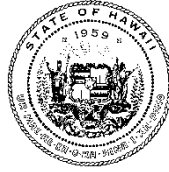


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

H.B. 2718

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 2718.

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 committee's consideration.

1. The legislation 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.

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

HB-2718

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:57:57 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Kucharski		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chairperson Lee and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

1. The County of Hawaii (COH) opposes HB2718.
2. The Bill penalizes Counties if any State agency cleans up polystyrene waste. The County of Hawaii (COH) has passed a ban on Polystyrene foam food containers yet it is still responsible under this Bill to the State for purported cleanup costs of polystyrene found in the COH environment.
3. The Bill would allow the State to claim reimbursements from every county for the cleanup of polystyrene when the State has not passed any legislation banning or limiting the use of this product in the State. Yet, the Bill requires the State to track costs and charge the counties for any state cleanup of polystyrene. This is not fair or reasonable and requiring the counties of Hawaii to reimburse the state for these cleanups is not supported by COH.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

William A. Kucharski, Director, Department Environmental Management, COH

HB-2718

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:39:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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 & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Thursday, February 8, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2718, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2718 relating to clean up and disposal of polystyrene products.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of House Bill No 2718 and is in favor of its passage.

House Bill No.2718 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 cost to state departments and agencies of cleaning up and disposing of polystyrene products in each county. Beginning in 2020, requires each county 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 House Bill No. 2718 provides that the Department of Accounting and General Services maintain a database of the cost to the state departments and agencies of cleaning up and disposing of polystyrene products in the counties and the counties will be liable to reimburse the state beginning in 2020, 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

HB-2718

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:47:37 PM

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

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

Comments:

LATE



**HB 2718
In Strong Support
Hearing Date: February 8th 2018; 8:30 AM
House Committee on EEP**

Aloha Members of the EEP Committee

I am writing to you on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's Oahu Chapter, in strong support of HB 2718, relating to an overall assessment of the cost of cleaning up polystyrene foam from our island's and charging our counties for this cleanup.

We are at a critical juncture in our waste management and plastic pollution measures. The burdens of single use plastic are mounting around the world as the soup of plastics that has accumulated in our oceans is rapidly increasing. Additionally, the world's markets are closing in places where we have traditionally moved our waste. As an island we should be the leaders for the world in reducing these detrimental plastics like polystyrene foam.

A recent study published in the renowned journal of *Science* describes the mounting issues of plastics on our fragile and threatened reefs. The study describes corals as being 90% more likely to be diseased when plastic sits on the reef. The billions of pieces of plastic already in the ocean are scarring reefs and then likely infecting them with the contamination that comes from their properties. Plastics bio-accumulate toxins in the water and thus can transfer such toxins to other organisms like coral. This is yet another toxic consequence of plastics in our oceans, of which many more are described in the bullet points below.

As an organization that engages thousands of volunteers each year on the issues of plastic pollution through beach cleanups, educational info nights, and stream cleanups, Surfrider is extremely familiar with the detrimental effect these foam containers are having on our environment and ultimately our economy. Each year we see more and more plastics aggregating on our State, County, & City beaches and foam is one of the most found items during our beach cleanups. Polystyrene Foam, like plastic bags, has the characteristic of being extremely light and brittle – thus leading to its escape and nasty ability to break into smaller pieces in the environment. If it remains intact it clogs stormdrains and other runoff infrastructure and if it breaks into pieces, it can end up in the stomachs of many marine and stream creatures. These effects are all detrimental to the health of our ecosystems and leave an ugly scar on the landscape that provides the basis for our whole economy.

Through years of investigation and generating collective understanding of the issue, Surfrider and its partners have found an undeniable amount of evidence that points to banning foam as a necessary step for our counties within our State to move forward in a sustainable way. Our State Department of Transportation Highways program recently identified foam and plastic bags as the two largest contributors to trash problems around our State. These are

unnecessary materials that are costing our tax payers millions of dollars each year to clean up. The bullet points catalogued below highlight studies on Global, National, State, and County levels identifying the financial cost of plastics like foam to our economy.

Surfrider advocates for our Cities, Counties, and State to rethink the way they create, handle, and discuss waste. Our view is that we can become a leader in a regenerative economy in which we value reuse and recovery over the single-use items. Single-use plastics, like polystyrene foam, are a fossil fuel driven, carbon emitting industry that has no place in an island economy where space is limited and our environmental health is the most important issue to our economy. Alternatives to foam and other forms of plastic are easily accessible, with the most sustainable version being certified compostable products.

As the leading non-profit in Hawaii's Ocean Friendly Restaurants Program, Surfrider and its partners have certified over 140 hundred businesses around the State that illustrate that foam free is not only the right thing to do, but is an economically viable way to operate. Though the program is only a year old, the amount of restaurants demonstrating their ability to operate in this manner continues to not only grow, but be an incentive for customers to frequent the restaurants as our population understands more and more the destructive effects these types of plastics are having on our world.

While litter reduction campaigns should continue around the world, they are proving ineffective as a way of keeping plastic contamination out of our oceans. Despite efforts to stop litter the amount of plastic entering our oceans each year is rising exponentially, with predictions showing that by 2050 there will be more plastic by weight in the ocean than fish. Each step that we make towards taking these items out of circulation allows us to have a positive impact on reducing this toxic soup that is accumulating in our oceans.

The referenced bullet points below outline the economic, environmental, and human health impacts of foam to our islands.

Cleanup Costs & Economic Benefits

- Plastic is costing cities, counties, states, & countries millions of dollars and our global economy billions. Costs are passed to the taxpayers by burdening our storm water management systems with the need for expensive best management practices and the costs of cleanups.
- Hawaii State Department of Transportation has produced a trash plan that shows styrofoam and plastic bags as the top two contributors to the waste stream.¹
- The Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) created a plastic cleanup valuation study for 90+ counties in California:²
 - CA taxpayers are paying \$428 million per year to clean up plastic through storm drain management, street sweeping, and cleanups.

¹ http://www.stormwaterhawaii.com/swmp_wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Trash-Reduction-Plan_FINAL-10-18-16.pdf

² <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/ca-pollution-in-waterways-IB.pdf>

- San Diego County (with population of 1.3 equivalent to Hawaii) spends \$14 million alone on plastic cleanup
- United Nations Environmental Program Global Estimates are in the billions for the global cost to cleanup plastics, \$14 billion for marine plastic alone.³
 - This cost is closer to \$78 billion annually if all costs are considered, including the cost lost in fossil fuel production and loss of resources.
- Burden on the public
 - According to cleanup hours recorded across Hawaii's beach cleaning organizations and volunteer hour base rates, we spent \$750,000 - \$1 million on beach cleanups in 2016 alone.

Environmental Impact

- It is argued that styrofoam is acceptable because we can incinerate it for energy. However, this approach is not without significant impacts. According to the Hawaii DOH Clean Air Branch the Covanta H-POWER plant emits 0.15 million metric tons of carbon dioxide⁴ (a potent greenhouse gas) annually. Although touted as a "clean energy solution" for Hawaii, H-POWER only generates about 3% of Oahu's energy needs⁵ while still emitting greenhouse gases through burning plastic.
- Further, for each ton of polystyrene not produced, 2.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions are avoided. This directly supports Hawaii's greenhouse gas reduction goals as stated in the Aloha + Challenge and as mandated by the US EPA.⁶
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Reduction Model (WARM) report shows that burning polystyrene emits more carbon dioxide equivalent than other plastics. For each ton of polystyrene incinerated, 1.64 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent are emitted.
- If burned at HPower, one compostable clamshell burns 1.76 times greater energy compared to one EPS Foam clamshell of the same size. And burning compostable products comes without the toxic ash or smoke that EPS foam creates in the burning process.
- Fiber clamshells are also less than half the volume of EPS, so a restaurant could fit about twice as many clamshells on the same amount of shelf space or have more space for other things.
- The material for fiber containers can be grown and then made here in Hawaii, so more jobs and sustainable ones, not jobs that are exposing workers directly to large amounts

³ www.unep.org/pdf/ValuingPlastic/

⁴ <http://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/ghg-inventory-20081.pdf>

⁵ www.islandpulse.org

⁶ <https://www3.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/tools/warm/pdfs/Plastics.pdf>

of toxic chemicals. EPS can also be made here, but raw, toxic source chemicals need to be shipped to Hawaii.

- EPS is designed to be used once, and according to the US EPA less than 1% of foam is recycled nationally. 0% of EPS Foam is recycled locally.
- According to the EPA Waste Reduction Model Report, 7% of plastic waste generation in US is polystyrene. Of our total plastic recovery, polystyrene makes up 0.7% of recycled plastic

Human Health

- Air pollution from polystyrene
 - Styrene is reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen and a confirmed animal carcinogen as reported by the National Institute of Health in their Report on Carcinogens (2011); this conclusion is also endorsed by the National Academy of Sciences (2014)⁷
 - When combusted, styrene produces benzaldehyde (US EPA classifies this as a hazardous substance), acetophenone (Group D carcinogen by US EPA, causes chromosomal damage on hamsters, but hasn't been tested in humans), styrene oxide (main metabolite of styrene, which is known as carcinogenic).

Surfrider Foundation deeply appreciates your time and energy in considering these important matters and is available to answer questions that you may have.

Mahalo,

Rafael Bergstrom
Oahu Chapter Coordinator, The Surfrider Foundation

⁷ <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/styrene/index.cfm>



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

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 8, 2018 8:30AM Conference Room 325

In SUPPORT of HB2718 Relating to the Environmental Protection

Aloha Chairman Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and members of the EEP 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 HB2718**, authorizing the Department of Accounting and General Services 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 tax-payer 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. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

Marti Townsend
Chapter Director

HB-2718

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 10:11:36 AM

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

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

Comments:

HB-2718

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:51:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2718

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 2:25:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pat gegen		Support	No

Comments:

Do the right thing and protect our keiki, families and communities

LATE

HB-2718

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 11:54:34 PM

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

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

This is another waste of tax dollars. Rather than spending funds observing and recording a certain kind of litter in a data base, it would be more effective to just clean the waterways. If you are going to have a data base for polystyrene products, will there be a separate database for each and other type of litter that irresponsible people toss?

Clean the streams. We don't need a database and we certainly don't need to waste time documenting and recording litter.

Please vote NO.

LATE

HB-2718

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 1:23:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Kokua Hawaii Foundation	Support	No

Comments: