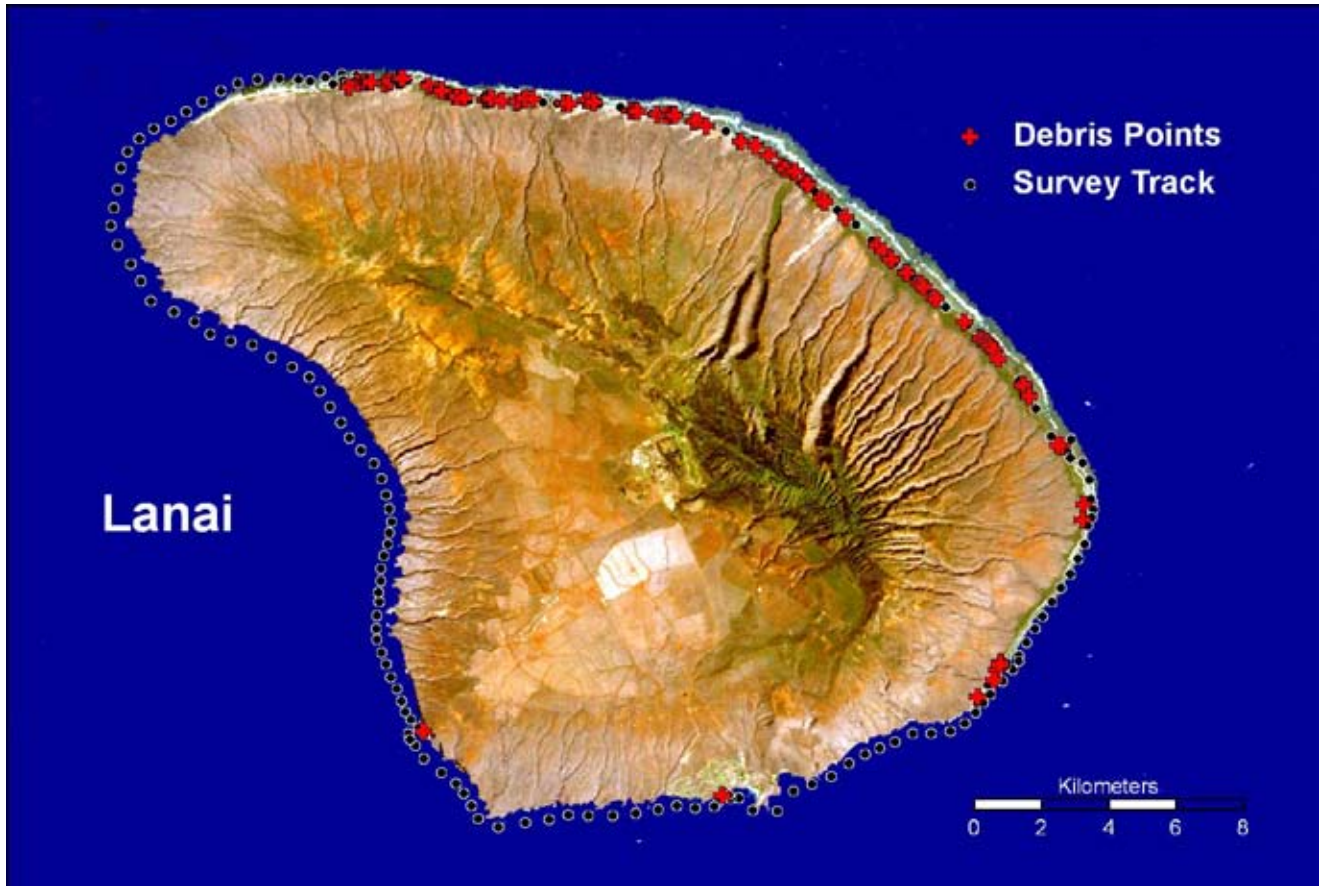


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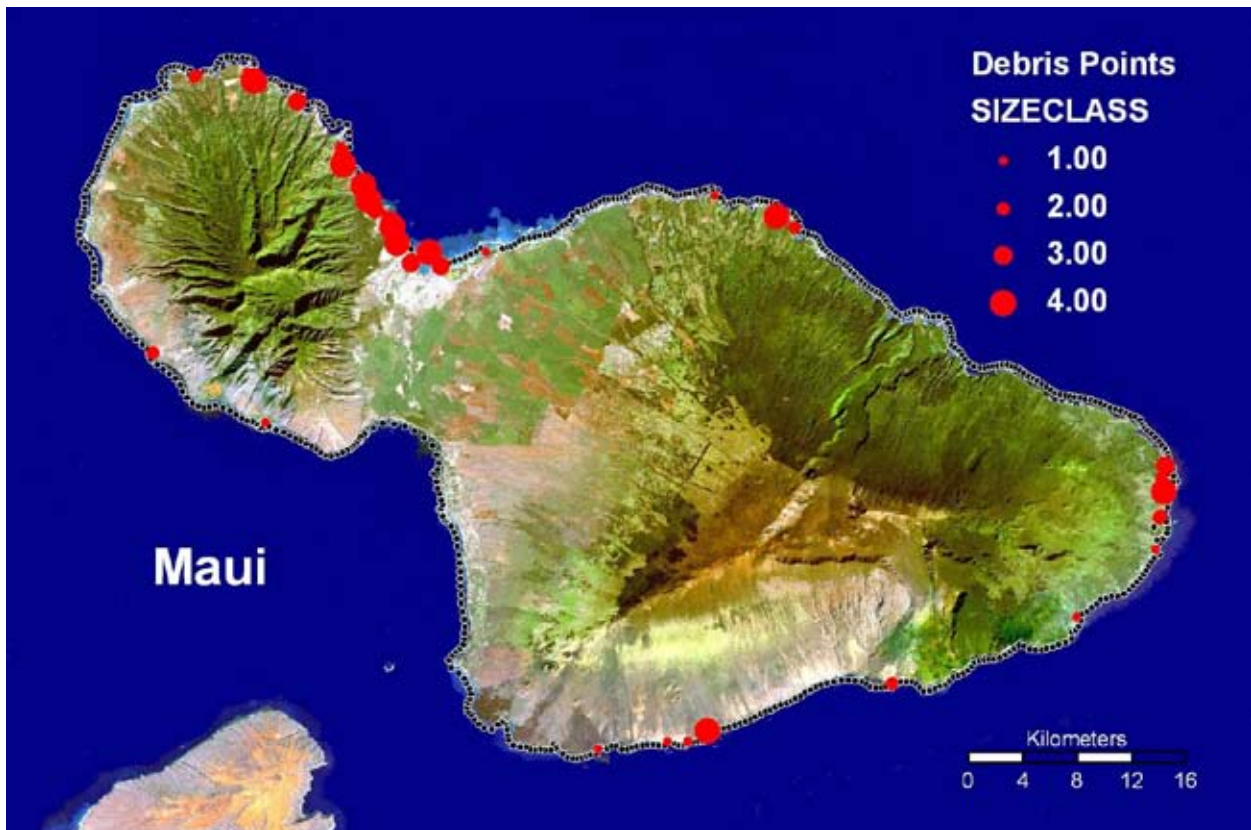
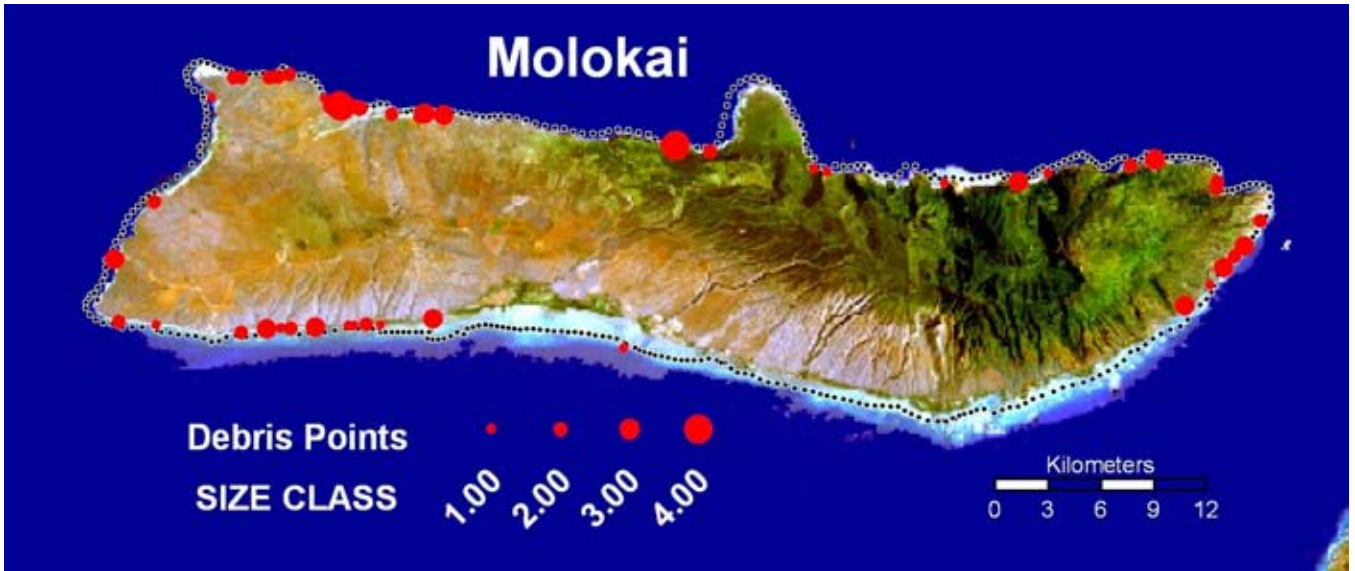


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**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 9:29:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Whispering Wind	Patients Without Time	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB2656,

Please protect our environment. Organic natural agriculture, without toxic contamination of our food and environment is necessary to protect the health, safety, and economic future of Hawaii's citizens.

Mahalo for your concerned consideration,

Mary Whispering Wind  
PWT Maui, volunteer



**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2018 10:14:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erica Scott	Cuddle Party	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 10:53:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeri Di Pietro	GMO Free Kaua'i	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 11:56:01 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Kokua Hawaii Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 4:21:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 5:19:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
		Support	Yes

Comments:

Plastic marine debris from the North Pacific Gyre garbage patch is trashing Hawaii's beaches, especially on the windward sides of our islands. Plastic is nearly indestructible; it just breaks into smaller and smaller pieces (microplastics less than 5 millimeters). These microplastics are very difficult to pick up, damage precious coral reefs, may contain toxins such as PCBs and radioactivity from Fukushima, and enter the food supply. Plastics generally harm sea birds, whales, seals, small organisms and marine life that think it is food. Plastics enter the food chain and eventually poison fish that we eat. Plastic contains endocrine disruptors that endanger human health. By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish by weight in the ocean. Fishing and human health and the environment will suffer if we don't deal with plastic marine debris. Beaches littered with plastic spoil our recreation and harm our economy. Some visitors looking for pristine and beautiful beaches may stop coming to Hawaii if we don't deal with plastic marine debris. The world ultimately needs to stop using plastic and clean up the ocean garbage patches, but, for the foreseeable future, we in Hawaii also need to clean up plastic marine debris on our beaches and shorelines.

Legislation is needed because both the counties and the DLNR deny responsibility for clean up under current law. The counties have not cleaned plastic marine debris from the beaches and shorelines. DLNR says the counties are responsible for plastic trash on the beach. What we are discussing is not litter left by beachgoers, however, but marine debris washing up on State land. DLNR is charged with management of public lands and coastal areas below the high wash of waves. This bill appropriately makes DLNR responsible for the clean up, no less than monthly. To accomplish this task, DLNR should receive a substantial appropriation and have time (perhaps two years) to design a program using best practices, equipment and technologies. See for example possibly useful equipment in Edward Stratton 's article "Invention leads to cleaner beaches," published on April 17, 2015 (dailyastonian.com), a patented polymer microplastic particle screen removal.

The problem of plastic marine debris is getting worse. It won't go away and must be dealt with. Please pass this bill! Mahalo!

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 12:55:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephany Cecil		Support	No

Comments:

I support environmental protection initiatives in Hawaii.

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 3:57:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carlton York		Support	No

Comments:

Strong Support I have spent a lot of time in Hawaii personally picking up trash tras bag in hand because of the ugliness and detracton from the natural beauty caused by the litter not just on the shoreline but many places around the islands , Time to clean it up !

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 7:39:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ryan christopher		Support	No

Comments:

My family and I have done numerous beach clean ups over the 2 years we have lived here. The amount of plastic pollution is unreal. This problem should not be solely on the shoulders of volunteers. The state and counties need to step up.



**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 10:05:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
laura Ramirez		Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 8:43:29 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Nandoskar		Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. We need a viable plan to address marine debris both from a clean up and disposal perspective. Having participated in beach cleanups, it is very obvious that this problem is increasing and must be addressed. Our oceans have filled with plastic and new research recently released has noted the breakdown of these materials into micro plastics is harmful to coral and humans due to the release of toxic chemicals during this process. A most egregious view of this process can be seen on what was once pristine Hawaii beaches where smallbits of plastic wash up repeatedly and breakdown. Our children, pets nd families, not to mention our visitors, frequent these beaches. We must use our tax dollars to address the cleanup as soon as possible

Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 9:19:33 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Angela Huntmer		Support	No

Comments:

I have spent many hundreds of hours volunteering with Surfrider, Sustainable Coastlines and just working on my own to remove plastic debris from our beaches in the Koolauloa area. The State should receive more funding for this. Because our beaches are na important source of revenue in the form of tourism. This is exactly one of the line items that HTA should be giving more funding to. Thank you.

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 12:57:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teresa Parsons		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this measure. Too often, volunteers are left to their own devices to conduct beach cleanups and are turned away from convenience refuse centers with beach debris. All the islands are being "hit" with large amounts of marine plastics, ranging in size from 4 foot diameter, 10 foot long undersea conduit to microplastics. While hundreds of volunteers work each week at various sites, often the task is overwhelming due to sheer volume or size of debris.

As noted in the past 2 weeks, on several news media stations, huge masses of derelict nets are washing ashore, requiring heavy equipment and dump trucks to safely move them. This is not something volunteer groups can handle easily. Often DLNR is **NOWHERE** to be seen despite reports called in. In fact, the most recent floating mass in the Ka'iwi channel was reported by DLNR as being monitored...while volunteers were on the beach with hand held knives and individual power to pull the mess out of the water and above the tide line.

I've lived in coastal areas all my life, and Hawai'i is the only location where the State does not utilize large sand sifters to clean the beaches. It is crazy to claim the beaches as one of Hawai'i's greatest assets, then do **NOTHING** to keep them clean.

I urge you to support this measure and demand DLNR expend the allotted resources to purchase and utilize appropriate equipment to help volunteers maintain the State's beaches.

**LATE**

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 5:14:07 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sandra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2625-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 7:51:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2018 8:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Someone needs to clean up all the plastic debris. As a last resort, it seems it must be the government.