

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
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

H.B. 2718, H.D. 1

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee, 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 have concerns and believe that other agencies or departments may be better suited to implement and maintain the proposed program. We offer the following comments for the Committee's 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 would 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.

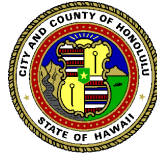
5. DAGS would also incur costs for the implementation and management of the overall program and the database necessary to execute the proposed cost reimbursement plan, should DAGS be given the authority to bill counties for such reimbursement.

6. Based upon this information, DAGS further recommends that focusing on controlling litter coupled with reducing the distribution of polystyrene products most likely to become litter will 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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018 2:00PM

STATE OF HAWAII
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**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 Chair Luke 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 Hawaii, 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 HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Friday, February 23, 2018 2:00PM Conference Room 308

In **SUPPORT of HB 2718 HD1** Relating to environmental protection

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen 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, **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 HB2718 HD1.**

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



HB2718 HD1

Polystyrene Products; Clean Up and Disposal; Counties

February 23, 2018, 2:00pm

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and member of the committee. My name is Maxim Poudrier-Tudan and I am with the Sierra Student Coalition at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The Sierra Student Coalition stands in support of HB2718 HD1 relating to environmental protection.

Polystyrene food containers create a waste problem that plagues the Hawaiian Islands and its surrounding oceans. These containers are intended only to be single use containers, and cannot be recycled. If not properly disposed of, these containers end up in our streams, on the side of our roads, and floating in our ocean water. Once these containers are littered, they can take up to 500 years to decompose. These containers give off toxic chemicals as well, and harm wildlife as they often become ingested by animals.

HB2718 HD1 will create these implication for cleaning up such waste. The system created by such a bill will not only reduce the amount of these products from becoming litter, but the financial implications will provide a push for the use of other alternative methods such as multi use or biodegradable products.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 11:56:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jun Shin | Young Progressives Demanding Action - Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:56:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:



KYD, Inc. dba k. yamada distributors

An independent leader in packaging and wholesale distribution

P.O. BOX 29669, Honolulu, Hawaii 96820 Phone: (808) 836-3221 Fax: (808) 833-8995

HB2718hd1, Relating to Environmental Protection

Hse FIN Hearing Fri. Feb. 23, 2018

2:00pm - Room 308

Written Testimony by: Dexter Yamada

Position: Comments

Chair Luke and Members of the House FIN Committee:

I am Dexter Yamada, President of KYD, Inc. dba: K. Yamada Distributors. KYD, Inc. is a local family run business that originated in the 1940's as a florist and florist supply distributor, and in 1958, evolved into a packaging company. Today, KYD, Inc and its sister company, Hawaii's Finest Products, LLC, employ about 90 employees and contribute to Hawaii's economy through taxes and payroll. Our companies manufacture packaging materials such as food-grade EPS (Expanded Polystyrene) food containers, and distribute a variety of supplies, to include compostable containers, for food processors, food establishments, supermarkets, hotels hospitals and other institutions.

Litter is a pervasive problem in Hawaii as well as across the nation. Refuse of all types may be blown out of overflowing trash bins, inexcusably tossed by consumers onto streets and into yards, or illegally dumped into waterways. The problem is not the container; it is often the people who do not dispose of trash properly. Other times, land-based litter management may require lidded trash bins and more frequent maintenance of rubbish bin pick-up, as mentioned in the [Keep Hawaii Islands Beautiful 2017 Litter Index Study](#).

The role of foodservice packaging in the litter stream is often perceived to be greater than reality. For example, a 2009 study conducted for Keep America Beautiful found that the fast food packaging contributed to less than 6% to total litter. (www.fpi.org, Foodservice Packaging...Litter Prevention) Foam food service products represent less than 1% of the US Municipal solid waste stream (2012 EPA).

Foam food service products in Hawaii's municipal waste stream mirror the US solid waste stream:

- Less than 1% of Hawaii Island's landfill (2009 IRSWMP)
- Less than 1% of Maui landfill (Maui Waste Characterization Study)
- Less than 1.9% of Kauai landfill (2016-2018 Overall MSW Composition, including packaging foam)

Notwithstanding the misinformation about polystyrene food container products, it might be worthwhile for DAGs, or more appropriately the respective County, to collect data about disposal of polystyrene products to establish a baseline of current PS foam containers in the waste stream and compare it to data collected post-bans, on Maui and Hawaii Island.

It is unclear whether the State can require the County to reimburse the state general fund when the counties are primarily responsible for clean-up of public recreation and other municipal areas. It is unclear whether this would be an unfunded mandate prohibited by the state constitution. Clarification of these concerns is appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:00:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael Reed Gach | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

The effort of this bill is worthwhile -- please support for cleaning up and disposing of polystyrene products in each county.

We need to significantly restrict the use of polystyrene products

I urge the support of HB2718 HD1

Michael Reed Gach
Maui Resident

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 5:30:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:14:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nathan Yuen | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke and Vice-Chair Ty J.K. Cullen:

I strongly support HB2718 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.

Polystyrene foam is perhaps the most common litter in Hawaii. Polystyrene foam containers are not recycled. Instead many foam containers escape into the environment where they leach styrene, a known carcinogen, and other toxins that then poison the local food chain. This poisoned food chain impacts all species including birds, whales, turtles, seals, and the fish that form the foundation of the local fishing industry. Polystyrene foam pollution also defaces Hawaii's iconic landscapes, which serve as the basis for the tourism industry.

I strongly support HB2718 HD1. Thank for for this opporunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Nathan Yuen

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:09:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:43:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:14:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I 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.

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:20:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Merle Hayward | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SUPPORT HD1

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:25:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:03:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shannon Rudolph | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Support

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:32:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Javier Mendez-Alvarez | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:46:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

Sarah Toole

1128 Ala Napunani St 96818

UH Manoa Political Science student

LATE

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:22:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:07:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cory Harden | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

LATE

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:25:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Bambara | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

LATE

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 10:25:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| tracy Kelleher | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: