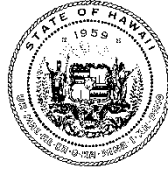


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RODERICK K. BECKER
Comptroller

AUDREY HIDANO
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY OF
RODERICK K. BECKER, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEES ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018
1:16 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

H.B. 2718, H.D. 1

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Chair Gabbard, Chair Kim, Vice Chair Riviere, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 2718, H.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) appreciates the intent of the measure to revise Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). However, we believe that other agencies or departments may be better suited to implement and maintain the proposed program. We offer the following comments for the Committees' consideration.

1. The measure requires DAGS to maintain a database detailing the amount of moneys expended in each county by State Executive Branch departments or agencies, or the Judiciary, for the disposal of polystyrene products. DAGS lacks the technical experience, expertise, and participation in this type of program, as we do not conduct any polystyrene disposal. DAGS may not be the most effective agency to ensure timely implementation of this program.

2. The legislation also provides for State departments or agencies to apply to DAGS to collect reimbursement from the applicable counties for expenditures made within the county for costs to clean up and dispose of polystyrene products. DAGS does not have the capacity nor the authority to bill counties for reimbursement. This would require the participation of other, better suited agencies.

3. In an effort to better understand the prevalence and cost impacts of the disposal of polystyrene, DAGS surveyed the Department of Transportation, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Health, and the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to determine if they currently specifically dispose of polystyrene products, and if so, whether or not they maintain information on costs incurred for such disposal. If they don't maintain information on disposal costs, we asked if they can suggest a feasible manner for deriving and documenting such future costs. And finally, we asked if they have general knowledge on whether or not polystyrene is currently segregated from the waste stream; if there is a special disposal process unique to polystyrene products; how the cost of disposal can be determined; and to whom we could contact for more guidance. The agencies' responses were all similar -- there is no special program to segregate polystyrene from their waste streams; costs specific to polystyrene products disposal is not maintained; there is no known disposal process unique to polystyrene products; and there is no known feasible manner to identify this specific disposal cost.

4. DAGS also received guidance that a waste characterization study is the only way to accurately determine the proportion of a particular material relative to a given waste stream. Such a study involves taking a significant sample of a waste stream, and then separating and weighing its separate components. In this case, litter would have to be collected and studied

specifically for polystyrene. Each agency incurring polystyrene disposal costs would need to conduct their own studies from litter collected on properties they manage. The cost of a small characterization study is estimated to be in the thousands of dollars. The cost for a large characterization study, say on the order of the City and County of Honolulu's H-POWER and their landfill, can run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Once the proportion of polystyrene in a waste stream is identified, the relative cost of polystyrene disposal can be estimated as that proportion of the total costs for waste disposal.

5. DAGS may also incur costs for the implementation and management of the overall program and the database necessary to execute the proposed cost reimbursement plan, should DAGS be given the authority to bill counties for such reimbursement.

6. If the intent of the measure is to have DAGS maintain a spreadsheet of self-reported costs and simply submit these costs to the counties, we request that clarification.

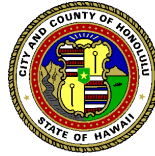
7. DAGS believes focusing on controlling litter coupled with reducing the distribution of polystyrene products most likely to become litter could be a more cost-effective means to protect Hawaii's environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 9TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: resilientoahu@honolulu.gov • INTERNET: www.resilientoahu.org



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

JOSHUA W. STANBRO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018 1:16PM

STATE OF HAWAII
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2718 HD1
A BILL RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

BY,

JOSHUA STANBRO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Kim and Committee Members,

The City and County of Honolulu (City) Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) **would like to provide comments on** House Bill (HB) 2718 HD1, which requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to maintain a database of the costs to state departments and agencies of cleaning up and disposing of polystyrene products in each county that has not enacted an ordinance significantly restricting the use of polystyrene products by 2020, and which requires noncompliant counties to reimburse the general fund for costs to the State for cleanup and disposal.

The City conceptually supports a City and County-wide polystyrene ban on O'ahu for the reasons described in Section 1 of the bill. A bill considering the restriction of use of polystyrene is under consideration at the City Council currently. In addition, the City has absorbed costs and waived tipping fees for community groups performing litter clean-up in an effort to encourage these localized efforts.

While we support the intent of reducing polystyrene use and litter in Hawai'i, HB 2718 HD1 does not provide clear means of calculating and verifying the costs associated with polystyrene clean-up. We believe that the City has absorbed substantial and proportional costs related to tipping fees and we are concerned about the fiscal impacts of the state assessing unknown costs to the County.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Monday, March 19, 2018 1:16PM Conference Room 224

In SUPPORT of HB 2718 HD1 Relating to environmental protection

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Riviere and Ruderman, 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 2718 HD1**, authorizing the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) to collect reimbursement from counties for the state tax dollars expended to dispose of polystyrene.

Polystyrene food containers are a problem that needs to be quantified. In other jurisdictions of comparable size to Honolulu, we know that several million taxpayer dollars are spent cleaning up non-recyclable containers. Polystyrene containers are intended for single use, cannot be recycled, and pose a risk human health and the environment. The toxins and heavy chemicals found in polystyrene food containers are not compostable or biodegradable, and can take up to 500 years to decompose. Polystyrene food containers, as well as other single use foam products, create an overabundance of waste that continually overflow local landfills, and overflow our beaches.

There are alternatives for single use polystyrene food containers, including compostable and biodegradable options. Quantifying the financial burden these products impose on local taxpayers will help encourage more sustainable choices in the future.

For these reasons, **we urge this committee pass HB 2718 HD1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 11:59:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 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:

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

To the Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; the Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations:

Good afternoon. 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 **HB2718 HD1** relating to Polystyrene Products; Clean Up and Disposal; and the Counties.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of **HB2718 HD1** and is in favor of its passage.

HB2718 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to maintain a database of the costs to state departments and agencies of cleaning up and disposing of polystyrene products in each county that has not enacted an ordinance significantly restricting the use of polystyrene products; and beginning in 2020, requires each county that has not enacted an ordinance significantly restricting the use of polystyrene products to reimburse the general fund for costs to the State of cleaning up and disposing of polystyrene products in the county.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[t]he 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 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.

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. 7, Lines 407-415, 427-430 (2016)).

Given that **HB2718 HD1** requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to maintain a database of the costs to state departments and agencies of cleaning up and disposing of polystyrene products in each county that has not enacted an ordinance significantly restricting the use of polystyrene products; and beginning in 2020, requires each county that has not enacted an ordinance significantly restricting the use of polystyrene products to reimburse the general fund for costs to the State of cleaning up and disposing of polystyrene products in the county, 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, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:42:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:25:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 7:47:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:25:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

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

Comments:

The HIDOT's definitive report on polystyrene products obstructing stormwater infrastructure, causing flooding, and costing state and county agencies millions of dollars in cleanup is a clear demonstration of the need to regulate the distribution of foam products. Given the impacts of the counties' waste management choices on the State's budget, it is reasonable to implement the measures in HB2718. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 4:29:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill would provide data and an incentive for counties to restrict polystyrene use, but should be in addition to notnot be instead of a statewide ban on polystyrene.

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 12:17:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, This legislation is long overdue.

mahalo, janice

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 12:47:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Hawaii must move to reduce, reuse and recyle. There is no place in Hawaii for polystyrene containers anymore. The cost of these products must be tracked and reimbursed. Only with leadership from our government can we move to a more sustainable future. I strongly support this bill and urge you to pass it.

Mahalo for reviewing my testimony,

Michele Nihipali

████████████████████

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 3:21:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 4:09:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 1:49:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT!

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 12:27:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support Bill HB 2718; ***polystyrene products should simply be made illegal to use***, but if counties insist on allowing them, then they need to pay for the disposal of these dangerous and lethal polluting products.

Please pass this bill that will hopefully result in banning the products altogether.

Sincerely,

Denise Boisvert

Waikiki

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 1:55:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is hard to believe that we are ***still*** discussing polystyrene products in this day and age!

Hundreds of cities and counties nationwide and worldwide have banned them, and yet, it is still a fight here in Hawaii because a minority of the population, mainly businesses, don't want to care about the health of humans, wildlife, marine life, oceans, and the environment.

I support HB 2718 because it is a step in the right direction to 'encourage' counties to ban all polystyrene products.

Please pass HB 2718, and then, please think about how we can ban the products altogether.

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 2:46:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:40:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/19/2018 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments: