



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2285
RELATING TO PLASTIC STRAWS**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: January 31, 2018
Time: 1:15PM

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (Department) would require program funding
2 and personnel for monitoring and enforcement of the proposed sales prohibition.

3 **Department Testimony:** We appreciate and support the intent of this initiative, but defer to the
4 Governor's Executive Supplemental Budget Request for the Department's appropriations and
5 personnel priorities. This bill proposes a distribution and sales prohibition on straws comprised
6 in full or part of plastic. The prohibition would apply to individuals and businesses.

7 We understand the concern over littering and pollution in general, especially with the
8 recent focus on waste plastics in the environment. We note that a littering prohibition already
9 exists in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 339, "Litter Control." In addition to
10 prohibiting littering in public places, private property, and in waters of the state, the chapter
11 provides for monetary and public service penalties.

12 We further note that funding and positions for enforcing these statutes were eliminated
13 approximately 20 years ago. The Department would require program funding and personnel to
14 actively enforce litter control statutes.

15 **Offered Amendments:** We believe HRS Chapter 339 is the appropriate placement for the sales
16 prohibition language, instead of HRS Chapter 342H.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

January 31, 2018 | 1:15 p.m.
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 224

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

On behalf of the Hawai'i Association for Behavior Analysis (HABA), I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2285**, which seeks to eliminate single-use plastic straws from our islands.

Here are some pretty compelling facts about straws:

- 500 million are used in the US every day
- On average a person will use 1.6 straws each day, 585 annually
- Because of their size, straws often sneak through trash catchers meant to prevent trash from going into streams and our oceans
- Straws are in the top 10 marine debris items found in our oceans

Customer satisfaction or consumer convenience should not be a driving force that allows us to neglect the 'aina. There are several cities (e.g., Boulder, CO; Seattle, WA) and establishments (e.g., Sea Life Park) that have eliminated single-use plastic straws and maintained happy customers. Behavior can be changed when perspective is given, when change is assisted or made easier, when alternate choices result in a similar or even improved outcome. All of this is possible with this proposed legislation.

Mahalo for your time and your commitment to our islands,

Amanda N Kelly, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA
Legislative Chair, Hawaii Association for Behavior Analysis
legislation@hawaiiaba.org



Tyler Roukema, Chairman – Outback Steakhouse **Kelii Gouveia, Incoming Chair** – Hula Grill
Hide Sakurai, Vice Chair – Diamond Dining **Dirk Koeppenkastrop, Secretary** – Il Gelato
Ben Dowling, Treasurer – Ocean House **Michael Miller, Past Chair** – Tiki's Grill & Bar

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To: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair
Sen. Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
Members on Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Chair
Hawaii Restaurant Association

Subj: SB2285 Relating to Plastic Straws

Date: January 28, 2018

The Hawaii Restaurant Association stands opposed to SB 2285 for criminalizing the use of plastic straws.

We are in agreement that all of us need to get better at reducing waste and making sure that trash gets put in a proper place and get disposed to the correct facilities. We at the HRA helped launch Malama 808 a year and a half ago led by Jason Higa from Zippy's with full support from member restaurants and suppliers to educate the general public on this need. We are also in dialogue with Council Member Carol Fukunaga and the City of Honolulu on how to better partner the private and public efforts. One of the simpler solutions could be to make sure that public trash bins have lids, and a second will be for our citizens to make sure trash is disposed into trash bins.

This bill quoted Seattle and California as having similar bills but that is not the case. SB2285 just criminalizes everyone where in California, they are talking about offering straws to just the eat in customers. As you probable saw in the many news report this past week, the public and commentators were quite perplexed with these bills, and the California Assembly have not been passed it yet. The alternate for plastic straws whether it's paper or reusable is really not that available. Is the next step banning all disposal utensils?

Again, we are in agreement that we all need to get better at reducing waste and educate our general public indisposing trash in proper places but this bill is not the solution.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our point of view.

Aloha.





January 29, 2018

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

RE: SB 2285 – OPPOSE

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose SB 2285, which seeks to ban the distribution and sale of plastic straws.

ACC and its members take seriously the issue of litter and marine debris. To that end, ACC's Plastics Division recently announced a product stewardship position for straws¹. ACC developed its position as part of ongoing efforts to help promote the responsible use of valuable plastic materials and in accordance with our commitment to the Trash Free Seas Alliance®(TFSA)². The TFSA brings together thought leaders to work toward the immediate goal of reducing the amount of plastic waste entering the ocean annually by 50 percent by 2025.

ACC's position on straws is designed to help avoid wasteful use by recommending that straws not be provided unless customers ask for them. There are many circumstances in which the use of drinking straws will enhance safety, and promote sanitary conditions. However, there are also circumstances when a drinking straw is automatically provided in a drink before the consumer has asked for one. Adopting this type of voluntary policy will help prevent any unnecessary and potentially wasteful use, while ensuring that straws can still be distributed to those who need them.

ACC is working domestically and internationally with government officials, retailers, anti-litter groups and consumers to devise solutions to prevent litter and marine debris. Some of our other recent activities include helping develop new and innovative recycling programs nationwide; promoting industry-wide practices to contain plastic pellets; partnering with governments and conservationists to encourage recycling and discourage litter; working to educate children on the link between litter and marine health; working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to advance scientific understanding of marine debris; and continuing to innovate and develop smaller, lighter packaging. More information about our activities to help reduce marine debris can be found at:

<http://www.marinedebrissolutions.com/default.aspx>

Instead of banning plastics straws as proposed in SB 2285, we would instead encourage material suppliers, product makers, food/drink establishments and NGOs to work collaboratively to promote the responsible use of straws.

Thank you in advance for considering our views. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at Tim_Shestek@americanchemistry.com. You may also contact ACC's Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551.

¹ <https://plastics.americanchemistry.com/fact-sheets-and-infographics/Product-Stewardship-for-Straws.pdf>

² <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/plastics-in-the-ocean/trash-free-seas-alliance/>



Product Stewardship for Straws

Attention is rightly turning to the overall volume of consumer waste generated by the way in which we use products, and in turn many are looking for ways to reduce or eliminate wasteful uses of products. Consumer attention has recently focused on situations where drinking straws are automatically provided as an area where unnecessary use could be reduced.

There are many circumstances in which the use of drinking straws will enhance safety, and promote sanitary conditions. Some examples include beverages consumed while driving, hospital use, daily living for people with physical impairments or recovering from injury, seniors and others who may have difficulty lifting a drink, and travelling with small children.

However, there are also circumstances when a drinking straw is automatically provided in a drink before the consumer has asked for one.

To avoid unnecessary and potentially wasteful use, customers should be able to request a straw when they need one, and decline a straw when they do not. Providing customers a choice before a straw is placed in their beverage makes sense and could reduce waste and litter. We encourage material suppliers, product makers, food/drink establishments and NGOs to work collaboratively to promote the responsible use of straws.

Plastic makers support a number of programs designed to reduce waste, educate consumers, and expand waste management technologies and infrastructure.

<http://www.americanchemistry.com>

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®; common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues; and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$768 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is among the largest exporters in the nation, accounting for fourteen percent of all U.S. goods exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Hearing: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 1:15 pm
Room 224

In Support of SB 2285 Relating to Plastic Straws

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2285, which prohibits the distribution and selling of plastic straws; establishes a fine and requires individual and business violators to pick up litter or perform community service.

Reducing plastic from the waste stream and in our environment is a good thing. There are alternatives to plastic straws when straws are needed or desired.

Please support SB 2285. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 **Email:** info@conservehi.org **Web:** www.conservehi.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Conservation.Council.for.Hawaii>

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2923 Honolulu HI 96802 **Office:** 250 Ward Avenue Suite 215 Honolulu HI 96814

President: Wayne Tanaka **Vice President:** Rachel Sprague **Secretary:** Lisa Hinano Rey **Treasurer:** Anne Walton

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TO:
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Wednesday, January 31, 2018
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 224

RE: SB 2285 Relating to plastic straws

Position: Oppose

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Reducing litter and marine debris are important goals for our state. Achieving these goals will require individuals to commit to responsibly disposing of their trash and for the state to invest in measure to responsibly manage the waste stream. Piecemeal bans of individual items are not the right answer.

There are plenty of situations where drinking from an open cup is not practical. Banning plastic straws means that many consumers will no longer have the option to get drinks to go, or that businesses will have to come up with some alternative, which may not be cost effective or functional. We urge the committee to vote no on this measure and instead focus litter reduction efforts on measures that are more comprehensive and cooperative. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair
Sen. Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
Members on Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Michael Miller, Dir of Operations at Tiki's Grill & Bar
Hawaii Restaurant Association

Subj: SB2285 Relating to Plastic Straws

Date: January 30, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We at Tiki's Grill & Bar hereby oppose SB2285 with legislation that suggests the sale or use of plastic straws should have fines attached.

Our staff and company have spent time and money to support many cleanup efforts around the island. Our team has seen the problem with trash on island, and we agree that waste needs to be reduced.

We all love the islands we live in and hate to see any kind of trash on the beaches or in our neighborhoods. During the beach clean up the issue not the straws, cigarette butts, beverage lids, paper plates, bottle caps, or but rather the user of said items not being held accountable for throwing it away, and also the problem with overflowing trash cans and missing trash can lids.

It may also affect the visitor industry at a time where we can ill afford for that to happen; a plausible issue would be families coming to Hawaii looking to have a pleasant vacation, but getting thrown into a political debate when they ask for a simple straw for their child's drink.

Again, we are in agreement that we all need to get better at reducing waste and educating the general public in proper disposal of trash, but this bill is not the solution.

Mahalo for considering our point of view while making laws and rules that affect the state.

Mahalo,
Michael Miller / Director of Operations
michaelm@tikisgrill.com

SB 2285: Strong Support
Hearing: January 31st 2018. 2:30PM
Committee on AEN

Dear Members of the Senate AEN Committee

Surfrider Foundation's O'ahu Chapter is deeply concerned about plastics on our beaches, in our nearshore waters, and now found in marine life that calls these areas home. It has become a significant threat to the health of our islands and with over 500 million plastic straws used and discarded per day in the United States alone, we strongly support SB 2285. As a country, our citizens produce more than double per capita plastic waste of China and five times that of Indonesia, while (with Europe), housing 95% of the companies, lobbyists, and industries in the plastic economy (WEF 2016). By centering our eye on, Hawai'i, the U.S. state with the highest rates of waste generation (doubling the national average) and the beaches inundated with the Pacific Gyre's rapidly increasing plastic pollution (CNN 2016) we are at the heart of the global plastic problem. Up to 80% of the plastic in our oceans comes from land-based sources, estimated at 5-13 million tons of plastic. Hawai'i is uniquely positioned to focus the narrative of plastic solutions and our State has the opportunity to lead the world in a progressive movement that cultivates change at the source.

The United States environmental protection agency (EPA) outlines a waste pyramid in which reduction and re-use stand as the pinnacle to effective waste management. Our Cities, Counties, and State need to rethink the way they create, handle, and discuss waste. Surfrider Foundation believes 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 straws & 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.

To date, the majority of dialogue regarding solutions to the plastic problem revolves around how we clean up our how we focus attention on regions of the world that have poorer waste management. These solutions may help slow the flow of waste into our oceans or clean up what is already there, but do not help solve the underlying issue. As our ocean fills with more plastic by weight than fish (Washington Post 2016) by 2050, as we have seen a 610% increase in raw plastic production since 1975 (Jambeck 2015), and as 95% of plastic packaging globally (resulting in \$80-120 billion cost) is lost after a single-first use (WEF 2016), the solutions must be more geared towards a shift away from the fossil fuel based, greenhouse gas creating industry of plastics. Alternatives derived from compostable materials are widely available now as a stop-gap effort as we shift our economy back towards a system of reuse that is at the foundation of both Hawaiian culture and the ethic that this country began on.

The costs of plastic pollution are mounting in multiple sectors - financially, ecologically, and socially. Plastic is costing cities, counties, states, & countries millions of dollars and our global economy billions. Costs are passed to the taxpayers by burdening our stormwater management systems with the need for expensive best management practices and the costs of cleanups. Hawai'i State Department of Transportation (HDOT) has produced a trash plan that shows styrofoam and plastic bags as the top two contributors to the waste stream, while in

California, the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) created a plastic cleanup valuation study for 90+ counties in California. The study concluded that CA taxpayers are paying \$428 million per year to clean up plastic through storm drain management, street sweeping, and marine cleanups. San Diego County (with population of 1.3 equivalent to Hawaii) spends \$14 million alone on plastic cleanup. The United Nations Environmental Program has estimates in the billions for the global cost to cleanup plastics with \$14 billion for marine plastic alone.

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 chemical properties that allow for microbial colonization of pathogens. In other words, 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 points below.

The effects to marine life in our oceans are mounting. 50 to 80 percent of dead sea turtles have ingested plastic. Plastic bags, which resemble jellyfish, are the most commonly found item in sea turtles' stomachs. Worldwide, 82 of 144 examined bird species contained plastic debris in their stomachs; and in some cases, 80 percent of the population had consumed plastic. Researchers found that 66 percent of Giant Petrel shorebirds regurgitated plastic when feeding their chicks. Commercial fish, such as Opah and Bigeye Tuna, consume plastic, which could significantly reduce global populations. A University of Hawaii study reports "[i]n the two [Opah] species found in Hawaiian waters, 58 percent of the small-eye opah and 43 percent of the big-eye opah had ingested some kind of debris."

On a recent field trip visiting with the Marine Mammal Research Program, we were guided through the facilities where beached and dead Pilot Whales had been examined. The stomach contents of the three animals found on O'ahu, Lana'i, and Kaua'i revealed between 15-30 lbs of plastic in the gut. Plastic does not breakdown like organic material and as marine animals continue to ingest the plastics their stomachs eventually fill to a state in which they can no longer consume enough food to address proper nutritional maintenance. This is similar to the problem widely shared with Laysan Albatross in Papahānaumokuākea.

Ultimately, we have to reduce the problem at its source. Single-use plastics are an unneeded convenience that our society must learn to move away from. The alternatives exist and we must exercise some sort of ethic over our consumer behavior. Our kuleana is to protect our public trust resources like our shorelines for all generations into the future and currently we are not fulfilling that leadership role. Surfrider Foundation strongly urges the State Legislature to pass SB 2285, eliminating one of the most common single-use plastics, straws, from our waste streams and environment.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Rafael Bergstrom
Surfrider Foundation, O'ahu Chapter Coordinator

References:

C. Anela Choy & Jeffery C. Drazen, Plastic for Dinner? Observations of Frequent Debris Ingestion by Pelagic Predatory Fishes from the Central North Pacific, 485 MARINE ECOLOGY PROGRESS SERIES 155 (2013), at 161

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Imam, Jareen. "Hawaii has a serious trash problem — and it's coming on ocean waves". CNN. June 3, 2016

Jambeck, J.R. Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into Ocean. Science. Feb 2015: Vol. 347, Issue 6223, pp. 768-771.

Kaplan, Sarah. "By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans, study says". Washington Post. January 20, 2016.

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Mrosovsky, N. Leatherback Turtles: The Menace of Plastic, 58 MARINE POLLUTION BULLETIN 287 (2009).

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel—GEF (2012). Impacts of Marine Debris on Biodiversity: Current Status and Potential Solutions, Montreal, Technical Series No. 67, 61 pages.

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Jan. 30, 2018

Support for SB 2285: Relating to Plastic Straws

Committee: Agriculture & Environment (AEN)

Hearing: Jan. 31, 2018, 1:15pm, Rm. 224

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the AEN Committee,

As the Hawaii Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, I am writing in support of SB 2285, the bill to regulate and reduce the use of plastic straws. With five chapters and thousands of Surfrider members in Hawaii, we are committed to reducing the litter and environmental hazards of single-use plastics like straws as part of our popular Rise Above Plastics campaign.

Some opponents will say plastic straws are recyclable, but in actuality they are rarely recycled. They will also say that it's a "litter problem," but the plastics industry has been using this tactic and blaming the public for decades without producing products that are not recyclable. They will also say that banning straws will hurt small businesses, but there are many restaurants that have dropped these products and are doing just fine. In fact, the new Ocean Friendly Restaurants Hawaii program has certified more than 100 restaurants that only offer straws upon request, have switched to paper straws or gotten rid of them completely!

During our monthly beach cleanups around the state, our chapters find straws at every cleanup, and they are one of the top items found here and across the country. There are many available and affordable alternatives that are non-toxic, biodegradable and pose no threats to the environment or human health and will cost the state and the counties less to clean up.

I would recommend additional amendments such as extending the timeline for imposing the ban and starting with a policy that makes straws available "only upon request," as we promote in the criteria for our Ocean Friendly Restaurants program. Mahalo for your time and leadership on this issue and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stuart Coleman

Stuart H. Coleman, Hawaii Manager



Environmental Caucus
of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

January 30, 2018

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Re: **SB 2285 – Relating To Plastic Straws**

Hearing: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 Room 224

Position: **Support**

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports measures that protect Hawai'i's natural resources and the environment that its human inhabitants live in, as does the platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. We, therefore, appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2286.

As the bill indicates, plastic straws are a menace in our state and threaten our ocean habitats and their marine inhabitants. There are numerous alternatives to plastic straws, including stainless steel, glass, or paper and they are available both commercially and individually. There is also the option to go without. We believe anyone who has watched the video of marine rescuers using pliers to forcibly extract a plastic straw from a Hawaiian sea turtle's nostril would agree.

We support this bill and its immediate effective date. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Lana Rose Olson, Vice Chair
Environmental Caucus
Democratic Party of Hawai'i.
4988 Emmalani Drive
Princeville, HI 96722
Lana.olson@gmail.com
808.639.8488



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, January 31, 2018 1:15PM Conference Room 224

In SUPPORT of SB 2285 Relating to plastic straws

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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 SB 2285**, which would prohibit the distribution and sale of plastic straws as well as establish a fine and require individual and business violators to pick up litter or perform community service.

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. 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. In this case, we advocate for halting harmful plastic pollution at the source. This measure is one of many that support our collective efforts to reduce pollution across the board.

We urge the Committee to pass this measure, which will serve our collective efforts to keep Hawai'i's land, freshwater bodies, and oceans free of plastic pollution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2285.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere,

Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment. My name is Jun Shin and I am 18 years old. I am a freshman at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and a board member at-large for Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawaii. I am writing this bill in support of SB2285 relating to plastic straws which is due for a hearing on January 31, 2018 at 1:15 PM and ask it to be advanced through the committee.

It is very important that this issue is dealt with. Although a plastic straw is very small, the National Park Services and this bill points out that we use 500 million straws, with each individual using between 1-2 straws per day. The straws accumulate in our streets and even in our oceans as people toss them because sold in packs everywhere; these are really meant for temporary use by consumers.

It's a very scary situation in which our beaches and their inhabitants are in danger as plastic straws clog up the ocean, and marine life swallows and/or gets caught in it. I don't want it to reach a point where my kids and their kids will be forced to only see the beauty I see in aquariums and other contained spaces because we couldn't do enough now. Our beaches and our marine life are very important, and preserving our natural resources insures that future generations can continue to enjoy the ocean and its inhabitants in their natural habitats for years to come.

It is my hope that through this legislation, we will be able to allow for a faster transition to more environmental friendly options, and help Hawaii to continue as a leader in environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your hard work and deliberation on this issue,

Jun Shin,
Board Member At-Large
YPDA Hawaii
1561 Kanunu St. Honolulu, HI 96814
Cell: 8082556663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 6:03:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

We use up to 500 million straws per day. Many of them litter our streets and many end up in the ocean, where they kill many types of marine life that tho ink they are food. Plastic is nearly indestructible; it merely degrades into smaller pieces that can be consumed by smaller marine organisms and accumulate with bacteria into the food we eat. By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish by weight in the ocean! Plastic also harms precious coral reefs on which life in Hawaii depends. We must stop destroying the reefs and oceans with plastic. Please ban plastic straws as a first step. Mahalo.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:31:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Burdt		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 10:05:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Dinkelo		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2285 fully. The amount of plastic littering our oceans is appalling. In Hawai'i, we see the negative effects of poor choices wash up on the shores every day. This would be a small step and in the right direction in reducing our use of plastic. The use of plastic straws are so easy and so convenient, it will take public regulation to help us all establish better habits for our planet.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:33:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danny de Gracia		Comments	Yes

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

I support the intent of this measure which, as suggested by Page 2, Lines 1-2 states that "there are numerous alternatives including reusable and paper straws." However, the definition of "plastics" as proposed on Page 3, Lines 11-12 is poorly defined and would undermine attempts to create ecologically friendly straws. The definition in this measure for plastic as currently written is excessively broad; "any material made of polymeric organic compounds and additives that can be shaped by flow" describes nearly everything on Earth, *including* paper, which is made of cellulose - a polymeric organic compound - which is then mechanically shaped into any number of usable objects.

The Committee should be aware that the rise of both biotechnology and nanotechnology in our 21st century make banning "plastic" as a generic term an untenable regulatory dilemma. "Plastic" includes objects that are ecologically friendly, not merely ones that are not. A proposed amendment to make this measure more practical would be to stipulate that only biodegradable straws shall be sold or distributed in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:18:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Farahi		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2285 to ban plastic straws from our islands. Plastic straws are not only unnecessary, but are a huge portion of the plastic waste collected on our beaches. People can learn to deal without straws or purchase reusable alternatives. Thank you.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:30:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Koba-Burd		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 8:48:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Kunimune		Support	No

Comments:

I love this proposal. I haven't used a straw since 2014, and I would be ecstatic to never have to see one again. Straws are a consumerist menace to our planet created and disposed of for the amusement of those too lazy to lift a cup thirty centimeters in the air to drink. I can see pushback on this, especially regarding soft drinks in disposable cups, but plastic lids can be easily modified to drink like a coffe cup, without a straw. Any end goal for a sustainable state cannot include plastic straws in it.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:23:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

In STRONG SUPPORT

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/26/2018 12:35:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon		Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a ridiculous bill when the state won't look at the other waste management issues throughout the islands.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:41:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Penland		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 6:39:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lana Ululani Robbins		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Rhoads,

While you have good intentions SB 2285 will adversely affect cancer patients who must drink using plastic straws. They should not have to face death plus a penalty of a fine up to \$100 or have to be forced to do community service because they can only consume fluids through a plastic straw. Please withdraw from this nonsense. Thank you in advance.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:56:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:22:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aria Juliet Castillo	Vote Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

We need to end our plastic straw habit. They are a waste of money for restaurants and create so much unnecessary trash.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:23:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Morgan Bonnet		Support	No

Comments:

Enough alternative exists. Plastic straws, like many other plastic objects, often end up in the environment. They then can be mistaken for food by wildlife. Which can be deadly for them. Also, it can come back in the food chain when eaten by fishes.

By now, there is a well know video of somebody extracting a plastic straw that got stuck in a turtle's nostril. This is very painful to watch, and worth a thousand words:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2J2qdOrW44>

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:11:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pua Rossi-Fukino		Support	No

Comments:

I support the banning of sale and distribution of plastic straws.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:12:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Rodden	Graduate Student Organization	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:19:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
summer holwegner		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 2285 because we need to get serious about monitoring our use and consumption of materials that negatively impact the environment. Although plastics have proven to be very helpful in the medical fields, etc. our reliance upon it has proven to be bad for the environment. Plastics are already filled with toxins that affect our health, but their litter also affects the environment with their toxic substances. There are many other options that are available that we could easily use in the place of plastic straws. I myself have used paper straws at coffee shops and have purchased and used aluminum straws as a reusable option. Our society can't continue to rely on these disposable products anymore as our environment is being trashed by our carelessness. Many places have banned the use of plastic bags and styrofoam containers for the same reasons. We need to continue this progress by banning plastic straws as well.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:20:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mackenzie Manning	Kapi'olani Community College	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I fully support this bill to ban plastic straws in our island state whose major tourist attraction is the ocean and marine life associated with our shorelines. Plastic in general is becoming a problem not just visually but biologically. A recent study in Science found an increase in coral disease prevalence associated with plastic trash and debris on reefs. This bill is a start in the right direction. I feel that next we need to update the plastic bag ban bill and then tackle styrofoam. Being an island state, we should be leading the nation in sustainable and environmentally responsible practices.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:02:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allison Jacobson		Support	No

Comments:

500 million straws are disposed of in the US every single day. SB2285 is an important step in the direction of protecting our islands and ocean. It is essential to reduce plastic waste and stop trashing our environment and filling our landfills. Please support SB2285 and help this important measure show the true aloha spirit and be an example for the rest of the US.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:31:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elisha WC		Support	No

Comments:

Plastic straws are unnecessary, unpleasant to see on our beaches, and harmful to our local wildlife on land and in the ocean. Let's set an example for the world. Please ban the use of plastic straws in our islands.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:46:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:39:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda N Kelly		Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:50:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2285 which bans the sale and use of plastic straws in Hawaii.

Plastic does not breakdown. Sunlight oxidizes plastic which causes it to fall apart into smaller and smaller pieces until they are under a millimeter in size. Fishes and other organisms inadvertently eat the plastic and the chemicals enter the food chain and are eventually consumed by humans.

The short term benefit from using plastic plastic straw is greatly overshadowed by the long term effect of plastic in our oceans. I strongly support SB2285 and its ban on plastic straws.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:51:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:31:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Lau	Autism Behavior Consulting Group	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:00:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Burke		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:20:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Abella		Support	No

Comments:

Plastic straws continue to be a hazard to our environment and communities on all islands. Plastic straws continue to make up a majority of the waste found in our oceans although there have been several alternatives to its use. I do not support the use of plastic straws and can only see the benefit on the impact on the environment with its banned use.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:50:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Branson		Oppose	No

Comments:

First off I do support the environment and many conservation efforts to preserve Hawaii's unique ecosystem, but this bill infringes too much on individual's rights to private ownership. I come from a family that owns a small business and can relate to the struggle, which most small businesses are feeling on Hawaii. Plastic straws are extremely cheap and easy to get ahold of due to a competitive market that brings down cost, lessening the burden on small businesses. It isn't the same with paper straws an extremely niche market, which will increase the expenses of businesses, on top of Hawaii's extremely high taxation rate, which will create an immense burden on small business. Paper straws also deteriorates only lasting 2-3 hours, so you can say goodbye to your Coffee, Soft Drinks and etc. because it will turn into a disgusting mix of paper and liquid. Many supporters for implementing this regulation on businesses might say if you don't like the rules don't open a business. This is false everyone has a right to private ownership, but the government has no right to barge into a private establishment and demand something be done and then hold that business hostage. Also I wish to ask everyone in legislature, Why are you debating a measure to ban plastic straws? We have one of the worst public school education systems in the United States, a nuclear warning alarm system that malfunctions, failing infrastructure, high taxation rates, homelessness, and violence crime on the rise. But yet we are passing a measure on plastic straws. In conclusion, I suggest instead of creating an outright ban on plastic straws, to create a tax incentive for businesses who chooses not use plastic straws. This is because people respond better to incentives than mandated actions, take the solar panel tax incentive for example. In conclusion, create a tax incentive for businesses that chooses not to use plastic straws.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:49:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Caldwell	Magics Beach Grill	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:46:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Noelani Ahia		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

Katherine T. Kupukaa
Mililani, HI 96789

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, January 31, 2018
TIME: 1:15 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: OPPOSE SB 2285 RELATING TO PLASTIC STRAWS

I oppose SB 2285 because it is yet another law regulating how businesses should be run. Why should businesses be penalized? Have you gone mad? As long as plastic straws are being manufactured leave it up to the businesses whether they are allowed to provide this product to their customers. This is a total waste of paper, time and money that this bill gets a hearing. This bill should be killed.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to voice my concern.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:14:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ezekiel Straw		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:15:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kealohi		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:19:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theresa Freund		Support	No

Comments:

SB 2285: Strong Support

Hearing: January 31st 2018. 2:30PM

Committee on AEN

Dear Members of the Senate AEN Committe

My name is Theresa Freund and I live in Nuuanu and I am deeply concerned about plastics on our beaches, in our nearshore waters, and now found in marine life that calls these areas home. It has become a significant threat to the health of our islands and with over 500 million plastic straws used and discarded per day in the United States alone, I strongly support SB 2285. As a country, our citizens produce more than double per capita plastic waste of China and five times that of Indonesia, while (with Europe), housing 95% of the companies, lobbyists, and industries in the plastic economy (WEF 2016). By centering our eye on, Hawai'i, the U.S. state with the highest rates of waste generation (doubling the national average) and the beaches inundated with the Pacific Gyre's rapidly increasing plastic pollution (CNN 2016) we are at the heart of the global plastic problem. Up to 80% of the plastic in our oceans comes from land-based sources, estimated at 5-13 million tons of plastic. Hawai'i is uniquely positioned to focus the narrative of plastic solutions and our State has the opportunity to lead the world in a progressive movement that cultivates change at the source.

We have to reduce the problem at its source. Single-use plastics are an unneeded convenience that our society must learn to move away from. The alternatives exist and we must exercise some sort of ethic over our consumer behavior. Our kuleana is to protect our public trust resources like our shorelines for all generations into the future and currently we are not fulfilling that leadership role. I strongly urge the State Legislature to pass SB 2285, eliminating one of the most common single-use plastics, straws, from our waste streams and environment.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Theresa Freund

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:20:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordyn Anderson		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:31:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaily Wakefield		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:33:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Mader	Hawai'i resident	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

We really do **not** need plastic straws. I have 3 keiki and we exist just fine without them. After witnessing a honu (sea turtle) having a plastic straw pulled from his body, that was enough for me to say "no" to straws. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wH878t78bw>

Several restaurants, like Monkeypod here on Maui, have stopped using plastic straws. Some now use biodegradable paper and some stopped using them altogether. We walk into a restaurant and we let them know right away- no straws please. Thankfully we are not alone. However, Americans stil use 500 MILLION STRAWS A DAY!! <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/04/plastic-straws-ocean-trash-environment/>
Not necessary, no more.

There are other alternatives as well. The only way I could get certain fruit and veggies into my son was through smoothies. I bought one silicone straw, and it has lasted all this time, and is still in perfect condition. We've also tried to thicken the smoothies so he can use a spoon, or thin them out so he could drink them from the glass. Where there is a will, there is a way and this is a no-brainer.

Mahalo for passing this bill banning plastic straws!

Deborah Mader

Kā«hei

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:49:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kayla C Brignac		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:51:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cuong Tran		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:11:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joy bitonio		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I have seen first hand the degradation to our coastlines from plastic straw waste. There isn't one visit to the beach that doesn't include me picking up straws and other single use plastic rubbish on my way out. Over 500M disposable straws are used daily, they never degrade and pollute our oceans and waterways, endangering the lives of marine life and other wildlife, including us as the plastic infested by fish for example are in turn infested by us.

With the huge tourism industry that exists here on the island we as a state can come up with viable alternatives to single use disposables especially straws which are one of the top 5 pollutants out in our environment. Reusable straws or no straws are the best way to address this issue, with biodegradable options a secondary solution. If we start at the root of the issue, which is the production of products intended for single use and disposed, we can make a greater impact than just replacing one disposable for another, even if it is a biodegradable one. Mahalo for your support!

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:36:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:41:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
katherine dement		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Katie DeMent and I am writing in the hopes that my concern about the future of Hawaii's environment and ocean life will be heard. Having lived all my life in Hawaii it saddens me at the amount of plastic waste I have seen at the beaches grown over the recent years. Just today, January 30th 2018 I picked up 5 plastic straws at the shoreline of Kaimana beach within minutes. Tourist and both locals watched me as I picked up straws, pieces of styrofoam and other plastics right in front of them. This is the same shoreline that our endangered Hawaiian monk seals love to frequent. Out of respect to the marine life that has no say in this modern convenient single use item lifestyle, please take into consideration that the only way to protect the sea life and the future of our Aina is to create barriers to the consumption of such plastic products. Please pass SB 2285 for the future of Hawaii, it's people, the land and the ocean that is home to many.

Mahalo

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:23:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:00:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mariya Gold		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:51:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline Chico		Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Honolulu and I'm deeply concerned with all this plastic washing up on to the beaches. I'm concerned with the environment and marine life in Hawaii. We must do better in riding ourselves of all single plastic use. Plastic straws are just one example where the US alone, 500 million are used and just discarded every day. Plastic in time is just breaking down into pieces but it's not disappearing. I am finding plastic on the beaches, parks and on the street. Please go see the beaches on the east side of the island for yourselves all the plastic coming in everyday. We need to encourage businesses to find alternatives. An example for restaurants: stainless steel straws. We all need to change. I support SB 2285 and I urge the state legislature to pass this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Jacqueline Chico

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:36:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Ninci		Support	No

Comments:

Removing the option for plastic straws would be extremely beneficial and relatively easy as plastic straws can be replaced with reusable or paper alternatives. I appreciate any steps the legislature can make toward reduced plastic use in our society. I truly believe this is a step toward improving our national security (while we still have a long way to go).

The prevalence of single-use plastics has led to a learned helplessness in society that prevents everyday people from regularly "doing the right thing." Straws are generally easy to give up for most types of beverages, but our society is deep in the habit of using these harmful tools. I look forward to the day where we can look around and get the sense that our societal values are honored through our own behaviors and choices. These days, you can walk into many restaurants to automatically be handed a water with a plastic straw. I try to support the restaurants that take their own initiatives to avoid single-use plastics straws. I sometimes try to find my waiter to explain my cause in advance, and surprisingly, many forget or just don't seem to understand how critically important it is to stop circulating straws for zero to one use.

Despite myself knowing about the harms of single-use plastics, they seem to be almost always immediately available in society, making it hard for me as a conscious citizen to consistently stay true to my values. I have had to get into serious habits in order to avoid plastic use and I still feel like I have a long way to go. I am a scientist of human behavior for a living, and avoiding plastic is still extremely hard. That is why I think it is time for our leaders to be innovative to promote the safety of the planet. It may seem like a small step, but this bill could provide a model for other societies; this bill could help shape our local values to promote other sustainable practices. We must start somewhere, right? Thank you for honorably considering this bill, SB 2285, as a step in the right direction.

Jennifer Ninci, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA

Honolulu, HI

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:11:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
doorae shin	uh manoa	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Doorae Shin and I am submitting testimony in support of SB2285 on behalf of Kokua Hawaii Foundation, an environmental education nonprofit founded by Kim & Jack Johnson. We find plastic straws at every single beach cleanup we conduct, and many of the straws come from Hawaii as they are left behind on beaches or blow out of trash cans and into the ocean or sand. Plastic straws are documented to harm animals from ingestion and other situations, such as the turtle who lived with a straw lodged into its nose, a video that went viral on social media recently.

We strongly support a ban on plastic straws because of the way they persist in the environment, and the high likelihood of them being littered as well as blowing out of trash cans and into our land and ocean environment.

Plastic straws are unnecessary. Alternatives including paper and compostable straws are available by distributors who sell plastic straws.

Plastic straws are used for 10-15 minutes and then are discarded, risking harm onto nature and innocent animals, as they persist for hundreds of years, posing a threat to our wildlife, to our ecosystem, to tourism, and to the health of our food chain.

Please pass SB2285.

Mahalo,
Doorae Shin
Program Manager, Plastic Free Hawaii
Kokua Hawaii Foundation

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:13:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
heidi better		Support	No

Comments:

i support banning plastic straws. They are so damaging to the ocean,land ,and marine mammals and are totally unnecessary. There are more environmentally safe replacements for these. Its so awful when glasses of water are served with a straw I did not ask for...such a waste and adds so much to our landfilland ocean trash!. I live along the south shore and pick up so much plastic of all types when I walk my beach. We do not need plastic straws (or bags or cutlery for that matter) when there are viable eco-friendly alternatives. If people feel they must use a straw let it be a paper one or a degradable one or a re-usable one. Plastic is killing our aina and the rest of the plane. We need your help to clean our mess up. Please support banning plastic straws so businesses will find alternatives.Businesses always complain any change will cost them ...ridiculous! They already waste money giving me a straw I do not want. This needs to stop.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:37:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Pang		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:11:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carleigh Vollbrecht		Support	No

Comments:

I have been volunteering for the past 2 years to pick up litter. June 2015-2016 in Moiliili and June 2017 to present in Makiki. My family goes out each weekend to a local park, or meets up with 808 clean ups near by and works for an hour collecting trash. My daughter (4 years old) and I also pick up trash when we walk to school. Single use products are the bulk of what we pick up. This includes hundreds of straws picked up. Not a week goes by that we don't collect at least 10 straws. I support this measure 100% and believe that it will open more eyes to the single use waste problem and surp more positive changes for our environment. No child should play on a litter playground and no beach should be strewn with trash. Stopping the litter at the source is the best answer.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:02:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Masaki	808 Cleanups	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I work with 808 Cleanups, a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping Hawai'i clean from Mauka to Makai. My child Chelsea along with two other children (Pawehi Blinz and Rylee Kamahele) spend countless hours at beaches cleaning up trash, most of which is plastic. Plastic doesn't go away, it just breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces. When plastic enters the ocean, fish and wildlife eat them and get sick and even die. We recently put a video on YouTube to raise awareness to the plastic pollution problem.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpB0ZpUReqU>

We are hoping to have plastic straws banned in Hawai'i. Thank you for your time.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:57:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Noggle		Support	No

Comments:

Single use plastic straws are terrible for the environment. As a community that is more integrated and historically dependent on the ocean, Hawaii should lead the way in creating a better, cleaner marine environment. Compared to the damage done to wildlife and ecosystems, the small convenience of not having to tip a cup to your mouth seems insignificant. By banning the sale and distribution of plastic straws, Hawaii will show that it is committed to preserving the environment, protecting wildlife, and leading the charge to mitigate the negative impact humans are having on our planet.

SB-2285

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:36:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rivera		Support	No

Comments:

In the US alone, 500 million straws are used every single day. There are just over 300 million people in the country, but we use 500 MILLION straws a day. As a bartender in Honolulu, I understand how this could be possible with how carelessly straws are wasted and discarded. Our culture has become careless when consuming and the public is not aware of the effects their action may have, even their decision to use a straw every time they want a sip of water. These “disposable” straws are simply luxuries that have no required value, but leave a Permanent mark on our environment, and our beaches and landfills and sidewalks. I found out that Hawaii actually does use more single use plastics than most states, which is shocking being that we are surrounded but ocean and delicate reefs. Plastics are a real threat to the marine environment.

Please SUPPORT this measure, we need to start shifting the culture. Coming from someone who serves drinks to hundreds of people a day as a bartender, no one minds when there is not a straw in their drink.