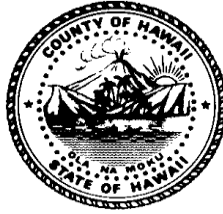


# SB2498 SD1

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS.  
**Report Title:** Polystyrene Foam Products; Prohibition  
**Description:** Prohibits the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide. Takes effect 1/1/2019. (SD1)  
**Companion:** [HB1937](#)  
**Package:** None  
**Current Referral:** AEN, CPH  
**Introducer(s):** S. CHANG, Riviere

**Eileen O'Hara**  
Council Member  
Council District 4



**Phone:** (808) 965-2712  
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**Email:** eileen.ohara@hawaiicounty.gov

**Chair:** Environmental  
Management Committee

**Vice Chair:** Planning Committee and  
Agriculture, Water & Energy  
Sustainability Committee

## **County of Hawaii**

### **Hawaii County Council**

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Hawai'i State Senate

February 22, 2018

**Re: In Support of Senate Bill 2498, from Hawai'i County Council District 4  
To be heard by CPH on 02-26-18 10:00AM in conference room 229**

Aloha Chair Baker and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support of Senate Bill 2498, which prohibits the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers statewide.

The County of Hawaii recently passed a limited polystyrene ban, which goes into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The County of Maui also passed similar legislation, going into effect at the end of this calendar year. It is a great idea to take uniform action by establishing this law statewide, and having Hawai'i represent a lifestyle of environmental responsibility.

Please consider the positive impact this Bill will have on our environment, health, and economy, and contact me if you have any questions about my support or knowledge of the subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen O'Hara".

Eileen O'Hara  
Council Member  
Council District 4

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 2:18:55 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                          | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dominique           | Testifying for University of Hawaii at Manoa | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hello Senator Baker and Senator Baker,

My name is Dominique Peña I am an international student from Costa Rica on behalf of the Civil and Environmental Department of UH Manoa. I am an everyday witness of plastic pollution and I am deeply concerned about the future of our Oceans and consequently our health.

As a foreigner in your country, I am very hopeful to see this bill taken into action. This is because Hawaii is a world known state that stands out due to its unique location and leading example of the relationship with the land woven in its culture.

I am a diver, surfer, skydiver and student and throughout all these activities styrofoam repeatedly shows up in immense quantities. I have participated at multiple beach clean ups in Waimanalo where the plastic gets washed up on shore abundantly. The percentage of polystyrene foam is deeply concerning. If Hawaii refuses to contribute to the increasing amount of daily polystyrene foam that enters our oceans globally, it would signify a leading action for the rest of the states to follow.

Thanks,

Dominique

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 12:52:51 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 26, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2498 SD1 RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE  
FOAM CONTAINERS

To the Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; the Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice-Chair,  
and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2498 SD1 relating to a prohibition of polystyrene foam products.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2498 SD1 and strongly supports its passage for the following reasons:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has added styrene as a possible carcinogen. Polystyrene foam and plastics contain the toxic substances, Styrene and Benzene, which are suspected carcinogens and neurotoxins that are hazardous to humans. Styrene, better known as Styrofoam, is owned and manufactured by the The Dow Chemical Company. Hot foods and liquids actually start a partial breakdown of the Styrofoam, causing some these toxins to be absorbed into the bloodstream and tissue. Drinking a steaming cup of coffee or having a cup of noodle soup or chili out of a Styrofoam cup causes small doses of chemicals to leach which may lead to leukemia and lymphoma cancer.

Further, unlike glass, steel and aluminium, plastics and Styrofoam are not melted down. These plastics cannot be recycled into new food containers, therefore, they are single-use products. Polystyrene foam can persist in the environment for more than a million years since it is not biodegradable. It is slow to break down chemically, rather it fragments into small pieces, choking animals that ingest it and clogging their digestive systems. One million seabirds are killed by marine litter every year. 100,000 turtles and marine mammals, such as dolphins, whales and seals, are killed by plastic marine litter every year around the world.

Gyres are systems of circulating currents in an ocean, caused by the Coriolis Effect. There are two "garbage patches" in the North Pacific Ocean, a western garbage patch, located southeast of Japan, and the eastern garbage patch, located between San Francisco and Hawaii.

Styrofoam and other plastics currently make up about 30 percent of the landfill volume in the United States.

Senate Bill No. 2498 SD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it prohibits the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide, effective 1/1/2019.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[t]he Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is 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.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawaii's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment. (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 407-419 (2016)).

We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 422-423 (2016)).

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources. (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 432-433 (2016)).

We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition. (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 378-380 (2016)). For these aforesaid reasons, this measure would serve to protect the overall health of communities by prohibiting polystyrene foam from causing further harm to its citizens and the environment.

Given that Senate Bill No. 2498 SD1 prohibits the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide, effective 1/1/2019, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to strongly 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



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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION & HEALTH**

Monday, February 26, 2018 10:00AM Conference Room 229

**In SUPPORT of SB 2498 SD1** Relating to polystyrene foam containers

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Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda 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 SB 2498 SD1**, which seeks to prohibit the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide.

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.

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. Polystyrene food containers are intended for single use, cannot typically be recycled, and pose harm to marine life. The toxins and heavy chemicals found in them are not compostable or biodegradable--*taking 500 years or more to decompose*. Polystyrene food containers, as well as other single use foam products, create an overabundance of waste that continually overflow local landfills, overflow our beaches, and are not a source of clean energy when burned at H-Power. **There are alternatives for single use polystyrene food containers**, including compostable and biodegradable options. By reducing single use plastics like polystyrene food containers at the source, Hawai'i will have the

opportunity to reduce and even eliminate one of the most toxic plastic pollutants, thereby showcasing its state sustainability goals to the nation and the world. Banning the distribution and selling of polystyrene food containers will enable Hawai'i to invest in the future aesthetics of the island, and more importantly the health and safety of marine life and local communities.

*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 as well as protect the health of our people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 2498 SD1**.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 10:46:21 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Megan Lamson        | Testifying for Hawai'i Wildlife Fund | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:53:33 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                          | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kahi Pacarro        | Testifying for Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

We survived for thousands of years without the stuff. Then came the plate lunch with paper boxes with paper plates and we thrived. Then came styrofoam (EPS) and we still survived, but at a huge expense to our environment as we've seen picking up this trash all over Hawaii's beaches and out of the water directly. Therefore, since vendors nor the average consumer seems to understand the implications of utilizing a toxic material shown to harm wildlife and ourselves when another totally viable option is available, we need to BAN the FOAM!

As Executive Director of Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii I implore you to move towards keeping your constituents healthy and safe, especially those constituents that don't have a voice, our wildlife.



Feb. 25, 2018

**Support for SB 2498 SD1: Relating to Polystyrene Food Containers**

**Committee: Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health (CPH)**

**Hearing: Feb. 26, 2018, 10:00am, Rm. 229**

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda and Members of the CPH Committee,

As the Hawaii Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, I am writing in strong support of SB2498 SD1 to prohibit the use of polystyrene food containers. With the support of Surfrider's five Chapters and the thousands of members across Hawaii, we are committed to reducing the litter and environmental hazards of foam and other single-use plastics as part of our popular Rise Above Plastics campaign. We are also part of the Hawaii Reef & Ocean Coalition, which is made up of coral reef scientists, environmental groups, businesses and educational groups, and this bill is one of our top priorities this session.

Polystyrene food containers are one of the most littered items in our Islands, and they are also one of the most toxic forms of plastic, and Hawaii has one of the highest per capita uses in the country. Opponents will say it's recyclable, but the fact is that less than 1% is ever 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 actually recyclable. An EPS foam ban was implemented in San Francisco, and there was a 30% decrease in EPS litter within one year (San Francisco Street Litter Re-Audit, 2008). Over 110 cities and counties across the country have enacted EPS foam bans with dramatic decreases in litter and savings to the county. For an extensive list see: <http://www.surfrider.org/pages/polystyrene-ordinances>.

Industry lobbyists will also say that banning polystyrene food containers 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 registered more than 150 restaurants that are foam-free in the last 14 months! Here's a partial list of all the restaurants in Hawaii: [www.oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org](http://www.oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org).

During our monthly beach cleanups around the state, EPS foam products are among the top items we find every time. In fact, as part of International Coastal Cleanup Day, 17,383 cups, plates and pieces of EPS foam were removed from Hawaii's beaches in a single day on Sat., Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015! That's why we need this bill, which would help reduce these litter problems and environmental issues by requiring restaurants and food service vendors to stop using toxic EPS foam containers.

We embrace a policy of "1, 2, C," meaning products should be recyclable #1 & #2 plastics or compostable. There are many compostable or non-toxic plastic alternatives that can be recycled. This bill provides vendors and restaurants enough time to use their remaining inventory and transition to safer products, which hundreds of restaurants have already done without any problems. Although foam products may be cheaper to buy, they have a hidden cost that counties and citizens have to pay to clean them up. A recent Hawaii Dept. of Transportation report stated that banning plastic bags and Styrofoam would save millions of dollars for the state, and this bill will help save the County millions as well.

Although the FDA approved EPS foam products in 1958, the science since then has shown that these are toxic products. Here are some top reasons why EPS foam food service products are dangerous and wasteful:



1. EPS foam is a toxic form of plastic made from non-renewable fossil fuels and synthetic chemicals like styrene that leach out over time, especially in contact with hot, greasy or acidic food.
2. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), styrene is a dangerous carcinogen and neurotoxin that can lead to cancer, lymphoma and leukemia. The EPA says 100% of humans have styrene in their fat tissues.
3. Because EPS foam food service products are more than 90% air, they break apart easily and are often blown into our coastal areas and out to sea, where they are listed as one of the top 10 items collected at beach cleanups.
4. EPS foam never biodegrades but only breaks into smaller micro-plastics. These pieces act like sponges for toxic chemicals in the ocean and are consumed by marine creatures who mistake them for food. More than 660 marine species are known to ingest plastics, including endangered species like sea turtles and albatross.
5. Hawaii has one of the highest per capita rates of take-out food in the country, and many food containers are made of EPS foam products whose toxic chemicals threaten the health of humans and the environment.
6. A recent study in *Science* showed that plastics are a major cause of coral reef disease and decline, and our Islands are dependent on our coral reefs for seafood, ocean recreation and tourism.

Along with the facts above, there have been many scientific studies showing the harmful effects of polystyrene foam. That is why we don't want to delay taking action to reduce foam use and litter. In 2008, the Hawaii Senate passed SR78 SD1 to create a voluntary compliance program to switch from foam products to healthier alternatives, and both Maui and Hawaii Counties passed bills earlier this year to ban polystyrene food products.

The amount of testimony for these bills was overwhelmingly in favor of reducing polystyrene food containers. Though it's tempting to be swayed by the exaggerated claims of lobbyists for a few local foam producers and distributors, these same companies already carry and distribute more eco-friendly recyclable and compostable products because they see the writing on the wall. Scientific research and public sentiment have created a compelling case against foam products, and more than 110 cities and counties have already enacted successful foam bans. Polls show that most people in Hawaii support banning foam food products.

We appreciate that Hawaii's legislators have been environmental leaders in moving forward policies like the bills to ban plastic bags and create smoke-free parks & beaches. Now, we ask you to assert that same leadership on this issue. Because polystyrene food service products are toxic to the environment and human health, their use should be banned. There are many affordable alternatives that are non-toxic, biodegradable and pose no threats to the environment or human health and will cost the counties less to clean up.

Protecting our land and people should be our top priority, not allowing a few companies to profit from outmoded products that harm the environment and our wildlife. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue.

Aloha,

Stuart Coleman



Stuart H. Coleman, Hawaii Manager



**SB 2498**  
**In Strong Support**  
**Hearing Date: February 26<sup>th</sup> 2018**  
**Committee on CPH**

Aloha Chair Baker and Members of the Senate CPH Committee

I am writing to you on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's Oahu Chapter, in strong support of SB 2498, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Food containers in the State of Hawai'i.

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.<sup>1</sup>
- The Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) created a plastic cleanup valuation study for 90+ counties in California:<sup>2</sup>
  - CA taxpayers are paying \$428 million per year to clean up plastic through storm drain management, street sweeping, and cleanups.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.stormwaterhawaii.com/swmp\\_wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Trash-Reduction-Plan\\_FINAL-10-18-16.pdf](http://www.stormwaterhawaii.com/swmp_wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Trash-Reduction-Plan_FINAL-10-18-16.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <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.<sup>3</sup>
  - 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 dioxide<sup>4</sup> (a potent greenhouse gas) annually. Although touted as a "clean energy solution" for Hawaii, H-POWER only generates about 3% of Oahu's energy needs<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>
- 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

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<sup>3</sup> [www.unep.org/pdf/ValuingPlastic/](http://www.unep.org/pdf/ValuingPlastic/)

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

<sup>5</sup> [www.islandpulse.org](http://www.islandpulse.org)

<sup>6</sup> <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)<sup>7</sup>
  - 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

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

**Chair Baker  
Vice Chair Tokuda  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**

**Monday, February 26, 2018  
10:00 AM**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2498 SD1 RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM  
CONTAINERS**

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

My name is Jun Shin and as a board member at-large for Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawaii (YPDA Hawaii), a member of the Common Good Coalition. I am **testifying in strong support of SB2498 SD1** relating to polystyrene foam containers.

This cannot be disposed properly. If thrown away, it gets clogged up as it doesn't get broken easily. Once clogged up, it hurts our natural resources, our land and our water, and it specifically hurts our marine life that may end up eating it or getting caught in the waste.

With our reefs already in danger from oxybenzone, polystyrene have been shown to also be negatively affecting our reefs and as mentioned in my testimony regarding oxybenzone, coral reefs breaking down means that marine life will be in disarray and seriously, although many amazing volunteers come out to help, our leaders also has to spend resources to clean the negative results of polystyrene just clogging up our sewers. However as inhabitants of the islands of Hawaii, a land blessed to be known as paradise, we have a responsibility to take on this fight and just do the right thing and really find new and alternative ways because we can't take these islands for granted. We can't just look at the short term benefits but the long term good for all.

Please, protect our environment and save our natural resources, and the life that exists within it in the case of our oceans. I am 18 years old; I don't expect to have kids for maybe at least another decade or so. However when I do have kids, I really want to be able to take them to the beach, to see our coral reef, to see the life that resides in our waters, and through fighting for this bill, I want to make sure that I will be showing them the beauty of Hawaii and not just telling them in the form of stories or books. That is why I am asking you to **please pass SB2498 SD1**.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,  
Board Member At-Large  
Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawaii  
1561 Kanunu St. #2106 Honolulu, HI 96814  
Cell: 808-255-6663  
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 3:10:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fawn Liebengood     | Testifying on behalf of 808 Cleanups | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

For too long foam has plagued our islands. Foam doesn't biodegrade. Foam is different from other types of litter because it leeches out chemicals & lasts forever. There are much better alternatives to foam. As a consumer, I actively avoid businesses who serve foam at their restaurants. It is costing businesses money to have foam instead of foam alternatives. Please reconsider your stance on this issue.

# Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

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

*(808) 393 2168 · [www.b-e-a-c-h.org](http://www.b-e-a-c-h.org)*

DATE: 25th February, 2018

TO: Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

FROM: Suzanne Frazer, President, Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

RE: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2498**  
Relating to polystyrene foam containers  
Committee hearing on Monday 26th February, 2018 at 10AM

Aloha Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health,

I am writing on behalf of Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i (B.E.A.C.H.) in strong support of SB2498 which bans the use and sale of polystyrene foam food and drink containers. B.E.A.C.H. strongly encourages the committee to pass this bill as is.

The reason polystyrene foam food and drink containers need to be banned is because they are harmful to people's health and the environment. Passing this bill will make a big difference to people's health and the environment as the two of these are intertwined and one affects the other and visa versa.

When hot food or hot drinks are added to polystyrene containers, toxic chemicals leach into the food/drink and then it gets ingested. Same with oily and acidic foods and drinks - the chemicals are released from the cup/container and into the food/drink. These chemicals cause harm to people resulting in many different health problems. They turn on autoimmune diseases such as Hashimotos Thyroiditis and Lupus, they cause various cancers such as breast and prostate cancer and cause endocrine disruption, diabetes and obesity.

Plastic is the new smoking. The industry fights hard against bans and against the public (and lawmakers) learning about the health concerns regarding plastic. But the truth is that all plastic contains chemicals causing estrogenic activity and those chemicals are contributing to the rise in autoimmune diseases.

It's important to pass this bill for all the children especially who have no choice but to eat out of polystyrene foam at school, to eat out of it when their parent's buy take-out dinner in polystyrene foam. These children are given no choice but to ingest toxic chemicals which are harmful to their brains, nervous system, immune system and disruptive to their endocrine system. This is very similar to smoking - where children passively smoke when their parents smoke. The children have no choice in the matter and end up later on with cancer and other health problems. Same with plastic.

It is absolutely appalling that sick people in hospitals who are there to get better are being poisoned by food and drinks in polystyrene and that children in schools who are there to learn are ingesting chemicals with their food at lunch and for some, breakfast as well when their hot food at school is served in polystyrene. There are even a number of children and teenagers who are eating out of polystyrene for breakfast, lunch and dinner because of eating take-out or because at home “no-one wants to wash the dishes” so parents get foam containers to put food in at home also. There are teenagers at 16 and 17 years old who are sent to a pre-military camps in Hawai'i for 6 months and have to eat out of polystyrene foam for all 3 meals a day for 6 months. These students were horrified to find out about the chemicals in polystyrene and what they are being subjected to on a daily basis. These children, their parents are being exposed to chemicals unknowingly.

Polystyrene is made from petroleum and contains benzene which is carcinogenic. It leaches a man-made chemical called styrene a chemical that is made from benzene (which comes from petroleum). Styrene, or vinylbenzene as it is also known as, is toxic to the brain and nervous system and has been found to adversely affect red blood cells, liver, kidney, stomach and cause cancer in animal studies. The National Toxicology Program lists styrene as “reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen”.

Styrene is released especially when the container or cup is subjected to heat, so polystyrene foam containers and cups are a very bad choice for hot food and drinks. Oily and acidic foods and drinks also facilitate the migration of styrene from the container into the food/drink. Styrene is found in the fatty tissues of humans. In a 1982 study by the EPA (the National Human Adipose Tissue Survey), 100% of Americans studied had styrene in their fatty tissues.

Polystyrene food containers have also been shown to have estrogenic activity (EA) meaning that the chemicals from polystyrene act like a synthetic form of estrogen or block the action of naturally occurring estrogen in the body and therefore cause endocrine disruption. In humans, chemicals having EA can cause prostate and breast cancer and many reproductive health problems. Unborn children, babies and young children are especially sensitive to low doses of chemicals having EA.

In the polystyrene plastics industry, workers have been found to have higher incidences of cancer including leukemia and suffer from many adverse health effects from the inhalation of styrene. Styrene causes neurotoxicity and therefore affects people's nervous system and also impairs the immune system.

In testimony, the opposition to this bill say that styrene and polystyrene are different and should not be confused. This is like saying that eggs and omelets are different and should not be confused. Eggs are used to make omelets- omelets are made from eggs. Styrene is used to make polystyrene - polystyrene is made of styrene!

The argument by the opposition that hundreds of jobs in Kalihi will be eliminated if this bill passes is completely false information. There are not even a 100 people to begin with who work at KYD and only a percentage work in manufacturing polystyrene, the rest are employed in distribution. KYD distributes a whole range of products (29 pages of things on their website) to

retailers, hotels, supermarkets, hospitals and hotels including food, chemicals, cleaning supplies, paper goods, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, toilet paper and they sell Dart polystyrene foam cups that are not made by them! Jobs will not be lost with the passing of this bill.

New jobs will be created by the passage of this bill through the need for distribution of alternatives to polystyrene foam such as 100% compostable cups and food containers, paper, metal and reusable containers made of glass, stainless steel and ceramic. There is a whole new market available to tap once polystyrene is gone.

Polystyrene foam plastic containers are harmful to the environment. There is no contest when it comes to comparing containers made out of compostable 100% vegetable fibres such as sugar cane and those made of plastic foam. The plastic foam lasts forever on the planet and is made from non-renewable fossil fuel resources that can't be replaced and it contains dangerous, toxic chemicals. The compostable container is made of plant sources, can be biodegraded until there is nothing left and is made from renewable resources and contains nothing harmful.

Plastic does not biodegrade. Plastic lasts forever. When plastic gets into the ocean it accumulates additional poisons such as dioxins, DDT, DDE and other persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Styrofoam has been found inside of sea birds and fish. The ingestion of plastic not only causes blockages and starvation, but the animals and birds are harmed through the uptake of toxic chemicals such as styrene which leaches from the ingested plastic and accumulates in the fatty tissues of the animal. Then when people consume fish, they get those chemicals in their bodies.

There are good, compostable alternatives to polystyrene foam available that are made from sugar cane and other vegetable fibres that do not contain benzene, styrene or petroleum. We also recommend that people bring their own containers made of glass, stainless steel or ceramic for food and drinks.

The small additional cost of buying compostable containers will be passed onto the customer and the public is not concerned about paying 25 cents or less more for food in a safe container rather than a toxic one. Once there is a state-wide law banning polystyrene foam, the costs of replacement products will go down as all the food providers will be using them.

Tourists have complained to us about the huge amount of polystyrene foam they see in Hawai'i - at nearly every place they go to eat. And they are appalled. They focus more on that than they do on telling us about the places they saw like the volcano. The impact of seeing all that plastic waste on beautiful islands cuts them to the core. They expect Hawai'i to be a leader in caring for the environment and banning polystyrene foam containers will show the world that Hawai'i does care.

We need to do everything we can to reduce plastic on beaches and in the ocean in order to save marine life. Polystyrene cups, containers and pieces of styrofoam can and do blow and wash into the ocean which is why polystyrene containers and cups need to be banned. Polystyrene foam is lightweight, easily breaks into pieces and is wind blown. Picking up small broken pieces of polystyrene foam in wind at the beach is difficult. According to Dr. Anthony Andrady, out of all the types of plastic, number 6 - polystyrene breaks down quicker when in sea water.

Your leadership is needed to help protect the people of Hawai`i, visitors, marine life, the food chain and the environment from the harmful effects of polystyrene foam. There is no better way to celebrate the 2018 International Year of the Reef than to pass this important bill. I hope you take strong action and ban this product that is causing our bodies and environment so much harm.

Please accept this as written testimony in strong support of this bill.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Frazer.  
President,  
B.E.A.C.H.



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



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

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:46:41 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Amy Cady            | Testifying for One Ocean Conservation | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2498 to ban polystyrene foam containers statewide. Polystyrene not only emits dangerous toxins when it comes into contact with food and beverages, but as a plastic, does not biodegrade in landfills, in the soil, or in the ocean. Once it begins to break down, Polystyrene is incredibly difficult to collect out of soil and sand as the small pieces crumble easily and are carried away by the wind. I find myself continually frustrated when I see it on the shorelines here in Hawaii, but am unable to gather it. While it may be a convenient product for businesses, schools, and individuals, its long term effects are overwhelmingly negative. With perfectly suitable and sustainable substitute products available, there is absolutely no need to knowingly continue to put our health and environment at risk by allowing polystyrene to be sold and used in the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration of this extremely important bill.

Mrs. Amy Cady

Ewa Beach



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 7:05:41 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tara Wisneski       | Testifying for blue sphere foundation | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

We need to get foam out of our ocean to preserve our natural habitat for marine life everywhere. Please consider this appeal to ban foam in Hawaii, thank you.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 12:33:03 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jenny Yagodich      | Testifying for Malama Pupukeya-Waimea | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please support SB2498. Styrofoam is detrimental to the health of our natural resources. It might be inexpensive for restaurants, lunch trucks, and other places to use, but the cost to our environment is overwhelming. Many places have already switched to paper alternatives. It can be done.

Mahalo

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:04:38 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b>                | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| George Hub Yarbrough | Testifying for Impact Hub Honolulu | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Impact Hub Honolulu is a business that helps incubate small to medium size businesses. We follow the creed that we need to lead by example and do our best not to have or use plastic and polystyrene foam containers. There are creative ways to use other packaging that does not hurt your bottom line as a business. I can understand why food establishments are upset because they can't use the cheapest available containers to them, which are usually Poly foam. However they haven't tried using other containers or being creative with their food servicing and take out services, and I don't think they're looking at the bigger picture. Our collective kuleana is to care for what our land so that it cares for us. In other words, we need to take care of our land and seas so that tourists will spend money here and that our economy can continue to sustain itself. Since I surf, i spend a lot of time in the water and I'm noticing more and more trash in the water and in the beaches, especially on the windward coasts. It has become noticeable. Tourists will flock somewhere else and so will the dollars. Its our decision to do whats best for our environment and our businesses in the long term. Ban polystyrene foam containers.

**PANGEEASEED**  
FOUNDATION

Hilo, February 22, 2018

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

On behalf of PangeaSeed Foundation, I herewith submit testimony in full support of SB2498, RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS. Thank you for considering this important bill.

As an international non-profit organization dedicated to marine conservation, we have witnessed the detrimental environmental impacts of polystyrene foam the world over. From the beaches at home in Hawaii to far-flung corners of the world such as the Subarctic, Styrofoam is causing often irreversible damage to the health of ecosystems and animals.

With virtually 0% of polystyrene foam is recycled in the Hawaiian Islands, we believe it is time to restrict the use of this petroleum-based material and opt to pave the way for a more environmentally equitable future. More sustainable alternatives to polystyrene foam containers are readily available in the marketplace and numerous food establishments have already made the voluntary switch to decrease their environmental impact by using paper or compostables.

As representatives of the people, we urge you to make a decision that chooses the long-term benefit of Hawaii's people and environment rather than the short-term conveniences of business.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Akira Biondo, Director of Operations

**PangeaSeed Foundation**

pangeaseed.org | PO Box 4775  
info@pangeaseed.org | Hilo, HI 96720, USA

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:22:18 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>               | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| nadean              | Testifying for Keiko Conservation | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please ban styrofoam in the states of Hawaii. This is horrible for our ocean and is killing so much wildlife. Please show the world Hawaii takes their love for the ocean seriously by banning styrofoam.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 11:32:54 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>         | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Megan Viernes       | Testifying for Wipeout Crew | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:



**Environmental Caucus**  
of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 26, 2018

To: COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Re: SB 2498 S.D. 1 – RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS.  
Hearing: Monday, February 26, 2018, 10:00am, Room 229

Position: SUPPORT

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports SB 2498 S. D.1, Prohibits the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide.

As the bill indicates, polystyrene is difficult to collect and properly dispose of, is the most common litter found in Hawai'i's parks, beaches, and waterways, and is comprised of materials that are known carcinogens. There are ample inexpensive alternatives that food vendors can purchase in bulk and use, such as compostable plastics, recycled paper, bamboo, and hemp. In many cases statewide, food vendors have already made the switch without any detriment to their business. Some have even given customers an option to pay extra for compostable, post-consumer recycled containers and the customers happily choose to pay it in order to reduce harmful waste.

This is one of those cases where Hawai'i can be an example to the world, taking the lead to reduce human ecological impact. Therefore we support this bill and its immediate effective date. Thank you for your consideration.

Terry Jasper Jr, Co- Chair  
Energy and Climate Change  
Environmental Caucus  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
[Tj2ndcgh@gmail.com](mailto:Tj2ndcgh@gmail.com)/ 808.489.3007

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 8:15:30 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b>                  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John & Rita Shockley | Testifying for FREE ACCESS COALITION | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Senator Gabbard and Senators,

The Free Access Coalition in conjunction with the O'ahu Surfrider chapter strongly favor removing styrofoam from our landfills and oceans.

Arguments about "cost" and "convenience" have no pono when you consider the damage these containers do to our islands...and planet!

If you need examples of restaurants going away from styrofoam and still making a profit just look at Rainbow Drive-ins. Paper containers can easily replace the toxic styrofoam packaging in use today.

Please, let's STOP using Styro-foam! The correct answer is so obvious.

Mahalo For your time,

John & Rita Shockley [www.freeaccesscoalition.weebly.com](http://www.freeaccesscoalition.weebly.com)

808 672-6535





February 21, 2018

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Tim Shestek  
Senior Director, State Affairs

**RE: SB 2498 (SD1) – OPPOSE**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose SB 2498 (SD1), which seeks to ban the sale and use of all polystyrene containers statewide. ACC and its members certainly support efforts to reduce litter and marine debris; however, tackling this issue requires a broader approach to improving waste management.

SB 2498 (SD1) appears to be drafted under the false assumption that alternatives to polystyrene food service containers are environmentally preferable. All packaging leaves an environmental footprint regardless of the material type. It takes energy and raw materials to produce, transport, and recover or dispose of any material. So it is important to measure all of these impacts throughout the entire lifecycle of a product. Consider the following:

- Polystyrene cups weigh anywhere from two to five times less than comparable paper packaging products which means fewer air emissions when transporting products<sup>1</sup>.
- A polystyrene hot beverage cup requires about 50% LESS energy to produce than a similar plastic-coated paperboard cup with a corrugated cup sleeve, and creates significantly fewer greenhouse gas emissions than a similar coated paper-based cup with its corrugated sleeve.
- Studies conducted for Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) showed that banning polystyrene foam food take-out containers would dramatically increase environmental impacts by doubling the greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, and waste associated with the use of alternative products<sup>2</sup>.

The amount of polystyrene foam foodservice that makes up litter is very small – measured at 1.5 percent of the overall litter stream in detailed litter surveys conducted in the U.S. and Canada<sup>3</sup>. ACC certainly shares your concerns over the implications of litter; however, focusing on a single material type does not reduce litter. The City of San Francisco banned polystyrene containers, but according to a 2008 litter audit conducted for the city, paper cup litter increased after the ban was enacted<sup>4</sup>. Bans result in litter substitution, not elimination.

It is also important to note that “bio based” or “degradable containers” only “degrade” in a controlled composting environment – essentially a large industrial facility where temperatures can exceed 140 degrees for several days. Hawaii does not currently have a commercial composting facility to process compostable alternatives, so these products will

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<sup>1</sup> Life Cycle Inventory of Foam Polystyrene, Paper-Based, and PLA Foodservice Products, prepared by Franklin Associates, a Division of ERG, February, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Alternative to Disposable Shopping Bags and Food Service Items Volume I, prepared for Seattle Public Utilities, January 2008, Herrera Environmental Consultants

<sup>3</sup> The Contribution of Polystyrene Foam Food Service Products to Litter, Environmental Resources Planning, Gaithersburg, MD, May 2012

<sup>4</sup> The City of San Francisco Streets Litter Re-Audit 2008, Prepared for the City of San Francisco Environment Department, July 4, 2008



end up in a landfill. Biodegradable containers do not degrade if littered alongside the road, deposited into a trash can, nor will they degrade if they make their way into a storm drain or other water body.

The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI), a not-for-profit association of key individuals and groups from government, industry, and academia seeks to educate manufacturers, legislators and consumers about the importance of scientifically based standards for compostable materials which biodegrade in large composting facilities. Under their “Myths of Biodegradation”, BPI states:

**Myth:** Biodegradable products are the preferred environmental solution because waste simply biodegrades in the landfill.

**Reality:** Nothing biodegrades in a landfill because nothing is supposed to<sup>5</sup>.

Furthermore, replacements for polystyrene products will likely result in higher operating costs for restaurants, caterers, delis, and other food providers. Polystyrene containers cost 2-3 times less than replacement products, which in some cases do not perform well, especially for very hot and cold food and beverages.

For more than 50 years, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of polystyrene for foodservice products. Polystyrene foodservice products offer a sanitary way to serve fresh food and to help prevent the spread of disease at schools, restaurants, and hospitals.

Health experts and agencies (see included attachment) have all agreed and stated that styrene should not be confused with polystyrene, and levels of styrene in polystyrene foodservice products pose no risk to consumers. It’s important to understand the differences between styrene and polystyrene. Styrene, a liquid, and polystyrene, a solid, are fundamentally different. Styrene is a liquid that can be chemically linked to create polystyrene, which is a solid plastic that displays different properties. Polystyrene is an inert plastic that can be used to make many products, such as polystyrene foam used to make disposable plates, cups and other foodservice packaging.

ACC and its members take seriously the issue of litter and marine debris. To that end, 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 more recent activity includes 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.marinedebrisolutions.com>.

Additionally, last year ACC partnered with the City and County of Honolulu on a pilot project to find and close off potential pathways for trash from land-based sources to migrate into the marine environment. One of the primary sources of litter found near waterways and beaches on Oahu is uncovered public trash cans that allow garbage to blow out. Through our partnership, ACC and the City and County of Honolulu identified a better design for outdoor public garbage cans to keep trash out of parks, and most importantly, out of waterways and the ocean.

ACC believes that reducing landfill disposal, marine debris and litter requires the implementation of a variety of tools. In addition to efforts that seek to increase recycling and improve solid waste collection infrastructure, opportunities to recover non-recycled plastics may be an option as well. An emerging set of technologies is allowing governments and businesses to convert non-recycled plastics into energy, fuels, and feedstocks, or raw materials for new manufacturing. A range of energy recovery technologies are being used to complement recycling in helping to divert

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<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.bpiworld.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=190439>



more valuable post-use materials from landfills. Some of the most widely used and rapidly emerging technologies include waste-to-energy, plastics-to-fuels, gasification, and solid recovery fuels.

Experts agree that improving waste management is the key to addressing marine debris. Attempts to reduce marine debris through product bans fail to recognize the underlying source of marine debris in developed countries, litter. 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](mailto:Tim_Shestek@americanchemistry.com). You may also contact ACC's Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551.



# The Safety of Polystyrene Foodservice

## *Health Experts' and Agencies' Views*

### **U.S. National Toxicology Program (NTP)**

Dr. Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., Director, U.S. National Toxicology Program was quoted widely in [Associated Press](#) reports in June 2011: "Let me put your mind at ease right away about polystyrene foam\*" ... [the levels of styrene from polystyrene containers] "are hundreds if not thousands of times lower than have occurred in the occupational setting...In finished products, certainly styrene is not an issue." *Source: news reports of Associated Press story, June 2011*

John Bucher, associate director of the National Toxicology Program, was quoted in [Associated Press](#) reports in August 2011: "The risks, in my estimation, from polystyrene are not very great," he said. "It's not worth being concerned about."

*Source: news reports of Associated Press story, August 2011*

### **U.S. National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)**

[NIEHS](#) in June 2011 noted: "Styrene should not be confused with polystyrene (foam)\*. Although styrene, a liquid, is used to make polystyrene, which is a solid plastic, we do not believe that people are at risk from using polystyrene products."

*Source: NIEHS web site*

### **Otis Brawley, Chief Medical Officer, American Cancer Society**

[Bloomberg News](#) in June 2011 reported that Brawley said, "Consumers don't need to worry about polystyrene cups and food containers..." Quote: "I see no problems with polystyrene foam\* cups."

*Source: Bloomberg News, June 2011*

### **Food & Drug Administration**

Based on scientific tests over five decades, FDA has determined that polystyrene is safe for use in foodservice products. Polystyrene meets the FDA's stringent standards for use in packaging both to store and to serve food.

### **Harvard Center for Risk Analysis**

A twelve-member panel of international experts selected by the [Harvard Center for Risk Analysis](#) reported in 2002 that the very low levels of styrene present in foods – whether naturally occurring or from polystyrene foodservice products – does not represent a concern to human health.

[For more information on polystyrene foodservice:](#) [www.plasticfoodservicefacts.com](http://www.plasticfoodservicefacts.com)

[For more information on styrene:](#) [youknowstyrene.org](http://youknowstyrene.org)

\* Original quotes used the term "Styrofoam". STYROFOAM™ is a registered trademark of The Dow Chemical Company that represents its branded building material products, including rigid foam and structural insulated sheathing, and more. The brand name often is misused as a generic term for foam foodservice products.



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To: Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Members on Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Chair  
Hawaii Restaurant Association

Subj: SB2498 S.D 1 Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers

Date: February 21, 2018

The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing about 3,500 restaurants here in Hawaii opposes SB2498 that prohibits the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers here in Hawaii.

For more than 50 years, the US Food and Drug Administration have approved polystyrene for food service products. Styrene, the material used in the manufacturing of polystyrene is a naturally occurring substance found in common foods and beverages (notable beer, beef, and cinnamon). The European Commission / Food Safety Authority and other regulatory agencies have reached similar conclusions.

Maui City Council task force on waste in 2014 found that polystyrene materials comprise less than one per cent of the waste entering their land fill. Here in Honolulu, almost 100 percent of our waste go to the H Power to be burned for energy.

The majority of restaurants that uses polystyrene food containers are usually smaller ethnic restaurants with cost as one of the determining factors but their primary reason is safety and performance of the packaging because of the heat and moisture of the food they serve (Chinese, Korean, Filipino, and general plate lunches. Polystyrene packing provide product integrity in holding and safety in transporting the any delicious varieties of ethnic foods here in Hawaii.

We at the Hawaii Restaurant Association is of course very concerned about our Aina and thay's why in 2016 along with many industry partners launched (Malama 808) to rally the industry in education the general public and our employees to make sure that waste are disposed in the tight places. We are also trying to work with the city and county of Honolulu through the City Council.

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

Aloha.





1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

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**John Shilf**, Rainbow Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*  
**Barry Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

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TO:

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Monday, February 26, 2018  
TIME: 10am  
PLACE: Conference Room 229

RE: SB 2498 Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers

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.

**HFIA is opposed to this measure because biodegradable products are 30% more expensive than polystyrene options. Biodegradable products, under our current system of waste disposal will meet the same end as polystyrene. Both compostable and polystyrene options incinerate. Both compostable and polystyrene options will not biodegrade in modern landfills. Landfills are designed to protect the environment from the liquids and gases produced by reducing the exposure of garbage to air, water and sunlight – conditions essential for degradation. Without an investment in commercial composting facilities, this increased cost for food establishments and consumers will result in negligible environmental benefits.**

**Not one county in Hawaii has a commercial composting facility where these products can be sent to compost. It is exceedingly difficult to successfully implement a commercial composting system, which accepts post-consumer food waste. Oahu has HPOWER, which can utilize the very high BTU value of polystyrene.**

Most of the trash debris seen on beaches is the result of haphazard disposal of waste from all over the world and on the seas, which are brought here by currents. Many products do not

biodegrade which is why waste management is such an important issue. **Hundreds of Kalihi jobs may be eliminated if the Legislature continues to threaten this locally produced, favorably priced, FDA approved product.**

Looking at this from a resource conservation prospective, source reduction is much more effective than recycling. According to Franklin Associates, in order for polystyrene packaging and disposables' recycling efforts to save as much energy as the 408 million pounds source reduced in 1997, a recycling rate of 51% would have to be achieved. On a side note, we invite all of the legislators to come visit KYD's recycling facility in Kalihi to see how they source reduce and streamlining production by reusing leftover production materials.

There are very real concerns associated with the manufacturing of biodegradable packaging, as the 2006 Smithsonian Magazine put forth, stating that biodegradable alternatives have considerable drawbacks that haven't been publicized...such as that the cultivation of corn uses more nitrogen fertilizer, more herbicides and more insecticides than any other U.S. crop; those practices contribute to soil erosion and water pollution when nitrogen runs off fields into streams and rivers. One must acknowledge the environmental trade-offs associated with the use of any packaging material and whether a mandate to use one particular type of container or product will have the desired result of reducing litter and/or marine debris.

All foodservice products – regardless of the material from which they are made – require the use of various natural resources i.e. energy, water, etc. A 2006 Life Cycle Inventory study by Franklin and Associates showed that polystyrene when compared to other food service containers, is very efficient in terms of minimizing air emissions and energy used in the manufacturing process and in reducing the amount of waterborne waste generated during the manufacturing process.

This bill makes the false assumption that products that would replace polystyrene are somehow manufactured in a vacuum without the use of any raw materials, energy, or water, or fuel to deliver the product. This is especially important considering many bio-degradable options are produced in China where labor, quality and environmental standards are know to be well below the labor, quality and environmental standards practiced in plants which produce polystyrene here on the island of Oahu.

**We should consider the carbon footprint of shipping supplies from China**, especially given that we have a more economically viable product produced right here in Hawaii, providing a 100 jobs to the community.

**The FDA, Health Canada and Environment Canada concluded extensive studies that styrene is "non- toxic" and that styrene "does not constitute a danger to human life and health" and "does not constitute a danger to the environment on which human life depends."**

Many of our members have found it impossible to find an alternative product which keeps food hot and is sturdy enough to protect consumers from spills and burns. The desire to keep food in good condition after it is taken to go is a primary concern for food retailers.

For all of these reasons we would ask that this bill be held. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII  
*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer  
Protection & Health  
Monday, February 26, 2018 at 10:00am.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2498 SD1 RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE  
FOAM CONTAINERS**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes** SB 2498 SD1, which prohibits the sale of polystyrene foam containers as well as prohibits restaurants operating within the State of Hawaii from serving prepared food using polystyrene foam container.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We **oppose** SB 2498 SD1 because it will raise the cost for both business and consumers and will impact jobs in the local manufacturing industry of FDA approved, food-grade food service containers. Creating a mandate for the use of compostable and other plastic containers stifles the free market place, where businesses and consumers have the right to choose among the various types of safe, FDA approved food service containers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:00:12 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                                 | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaleo Schneider     | Testifying on behalf of Buzz's Original Steak House | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Good Day,

We at Buzz's Original steak House are in support of SB2498. As a local business who has been operating in Hawaii for 55 years we support any and all ban on styrofoam products in our state. Buzz's has been using compostables for over ten years and recently have switched to paper staws as well. It is important to us that we preserve our island ecosystem.

Aloha Kaleo Schneider

Owner

BOSH Ltd.

33 Aulike Street

Kailua, Hawaii 96734

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 2:19:01 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>             | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Virginia Armstrong  | Testifying for Kona Honu Divers | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Virginia Armstrong, the General Manager of Kona Honu Divers. We are testifying in strong support of SB2498 because we believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future.

Thank you.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 2:19:08 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>        | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Heather McCarthy    | Testifying for Vegan Hills | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am employee from Vegan Hills and we are a very small restaurant business. We believe in sustainability and freeing the world of harmful styrofoam containers. As an employee I chose to work here because of this belief they have in their business and in their food as well as their own lives. I wanted to work for a company that held the same high standards and beliefs as I do because I know we all need to play our part in this growing world especially when it comes to protecting and conserving the environment.

I am also a student and am really getting interested in the ban on styrofoam and plastics due to further education by my roommate and various friends at UH and in the local community. I recently went on a beach clean up and it was horrendous the amounts of styrofoam and plastics we picked up around the beach. I spent 20 minutes cleaning up one small hole between rocks at the Ala Moana beach park and I found 25 plastic straws and handfuls upon handfuls of various sized pieces of styrofoam. In one tiny hole! It was covered up by various sticks and leaf debris but I kept digging until the hole was complete. I was shocked. If that amount of styrofoam and plastic is in that small 12x12 inch hole, then it's undoubtably shocking and terrible knowing that that amount of trash is hidden elsewhere. And also not being hidden. It was too easy picking up the trash as you walk along, but I wanted to dig for it because I knew there was always more buried beneath the surface. And the amount of styrofoam that was broken down into little pieces was so horrible because when I went to pick it up it would break apart and then be washed back into the water through the rocks, making it impossible for me to go after and cleanup. This means even though we are trying to clean up, the small pieces are still being broken down smaller and smaller making it even more ridiculously challenging to pick up and properly dispose of.

As a young adult and about to embark on my 30s, I really hope we can make a change as a global community because I want to raise my children in a clean environment and not force the next generation into cleaning up what our ancestors have left for us. It must stop sometime and if not now, then when? Change is now. It must be. And as an employee at Vegan Hills, the change to compostable materials was so easy and it didn't cost us much difference but we know that customers appreciate our compostable materials and keep returning because they also believe in the same principles, and gladly this appreciation is growing! I've even had customers turn away some of the compostable materials because they bring their own containers. Now that is really a

step in the right direction. We must educate and be the leading example and I believe working at Vegan Hills I see this happening. The owners know that by leading and living the example of styrofoam free that we are positively contributing to our local and global communities. And we all feel good in our hearts about it. So I really hope this helps in understanding what we are going through and how we badly need to eliminate styrofoam. Thank you for reading this. I really appreciate the time and effort going into reading all these testimonies. We are here to support our environment and our future generations living in the world today and to come, while also knowing that local and global businesses can benefit at the same time by being the leaders in protecting and sustaining our environment too, which will undoubtedly bring in more customers.

Thank you!



February 26, 2018

To: The Honorable Chair Rosalyn Baker  
The Honorable Vice Chair Jill Tokuda  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consume Protection, and Health

From: Kona Brewing Company  
Mary Rait; Director, Regulatory Compliance and Government Relations

RE: SB2498; Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers; **In Support**  
February 26, 2018; Conference Room 229

Kona Brewing Company offers our **support** of SB2498, which prohibits the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers across the State of Hawaii. We applaud your committee's commitment to the environment and bringing awareness to the negative impact of the use of polystyrene foam containers. Environmental sustainability is a key value of Kona Brewing Company and a guiding principle for how we operate. To this end, our organization does not use polystyrene products and instead offers readily available environmentally friendly options at our pubs on Hawaii Island and Oahu.

Kona Brewing Company runs our flagship brewery in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii and produces more than 12,000 barrels of beer per year. The company was stated by a father and son team who had a dream to create fresh, local island brews made with spirit, passion, and quality. Starting this spring, Kona Brewing Company will be expanding our pub and brewery operations in Hawaii to include a new state-of-the-art, 30,000 square-foot facility. In addition to creating more local jobs, this will increase our annual production capacity from 12,000 to 100,000 barrels. Kona Brewing company is proudly invested in the future of Hawaii, and therefore feels passionate about promoting environmental responsibility ad sustainability.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and share our strong commitment to this effort.

Sincerely,  
Mary Rait  
Kona Brewing Company

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 8:48:39 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                 | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sarah Matye         | Testifying for Jack's Diving Locker | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a SCUBA Instructor at Jack's Diving Locker in Kona, Hawaii, I am in Support for a Styrofoam/polystyrene BAN, making it a lesser product in our commercial industries. I am a person that spends a lot of time on the ocean - and one of the top 5 pollutants we see offshore and near shore is Styrofoam. It floats with plankton, builds in current lines, and is carried by the wind easily. We must watch what we use on land, as we are surrounded by an ocean in all directions - we must care for our environment and single-use polystyrene containers are NOT the answer.

Thank you for listening, I hope you all are understanding in that there are many other options, other than polystyrene, to help protect our oceans, lessen our landfills, and boost our economy.

-Sarah Matye

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 3:09:26 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>              | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sarah Rafferty      | Testifying for Big Island Divers | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Chair Baker and Vice Chair Tokuda,

On behalf of Big Island Divers, Big Island Watersports, and the Kona Surfrider Chapter, I am submitting my STRONG support for SB2498.

There are many alternative products and materials that businesses can easily use in place of EPS. These alternatives can seal, hold liquid, and insulate hot food. Despite false claims, these materials are not cost-prohibitive for businesses to supply and use. Our business made the switch to using compostable containers two years ago, and our customers are pleased to see that they are spending dollars with a business that considers its own ecological footprint.

This archipelago with a deep cultural history of respect for the land and sea happens to lie in the global cradle of marine debris. A massive portion of our local economy (dive operators, snorkel tours, surf instructors, commercial fisherman, aquarists, beachfront resorts and restaurants, etc.) depends heavily on the health of our oceans. Big Island Divers alone took over 20,000 visitors in the ocean in 2017. Guests travel from all over the globe to enjoy Hawaii's natural resources, and our local economy benefits as a result. The trash on our beaches and our reefs- while not always locally produced- is now making national headlines. We can no longer afford to play a contributing role in the production of litter in our state. The trash on our beaches will inevitably affect local businesses, and needs to be addressed head-on by our local government. When thousands of pounds of debris wash onto our shores annually, there is no reason for us to spend money shipping more non-biodegradable waste to and from our islands.

We are home to countless species, both endemic and endangered. We have miles and miles of untouched coastline and world-class coral reef. Thousands of residents call this place home and would love for their future generations to have the ability to do so as well.

Thank you for making choices that reflect an investment in the health and future of our island and community.

Sarah Rafferty  
Sales & Public Relations  
Big Island Divers  
(808) 329-6114  
[sarah@bigislanddivers.com](mailto:sarah@bigislanddivers.com)



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 2:58:33 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization                          | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Daniel Boren | Testifying for Skyline Eco-Adventures | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

I am testifying in **Strong support of SB 2498** on behalf of myself, my family, and our business - Skyline Eco-Adventures, which operates on Hawai'i Island, Maui, and Kaua'i, and employs over 150 people each of whom is passionate about preservation of Hawaii's natural environment.

As a lifelong resident of Maui, I have witnessed the North Shore beaches I grew up on becoming cluttered with plastic rubbish. Polystyrene containers are one of the most common items I see discarded along the shoreline or washing up with the waves. As a father it is unacceptable that we cause such harm to our natural resources, a price which our children will be paying.

Just yesterday our company pulled 760 lbs of trash off of the beach on Maui's North Shore. One week ago we removed 860 lbs of trash from a different North shore Maui beach. I personally gathered countless pieces of Polystyrene from the beach on both occasions, sifting through sand yesterday taking hundreds of little pieces off the shore so they would not be later swallowed by a bird or by fish if they washed back into the ocean.

As a business owner, I am aware that insisting grocery stores, restaurants and food trucks utilize ONLY compostable containers does add cost to each of those businesses bottom lines. However, this is an extremely minor cost when compared to the damage polystyrene does to our oceans and our unique and irreplaceable environment. Our business has been fortunate enough to grow from 5 employees to over 150 employees in the 16 years we have been in business. During that time we have always chosen the sustainable, environmentally friendly option when purchasing products or sourcing food for our guests and company events. This has added cost to our business, but we have managed to grow significantly despite this small added cost.

Arguing that the cost of compostable containers will cause undue strain on a business is a shortsighted argument and sells out our future for a few pennies today. As previously stated, our business has proven that sustainable choices are good for business.

Our entire team at Skyline Eco-Adventures applauds the Hawaii State Legislature for taking the steps needed to protect Hawaii's environment, and approving SB 2498 - Banning Polystyrene throughout Hawai'i.

2/22/18

To chair Baker and chp committee

From: Michael Luba.

Re: Testimony in strong support of SB 2498

Dear chair baker and committee members,

I live in salt lake and I'm 10 years old and I want Polystyrene  
foam to be banned. I don't like it when my body feels or getting cancer  
and my school use it for breakfast and I eat the food, it taste in different  
way, or maybe it distracts me or schwa. So please Pass this bill.

Aloha  
Michael

2/22/18

To: Chair Baker and CPH Committee  
From: Elisabeth J.  
Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and Committee members,

I'm 10 years old and I live in Aliamau. I would like it if you ban polystyrene because it isn't good for people and animals. It's toxic to the brain and nervous system, it can also affect red blood cells. It contains benzene and that isn't good for your body. Sea animals, birds, and other animals eat the plastic and polystyrene. Please pass this bill. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Aloha!

Elisabeth J.



Polystyrene  
cup

2/22/18

TO: Chair Baker and CPH Committee

From: Brooke B.

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and Committee members,

I'm 11 ~~years~~ years old. I live in Salt Lake.

I love the Beach. Please ban all <sup>the</sup> polystyrene foam.

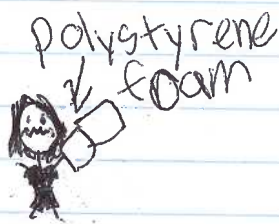
I don't want anybody to get sick because polystyrene foam can cause cancer. Polystyrene foam is toxic to the brain and nervous system. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for allowing me to testify

Aloha,

Brooke B.

NO MORE  
POLYSTYRENE  
FOAM



Feb. 22, 2018

Dear, Chair Baker and  
Committee members,  
I'm Aingel R. from Pearl Harbor  
Elementary School can  
you ban Polystyrene Foam  
because it cause cancer when  
you eating out of it. I feel bad  
eating out of it and other people  
that ate out of it.

TO: Chair Baker and  
CPT Committee

From: Aingel R.  
RE: Testimony in  
STRONG SUPPORT  
of SB2498

Age: 9

Live: Honolulu

HI Salt Lake

Thank you for allowing me to testify this.

Aloha!

Aingel R.

February 22, 2018

To: Chair Baker and CPH Committee  
From: Kalwika K.

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and committee members,

I am 11 years old. I live in Honolulu. I feel sad about the styrofoam in our environment. I am sad because it is bad for us and our island. I do not like the rubbish.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Aloha,

Kalwika K.

2/22/18

TO: Chair Baker and CPH Committee  
From: Namaka Kula'okekahi Kole Brock,  
Re: testimony in support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and Committee members, I am eleven and I live in Salt Lake, Please Ban polystyrene foam! It causes cancer heart sickness, and many other health problems! Not to mention it can hurt your brain, and the people who make it have been lying for long enough by saying it's healthy! So for my and many other children's and people's sakes pass SB2498 and get rid of polystyrene foam!

Aloha,  
Namaka Kula'okekahi Kole Brock.



~~Date: 1/22~~  
Date: 2/22/18  
to: chair Baker and  
CPT committee  
from: madyse G.

Re: testimony in support  
of SB 2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPT committee members, I'm 11 years old from Honolulu, HI and polystyrene foam is really bad for our health and environment. The polystyrene foam is affecting our health, it's causing cancer with the chemical called carcinogenic. This is terrible because hospitals, restaurants, churches, and the stores sell it, my school has polystyrene foam at my school. This needs to be banned.

↑

Please pass this bill, thank you for allowing me to testify

aloha,  
madyse

2-22-18

TO: Chair Baker

from: Katelyn

testimony in support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH Committee,  
when I am eating in Polystyrene from I  
don't like the taste of my food and it  
does not make me feel good so ~~is~~ please  
pass the bill and I am 11 years old ~~is~~  
and I live in Salt Lake and I am  
supporting the bill SB2498.

from: Katelyn Aguinaldo

Larice

FEB 22

to: Chair Baker and  
C.P.H. committee

from: Larice T.

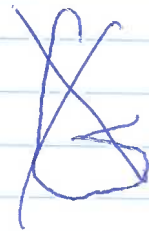
re: testimony in strength <sup>support</sup> of SB 2498

Dear, Chair Baker and  
committee polystyrene is bad  
for your brains, you might get  
cancer. please pass the bill  
thank you for allowing me  
to testify

Aloha, Larice T. P.S. I'm 10,  
AMR



(bad for us)



Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2498

2-22-18

Fr: Miana C.

To: Chair Baker and CPH Committee  
Dear Chair Baker and Committee members,

I am 9 and I live in Pearl Harbor. I hope you band polystyrene foam because I don't want my friends to get cancer because they eat from polystyrene foam. I also hope you band it because polystyrene makes animals and people sick and because it affects our environment.

Please pass this bill.  
Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Aloha,  
Miana

2122118

To: Chair Baker  
and CPH  
Committee

From: Maile M  
Re: Testimony in  
Strong Support  
of SB 498

Dear Chair Baker and Committee members;  
I am 9 years old and I live in Honolulu.

I think this is bad because it is toxic  
and it should not be sold here  
because many people get sick and  
could get cancer and it will hurt the environment.

I do not like how it ~~feels~~ feels when I eat it  
for breakfast at school I told my principal to  
stop using Polystyrene foam. Please pass  
this bill. Thank you for allowing me to testify

Aloha,  
Maile

Feb 22<sup>th</sup>

To: chair baker

CPh Committee

From: Micah M.

Micah M Re testimony in strong support  
of SB2498. I am really sad and horrified  
that I am eating out of this stuff.  
Please pass this bill because Styrene  
is a slow poison made of oil and produces  
a thing called benzene which can cause cancer.  
I feel really sad because animals eat Styrene  
This is also at churches and hospitals  
I mean who wants that! And it is a  
slow poison and can't be stopped! I am  
9 years old and I can have a disease  
in me?!?! It is not only hot drinks that  
cause this, cold drinks like orange  
juice and oily things can make Styrene.  
I don't like that my school serves <sup>food</sup> Styrene.

Aloha,

Micah M

lives: Salt Lake

Feb 22, 2018

To: Chair Baker and  
CPIH Committee

From: Navianna-Jai P. 9 years old in 4th grade

RE: Testimony in strong support of  
SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and committee members,

I am Navianna-Jai P. I live in Honolulu Hawaii.  
I am from Pearl Harbor Elementary School and I  
want a ban for polystyrene foam because it got my  
great grandpa cancer and now he is dead because of it.  
I really want to have a ban so every one and every animal  
is safe. It is ridiculous that I have to live in a world like this.

Thank you for reading and letting me testify.

Aloha, and Mahalo ☺


Navianna-Jai P.



to: Chair Baker and  
CPH committee

2/22/18

from: Nina Doctor-Jaffar

Dear, chair Baker and cPH committee members  
I am 9 years old I am really scared and don't  
like how this is going. please stop! There is so  
~~many~~ many things that you could put food  
and drinks, mahalo  I am in strong support of  
sb2498

Thank you,  
Nina





Date: 2/22/18

To: chair baker and cph committee

SB 2498 Support.

From: allen Jeff M

Dear chair baker and committee members, and I do not want to get cancer I live in salt lake I'm 9 years old. Please pass this bill.

please pass this bill. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Aloha

allen jeff

Date: 2-22-18

To: Chair Baker & CPH Committee

From: Ka'rie G.

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT OF SB 2498

Dear Chair Baker & Committee members,

I have just been informed about this polystyrene & how it affects our community. I am deeply disappointed on how this polystyrene has hidden in the shadows of reality. Polystyrene is so bad because it leaches into our food, then into our body. You can get diseases & cancer from this. Please try to replace it with glass, stainless steel, & porcelain. The worst part about this is the fact that they serve it in hospitals! The one place people go to get better they can be getting worse. I am 11½ & live in Honolulu, thank you for allowing me to testify.

Mahalo,  
Ka'rie G.

2/22/18  
To: Chair Baker  
and committee  
From Halle H.

Dear chair Baker and committee members  
I am 8 years old and I live in Honolulu  
I do not want people to eat ~~it~~ out  
of it sad because they can get cancer and  
our school gives polystyrene from gives out  
it and if it is beneneded so I can  
live a healy life. ~~it~~ ~~it~~ ~~it~~ I come  
to school to learn but if I eat it I can't  
learn. but I can not learn if I eat  
it.

Re: testing  
in support  
of SB2498

please pass this  
bill. Thank you for  
allowing me to testify.  
Aloha,  
Halle

to chair baker and Cph comi<sup>tee</sup>

From Kameaia <sup>~</sup> i n a k a n a k e

RE: testimony in strong support of SB2498

Dear

chair baker and committee members  
Please pass the bill & thanks for letting me  
testifying. Aloha.

Dear chair baker and committee members  
I don't like it when I have to eat out  
of polystyrene foam or other people I  
also don't like it because it affects  
people's health and it affects their immune  
system. I also don't like it because it gives  
cancer. Also my ~~name~~ name is Kameaia <sup>i</sup>  
n a k a n a k e Brock and I'm 9 years old. I really hate  
that it hurts the environment. I live  
in Honolulu in salt lake. I don't like that  
animals will die for eating polystyrene  
foam. please pass this bill. Thank you for  
allowing me to testify. Aloha.

2/22/18

To: Chair Baker and  
CPH committee

From: Crispin J.

Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT  
of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and  
committee members,

I feel that polystyrene is dangerous. It's dangerous because it's harming human and wildlife. This could get bad because little kids are unaware about this. I am also a kid and I never know this until ~~now~~ now. There are also so much safer options like glass, porcelain, ceramic, and ~~stainless~~ stainless steel. When heated it releases chemicals in the food, we eat out of it and ~~digest~~ contain the chemicals.

I am 11 years old and live in Alii Plantation.  
Please pass this bill, ~~and it's your job.~~

🌸 Mahalo 😊

Feb 22, 2018

to chair baker and  
Cph committee

from cody O from honolulu

Re. testimony in Strong support of  
SB2498

Dear, chair baker and Cph committee<sup>members</sup>. I am  
9 years and I live in ~~Keolu Drive~~ <sup>Salt Lake</sup>. I want  
you to ban styro foam because it causes health  
problems that hurt us.

please pass this bill.

Aloha.

cody, O

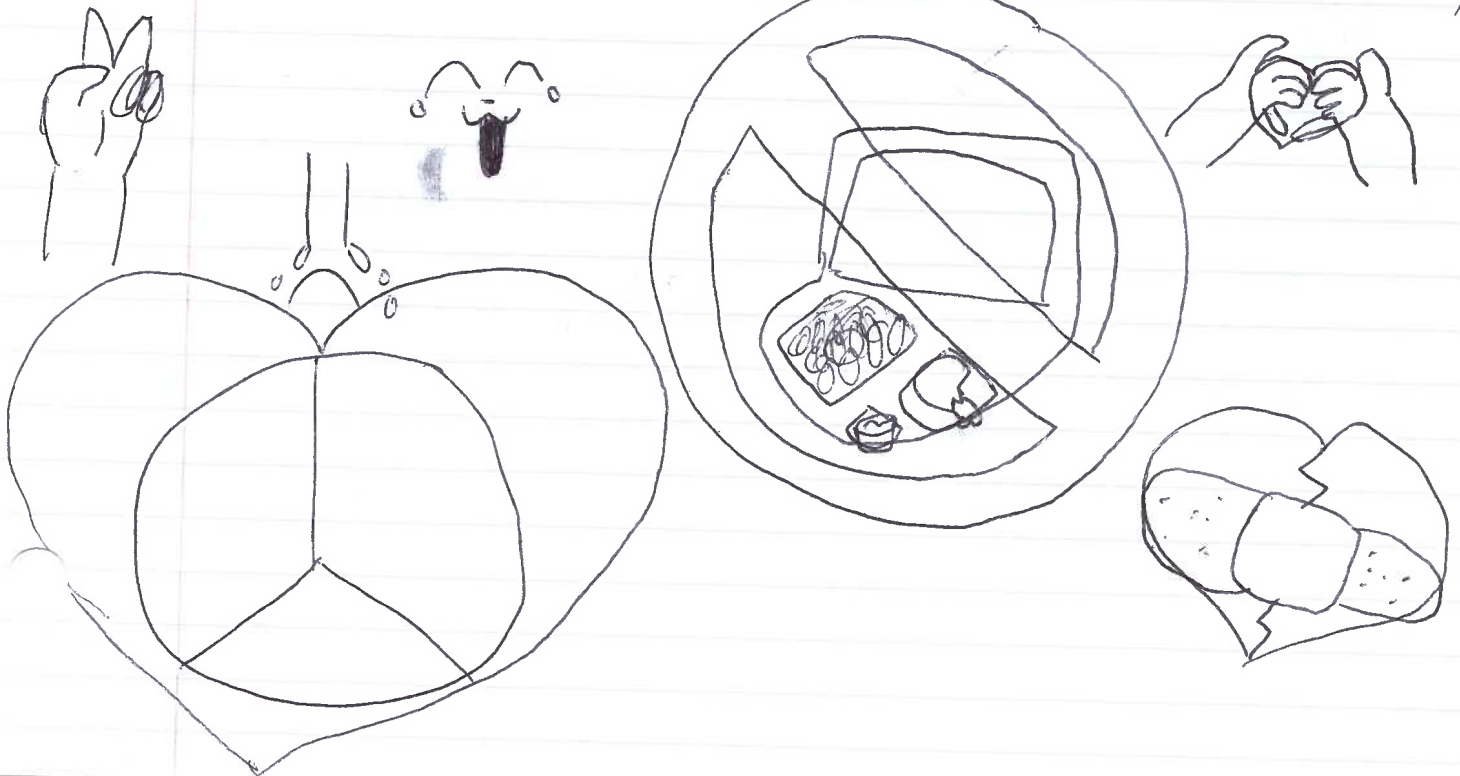
TO: Chair Baker and CPH Committee  
From: Addy C.  
RE: Testimony in strong support of SB2498

Dear chair Baker and committee members,

I'm 10 years old and live in Aiea, Hawaii.  
I would like you to quit giving out styrofoam boxes that you give people to eat out of. These boxes contain serious diseases such as different types of cancer, diabetes, and a lot more. These boxes kill people <sup>and animals</sup> each year. So can you please get rid of them? Please pass this bill. Thank you for letting me testify.

Aloha, Addy C.

MAHALO!





2-22-18

To: Chair Baker and CPH Committee

From: Zadia H.

Re: Testimony in ~~the~~ Strong Support of SB2498

Dear chair Baker and committee members, I am 9 years old and I live in AMR. Please stop because it is hurting a lot of people and did you know that hospital are putting this in the waiting room and school are also giving it to kids. It is toxic to your brain, affects red blood cells, liver, kidney and stomach in animals studies. There are better ways ~~like~~ like glass bowl, stainless steel. It is also hurting the animals like birds and sea animals. Please pass this bill. Thank you for allowing me to testify. Aloha, Zadia

2.22.18

To: Chair Baker  
and CPH Committee

From: Brendie P.O.  
Re: Testimony of  
Support of SB 2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH Committee,

I am 9 years old and I live in Salt Lake City.  
~~I eat polystyrene. I've seen~~ I am a part of  
Green Team. <sup>active</sup> My one thing that I don't want  
to see is more animals getting hurt. I had a  
dream to be the person to stop Animal Poisoning.  
But this is a whole new Poisoning that people  
have to find a cure for. All these lives of animals  
lost... Even human lives! They are dying for nothing.  
So please pass this bill. If you don't, think of  
the lives that are lost. Thank you.

From, Brendie P.O.



2-22-88 To: Chair Baker and Re: Testimony  
CPTT Committee  
From: Gabrielle G.

in strong support  
of SB 498

Dear Chair Baker and Committee members

I am ten years old I live in Waipahu HI.  
I want you to band Polystiren, Because I don't  
want to get desseas, It scares me it freks  
me out. I may die from polystiren. I have a  
good life. So please band polystiren. So if you can  
band polystiren. PLEASE! I have friends that  
I care about. I ~~don't~~ don't want animals  
to die. No animals should not suffer from polystiren.  
I don't want hospitals to have polysiren. People  
go to the hospital to get beter not to get bad stuff  
put in there body. Churches should not have polystiren.  
It will posein my body and other peopls body.  
It will posein animals. ~~PLEASE BAND POLY~~  
PLEASE BAND POLYSTIREN. I am  
Not going to die from polystiren. So please  
band polysiren.

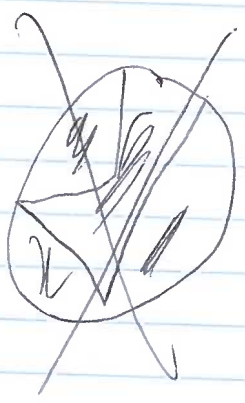
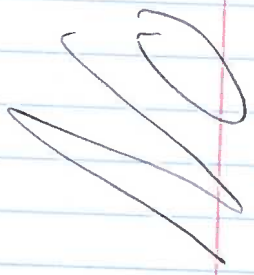
Polystiren

Polysiren

Please pass this  
bill Thank you  
for allowing me to  
testify.  
Alola

Band  
Polystiren  
Now

~~Gabby G.~~  
Gabrielle G.



World  
peac

Date: 2-22-18

TO: Chair Baker and  
CPH committee

From: Charlotte V. Nance

Re: testimony in STRONG  
SUPPORT of SB2498

Dear Mr. Chair Baker and Committee members, I am 10yrs old and have heard of the many horifing effects of ~~polystyrene~~ polystyrene. with all do respect ~~cases~~ cases cancer and that is very scary, but not only cancer but many other ~~desiesies~~ desiesies. I am speaking freely, I dont want to see it here or there or any where in the world. I am very sad that you only use polystyrene ~~for~~ for like only 10 minets then you throw it away and the problem is its not Biodegradable its ~~not~~ photodegradable. with all do respect ~~it~~ it kills thousands and thousands of animals. thank you for leting me testifey and please pass this Bill thank you very much from, Charlotte V. Nance.

Feb 23, 18

To: Chair Baker and CPH

Committee

From: Brody Sagawa

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB 2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH Committee,  
I am a 11 years old boy, I want to pass the  
foam bill. I live in Kapahulu, Honolulu. Foam  
is a huge problem. It can cause cancer,  
it can potentially kill people, and if we  
don't stop, it can kill us! I really hope  
you read this because it's super important!  
\*

Mahaio,  
Brody Sagawa

~~Polystyrene~~

Date: February 23, 2018

To: Chair Baker and CPH Committee

From: Tria B.

RE: TESTIMONY IN VERY STRONG  
SUPPORT OF SB2498

Aloha, I'm Tria and I am 11 years old. I am in full support for SB2498. I've lived in Hawaii all my life. Some times I here about people ~~being~~ dying of cancer. I have recently heard about how Polystrene is a reason of cancer. I hate for more people to die, and I know you feel the same. Please consider my support. Have a nice day. Thank you for reading this.

Mahalo,

Tria (~~HI~~ HI, Hawaii Kai)

*Tria B.*

Feb. 23, 2018

To: Chair Baker and CPH Committee,

From: Caroline Haruki

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH Committee,

I am 11 years old and very concerned about the harms foam can cause. I get so mad at the fact that some people know about this but don't bother to do something.

The chemicals effect animals and people and it makes me sad to think that they are suffering. Please do something and thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,  
Caroline Haruki

~~Polystyrene  
Foam~~

Date: 2/23/18

TO: Chair Baker and CPH committee

From: Kevin F.

RE: Testimony in Strong support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH Committee,

I am 11 years old and I would like to see Polystyrene ban bill passed. I live in Hawaii Kai and I see so many places that have polystyrene that pollutes food and hurts us humans. I have learned about the destructive ability of polystyrene to my generation that will affect later generations. There are so many different options for carrying food like glass, porcelain, ceramic, and stainless steel instead of polystyrene. If we could only stop the production and use of polystyrene the state of Hawaii would be a much better place. I am in strong favor of the passing of SB2498.

Mahalo,  
Kevin F.



23 Feb., 2018

TO: Chair Baker and C.P.H Committee  
From: Erin K.  
R.E.: Testimony in support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and C.P.H Committee,

Please ban polystyrene. My name is Erin and I live in Hawaii Kai on the island of Oahu. I'm ten years old and I'm concerned about polystyrene. The reason for this is because polystyrene contains cancer causing chemicals. ~~I'm from~~ ~~the m.~~ I will live to be the next generation and don't want polystyrene to be around any longer. Cancer is a problem as it is, I don't want to have it to have polystyrene cause it too. People are dying because of cancer. Please pass this bill. I support this bill. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Mahalo,  
Erin K. 

Feb. 23. 18

To: Chair Baker and CPH committee

From: Mimi Kotada

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB2498

Aloha Chair Baker and CPH committee,

Have you thought about what containers people or restaurants give out? I'm 11 years old, and I'm concerned about our people on Oahu, I live in Hawai'i Kai. Many people can get cancer from these foam containers. Foam can leach its chemicals when you put hot food in it. Do you think plastic can be gone? Well no, it breaks down into particles that coral can eat. Eventually fish eat it then we eat the fish. SO in the end we all eat chemicals that can be very dangerous. Glass, porcelain, ceramic, and stainless steel are what you should use instead. Restaurants use these foam containers and are bad for them and the community. I think these should be ban so no one can get hurt.

Sincerely,  
Mimi Kotada

February 23, 2018

TO: Chair Baker and CPH Committee.

From: Peyton W.

RE: Testimony in strong support of ~~SB~~ SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH Committee,

I am 10 years old and I am concerned about the use of Polystyrene foam. I live in Hawai'i Kai, Honolulu. I would like to pass testimony ~~SB~~ SB2498. I think we should ban Polystyrene foam because it is toxic our brains and nervous system. Instead of using Polystyrene foam we can use glass, porcelain, ceramic, and stainless steel. Thank you for reading my testimony. Please pass SB2498.

Aloha,  
Peyton Willing

To: Chair Baker and CBA committee February, 23, 2018

From: Nigel P.

Re.: Testamony in Strong support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CBA committee,

Hi im 11 years old. I'm from the Iolani School and I live in kahala. I love going to the beach near me. It's just a quick 2 block walk for me and then I can swim and play. It has come to my attention that over the past few months ~~we~~ I've been seeing less and less sea turtles and other sea life. I'm here trying to support the polystyrene ban. I think it's important because the foam is toxic. I know you'll handle this well and I can't wait to see changes.

Mahalo,  
Nigel P.

Feb. 23 2019

TO: Chair Baker and CPH Committee

From: CK (Corbin Kuhns)

RE: Testimony in ~~strong~~<sup>strong</sup> Support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH Committee  
please ban the Polystyrene foam, I am a  
ten year old and I am highly concerned  
about this I live in Kapaehulu and eat from  
<sup>the plastic</sup> ~~these~~ foam and now that I heard these facts  
I would appreciate if this was ban. Some  
facts that I learned is that this is toxic  
to the brain and it effects blood cells,  
the livers, kidney, and stomach have a  
huge effect. Plastic lasts forever and  
I don't want that, and benzene is cancer  
causing. Please ban this.

greatest regards,  
Corbin Kuhns  
Corbin Kuhns

P.S. sorry if there  
is misspelled words

February 23, 2018

TO: Chair Baker and CPH committee,

FROM: Katherine Tsuzaki

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker,

I am 10 years old at Iolani School. I have learned that polystyrene and plastic is extremely toxic. In Honolulu, I have seen so much litter in beaches and styrofoam everywhere in take-out stores. This is why I really wish to BAN all foam and plastic. I wish that all sea turtles and fish and birds are happy and don't die of plastic. I love the ocean so much and I hope that it can be saved. Please ban plastic and foam so the ocean will not suffer any more. Mahalo and thank you for this opportunity!

Aloha,  
Katherine Tsuzaki



PS!



keep me alive!

Please let them live!



Thank you!



thanks!



Feb. 23. 18

To: Chair Baker and CPH Committee,  
From: Baily Ah Cook  
RE: Testimony in strong support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH committee,  
I am a 11 yr old girl that wants to support this bill. Now knowing the affect that the polystyrene foam does I hope to see no polystyrene foam again. As me being the next generation the foam being gone can make my generation and me feel safe. This bill passing will be great. Thank you! Mahalo for reading my testimony. Please pass SB2498.

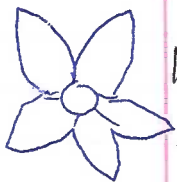
Sincerely,  
Baily Ah Cook



DATE= February 23, 2018

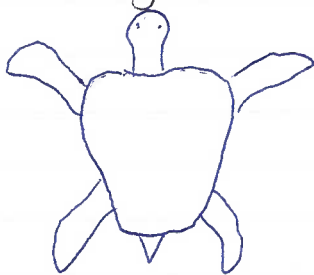
TO= Chair Baker and CPH committee

FROM= Seitaro K.



RE= Testimony in strong support of SB2498

Hello, I am Seitaro K. I am from Iolani School. I am 11 years old. I live in Kaimuki where we are surrounded by shops where polystyrene containers are plentiful. Because of this, I would like the distribution of polystyrene to be stopped so I support B.E.A.C.H. and their ban. I love sea creatures because they are fascinating and they are very special to Hawaii and me too. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I know you are very busy so I sincerely thank you for taking the time.



Aloha,  
Seitaro K.



February 23, 2018

To: Chair Baker and CPH Committee

From: Ethan J.

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH Committee,

I am 11 years old and I would like to have this bill go through. I live in Waiālaeiki and I am concerned about how... -poly-styrene can effect your health. Mahalo for reading my testimony! I support this bill and please pass this bill!

Sincerely,  
Ethan J.

Date: 23 February, 2018

TO: Chair Baker and CPH Committee

From: Mayasol C.

Re: Testimony in strong support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH committee,

I'm eleven years old. I would like to pass SB2498. I live in Waikane. I feel that the SB2498 is a bad threat and I would like to stop this. Animals die all around Honolulu and humans can be hurt by this. I feel that we should ban SB2498 and we could use glass instead of this harmful plastic. I support this bill please pass SB2498. Thank you for having time to read this letter.

Aloha,  
*Maya*

DATE: 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018

TO: Chair Baker and C.P.H. Committee

FROM: Andrew. P

RE: Testimony is support of SB 2498

Aloha Chair Baker and C.P.H. Committee,  
I am 10 years old and I really want to see SB 2498 passed because of what I have learned of the Chemistry behind farm is that it affects people's health and I want the number of people with good health increase because bad health can be dangerous. I support SB 2498 so it can be passed.

Sincerely  
Andrew. P  
Lolani student

Date: Feb. 23, 2015

TO: Chair Baker and CPH committee

From: Reyn S.

RE: Testimony in support of SB2498

Albha Chair Baker and CPH committee, I'm an 11 year old boy. Have you been thinking about banning ~~styro~~ foam. I have, I think you should ban it because it's harmin many people, animals, etc. ~~It~~ It has toxic that hurts the brain, nervous system, red blood cells, liver, kidney, and stomach. Instead of using this you should use ceramic, glass, <sup>and</sup> stainless steel. In the sea it's turning male animals into female. Please pass this bill.

Mabala  
Reyn S.

Rylie S.  
Feb 23, 2018.

Date: Feb. 23, 2018

TO: Chair Baker and CPH committee

From: Rylie S.

RE: Testimony In Strong support of SB2498

Aloha Chair Baker and CPH committee,

I'm ten years and I live in Aiea. I'm very concerned about foam Ban. I do not like the Idea of resturants having foam boxes and plates. It is putting lots of people in jeopardy. I really hope you understand how dangerous foam is. Mahalo for reading my testimony, please pass SB2498

Aloha,  
Rylie S.

February 23, 2018

To: Chair Baker and CPH committee

From: Mari W.L. Cheng

RE: Testimony in support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH committee,

I am ten years old, and I support the polystyrene foam ban. I live near Nu'uanu, and would really like to change the way we use plastic. I think we should ban polystyrene foam because it is harmful to the environment, animals, sea animals, and people. A chemical called styrene in the foam can affect a person's health, and will never, ever biodegrade. When hot, oily, or acidic foods are stored in polystyrene containers, chemicals can leech into your food, and cause cancer, diabetes, and affect your endocrine system. Please pass SB2498.

Mahalo for reading my testimony,  
and please pass SB2498.

Aloha,

Mari Cheng.

Date: February 23, 2018  
To: Chair Baker and CBH Committee  
From: Vance M.  
Re: Testimony in strong support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CBH Committee,  
I am a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Tolani and I would like to support the Polystyrene (Styrofoam) ban. Polystyrene is made of oil which when is made creates toxic gases that hurt your body. Such as Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer, Obesity, + Diabetes. Please hear my Piece of Testimony.

Sincerely,  
Vance M.

Feb/23<sup>day</sup>/18 year

TO: Chair Baker and CPH committee

From: EV

RE: Support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH committee,  
Have you seen what is at our beach, I do not  
~~love~~ love ~~it~~ foam and I <sup>don't</sup> want it to stay  
~~but~~ please please why does there need to  
be chemicals in it, Also plastic lasts forever.  
I love panda express but when we  
~~throw~~ throw away the foam it is bad. I live  
in Honolulu Hawaii, and I live on Kamoku  
st. Please pass this ban.

Sincerely,  
EV I am '11



Date Feb. 2, 2018

To: Chair Baker and CPH Committee

From: Ben W.

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB2498

Dear Chair Baker and CPH Committee

I'm 11 years old and I live in Waialae where there isn't much polystyrene on my street and I like it that way. I wish every where in Hawaii could be that way. I may not completely wipe it out but will help a bit and put us on track to a clean and healthy Hawaii. I would think SB2498 would help us our ohana and our creatures that make Hawaii the beautiful place it is. It would truly help us because Poly styrene isn't good for us nor animals or Hawaii. I think I would want to come back to my home after leaving to college or some where else seeing a more clean place. If we were to do this think of a difference of beaches, streets, sea creatures, and people. Thankyou. Please pass the bill.

Mahalo  
Ben.

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2498



On behalf of Keiko Conservation, I would like to voice our strong support for bill SB 2498. The amount of polystyrene foam that can easily be found on our beaches and washing up on our shores is a dire warning, especially on such an isolated chain of islands. We are becoming completely inundated with this manmade material that is very difficult to collect, harmful to ingest, and will last for (at the absolute minimum) generations to come. It is incredibly important to take this problem seriously and cease our contribution to this ever growing type of pollution injuring marine life all over the world and now human life as it enters the food chain of the millions who rely on seafood.

We are aware that many may oppose this bill due to a potential slight increase in cost for alternative materials at local restaurants, but there is no cost too high when it comes to the health of both human life, marine life, and our oceans. There is no Planet B. Mahalo!

Natalie Parra  
Keiko Conservation



**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

**Senate CPH Decision Making Hearing  
SB 2498sd1, Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers  
Monday, February 26, 2018 – 10:00am  
Position: Oppose**

Chair Baker and Members of Senate CPH Committee:

I am Dexter Yamada, President of KYD, Inc. dba: K Yamada Distributors. Our company is a locally founded, family run business in Kalihi. KYD, Inc. began in the 1940's as a florist and a supplier of florist supplies. In 1958 we evolved into the packaging company we are today and later expanded into a distributor of many other fine products. KYD, Inc and its sister company, Hawaii's Finest Products, LLC provide jobs to 90 men and women and contribute much to Hawaii's economy in the form of payroll and taxes. We locally manufacture and distribute food-grade expanded polystyrene food containers throughout the State.

SB2498sd1 proposes banning statewide the use of EPS (expanded polystyrene) food service containers to protect the State's economy and environment. Such a mandate seems discriminatory, particularly when the facts about EPS food containers' safety, beneficial environmental and economic impacts of a local manufactured product and its contribution to H-Power's waste to energy system which benefits more than 50,000 households are compared to imported alternative products.

Other submitted testimonies have provided references to the safety of polystyrene as compared to styrene. It is important to note that after two days of panel presentations and full discussion the Maui Council concluded that EPS food containers are not carcinogenic. The Maui Council removed references to health impact from their bill. In addition, KYD's manufacturing plant for food-grade PS foam containers recently passed a third party food safety audit.

As residents and member of Hawaii's business community, we are concerned about the environment and Hawaii's natural resources. If the preservation of our Hawaii's environment is the true intent of SB2498sd1, please consider the following:

- Studies conducted for Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) in January 2008 showed that banning polystyrene foam food take-out containers would dramatically increase environmental impacts by doubling the greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, and waste associated with the use of alternative products. (Source: Herrera Environmental Consultants, "Alternatives to Disposable Shopping Bags and Food Service Items: Volume 1." Prepared for Seattle Public Utilities, 29 January 2008.)
- Banning polystyrene foam containers will not decrease litter; it will only change the TYPE of material that is littered. For example, when San Francisco placed restrictions on the use of certain plastic foodservice products, the city found that alternatives became more littered. (Source: "The City of San Francisco Streets Litter Re-Audit 2008," prepared for the City of San Francisco Environment Department, July 4, 2008.)
- A ban that singles out food-grade EPS food containers does little to reduce litter or ocean debris harmful to marine life and the environment. Litter is litter; there is no such thing as environmentally responsible litter.





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We encourage policy makers to pause and conduct site visits to learn first-hand about 1) HPower to understand how PS products contribute to energy production; and 2) Hawaiian Earth Recycling (HER) to better understand that current operations cannot handle the composting of compostable food containers or food waste. In fact, HER treats compostable containers like all other trash, which goes to Hpower. None of the other counties have commercial composting or WTE facilities. Oahu has Hpower and Honolulu Council is doing fact-finding about establishing commercial composting facilities. Such site visits will provide stronger foundations for policies that manage land-based marine debris, which is largely based on inappropriate disposal of all kinds of trash.

Rather than a statewide ban of EPS foam containers, we encourage discussion with the respective Counties, including Maui and Hawaii Island who have passed EPS foam ban bills, about solutions for managing land-based litter to prevent marine debris. The respective Counties are responsible for municipal solid waste management. Such dialogue can develop a constructive city/state infrastructure format that includes litter education and prevention, post-consumer recycling, commercial composting, WTE and realistic impact on business and consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:56:59 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senator Baker and members of the CPH Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2498 SD1 prohibiting the sale of, and serving of, prepared food using polystyrene foam containers statewide. Passing this legislation would be a huge step forward in eliminating a pervasive, continuous, and preventable source of pollution to our fragile marine environment. Mahalo,

Lisa Bishop

Friends of Hanauma Bay

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:41:13 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cathy Goeggel       | Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

To protect our ocean, the source of 85% of our oxygen, the health of our reefs and the animals who live in the ocean- and to protect our tourist industry, please pass this bill.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 3:04:23 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>      | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thomas Fasulo       | Testifying for SurfRider | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Thomas Fasulo and I am emailing you as a concerned citizen of Hawaii, as well as a concerned future parent. I came to this beautiful island in 2006 and have been devastated to see how poorly it has been treated and how carelessly it has been looked after. When I first attended a SurfRider beach clean up as a guest I was appalled at the thousands of pounds of marine debris we found, a large majority of it coming from foam. While I understand litter will happen, this was an abnormal and alarming look into reality. Never really having considered myself much of a political activist, I was surprised at how compelled I was to do something. It was actually painful to see the reefs being destroyed, the animals affected, and the general malaise of my fellow human race in regards to our land and home. Seeing 10,000 lbs of debris from one small part of one single beach is an incredibly depressing sight.

Knowing that something as simple as a styrofoam ban can begin to make a dent in this horrific damage, I am a bit bewildered why it is even open to debate. Money won't matter, political ties won't matter, reputation won't matter if we don't have somewhere for it all to take form. Yes, we may not see the direct result in our generation, but what about our children, and grandchildren? Do we want them to remember us as someone who made the right decision, or the easy decision?

I strongly urge you, in fact, beg you, to please set the politics aside as think of this as a human being, not as a senator. I think when you do, the decision should be easy. Let us know after the styrofoam ban happens what we can do to help. Like I said I would rather see the hard, but right decision happen than the easy one. Allow people like Rafael Bergstrom to help you in the heavy lifting. There are people in place to aid you with this transition...allow us to all work together towards a better future.

Thank you for your time,

Thomas

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:46:20 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>       | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cassian Cole        | Testifying for Pangeaseed | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hello I believe the current status of our oceans and Landscapes are at a critical point. With the excess of plastic and other non-renewable items that have flooded our oceans, killed our wildlife, and created a less than hospitable environment for all living things. This is a major issue that needs to be addressed and **quickly**. I do not want to bring children into a world full of dead animals and polluted oceans. Please support and pass this act.

Best,

Cassian Cole



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 8:31:15 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erin Anderson       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Mahalo Nui Loa to all who have helped pushed this bill through on Oahu and similar bills on the neighboring islands. Passing this bill is one step in the right direction of encouraging folks to think about what is thrown away, introducing less chemicals into our food and generating less waste that will never break down and harm the beautiful eco system that surrounds our islands.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 7:44:02 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kristen W           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I have not had the chance to visit Hawaii yet but, ever since I was a little kid I have been putting money away in order to eventually take a trip there or even end up living there. I feel by putting this bill in place it will be a step in the right direction to help save and preserve the amazing wildlife that inhabits Hawaii. I hope that Hawaii takes this step and many other states follow. This is the change we need because if we don't do something we will continue to destroy our beautiful oceans and wildlife that we have come to love. Keep their bellies free of plastic and keep our bellies free of plastic!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 7:19:45 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| jordan fahmie       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

This is an important bill for Hawaii communities because it would reduce the amount of litter in our communities, beaches, and oceans. It would also reduce the amount of trash that our city works have to transport. I find foam plate lunch boxes (and pieces of them) all over the place - during my work commute, while hiking, at the beach, while surfing, stuck in kiawe trees. The number of people in our islands will continue to grow, and so will the amount of foam litter unless we do something about it.

There are numerous sources of information that detail the issues associated with polystyrene foam food containers: they do not degrade, they are made from fossil fuels, they may even leach into the food we eat out of them. But the main reason to outlaw their use is to preserve our environment and maintain our precious economy, which relies on a clean environment.

Mahalo,  
Jordan Fahmie

[\(808\) 772-2664](tel:8087722664)

Palolo Valley Resident

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 6:35:48 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deborah Cadiente    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:32:11 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alexandria          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hawai'i is a beautiful environment with irreplaceable wildlife. One of my favorite things about Oahu is the sea life and it breaks my heart to see it suffering. We need to make a stop killing off the animals and instead strive towards protecting them! This is the first step towards a brighter future.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 6:14:24 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Teo Wickland        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Styrofoam is completely unnecessary. There are many alternatives that can be easily substituted at negligible incremental financial cost. There is no excuse for imposing the costs of pollution, environmental degradation and sociocultural harm on marginalized humans and nonhumans, and future generations, just to pad the pockets of wealthy corporate interests or to save a few pennies today.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 9:24:22 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elijah McDanniel    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

It is no mystery where the trash that washes up on our shores and poisons our oceans comes from. It comes from us. Humans create the trash that is slowly poisoning our oceans, our marine life, and ultimately us. That is why we should be accountable for the type of trash we produce. If we know we are making it and its not all getting to where it needs to go then we need to ensure the trash we are putting out is completely biodegradable. Styrofoam of all types presents many problems to a model that lends it self to complete biodegradability. We should ban it. It is so bad that we should offer a subsidy in the form of a tax credit for the cost of new biodegradable containers and the like, to help businesses make the switch. Thank you for your time in this matter. I am confident you are all intelligent enough to make sure this bill is passed.

Elijah McDanniel, Hawaii Island

Aloha Honolulu County Council Members,

My name is Marisa Bolivar and I am in strong support of SB 2498, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Food containers on the island of Oahu.

Here on our islands it is becoming more and more clear that the impact of single use plastics are detrimental to our environment and way of life. Our oceans are full of debris, and we are the cause of the pollution. Living in such close proximity to the ocean, our environmental footprints must be considered. If we are not a part of the solution, leading the way, we are part of the problem, living in the past.

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.

I go out on a regular basis to beach cleanups, and have made changes to my own habits to ensure I turn down single use plastics when offered. However, I continue to see single use plastics and Polystyrene Foam containers clogging up storm drains and littering our beautiful landscapes and beaches. The detrimental effect these foam containers are having on our environment and will ultimately impact our economy. 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. 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.

I am advocating 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.

I deeply appreciate your time and energy in considering these important matters, and hope you will join me in supporting the ban on single use plastic and polystyrene foam products.

Mahalo,

Marisa Bolivar



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:35:00 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ryan Chun           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am a recent UH Manoa graduate who has been born and raised in Hawaii. I support the ban on Styrofoam containers because currently, mankind has no practical way of containing the waste and damage that it causes.

No matter how successful our recycling or trash programs are in the islands, there will always be some amount of waste that slips through the cracks and makes it into the ocean. Styrofoam and other plastics are known to last for hundreds of years, meaning that all of the plastic that has ever been created still exists somewhere on earth. Furthermore, science is revealing that when these plastics breakdown, they breakdown into micro-fibers that contaminate the environment and our drinking water. These micro-fibers slowly release toxins into the environment which build up in our food supply and eventually ourselves.

Plastics are a huge benefit to society as a whole but also have huge downsides that we have not been able to control yet. The downsides actively harm us and our environment. Banning use of single-use Styrofoam containers will minimally impact our standard of living while reducing a huge volume of plastic waste. This is an opportunity for Hawaii to lead by example in a century that will be defined by our ability to care for our environment.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:41:41 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| sylvia litchfield   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please support SB 2498.

Polystyrene foam containers cannot be recycled, are not biodegradable in the marine environment, and are toxic to humans and marine life. Toxic styrene residues are found in 100% of all samples of human fat tissue!

Polystyrene foam containers float on the surface of the water, where they "photodegrade": that is, they break down into smaller and smaller pieces, and marine animals easily mistake polystyrene for food. The composition of petroleum-based plastics as durable polymers means they may degrade to increasingly smaller sizes but never disappear.

Ban the foam containers - we can do this!

At least 47 cities and counties in California have banned or restricted the use of polystyrene food packaging, and local business have successfully switched to more sustainable alternatives. The City of San Francisco has had over 3,000 businesses come into compliance with the ban and none have filed any notices of financial hardship which is an option under the city's ordinance.

(More information can be found at [cleanwater.org](http://www.cleanwater.org) - [http://www.cleanwater.org/files/publications/ca/cwa\\_fact\\_sheet\\_polystyrene\\_litter\\_2011\\_03.pdf](http://www.cleanwater.org/files/publications/ca/cwa_fact_sheet_polystyrene_litter_2011_03.pdf))

Mahalo,

Sylvia Litchfield

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:34:40 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Severine Busquet    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hi:

Hawaii beaches became devastated with plastic detritus all around the islands. This is bad for the ocean species, for local activities, and for tourism. Eliminating any one-time serving containers that are not recyclable is urgent. For these reasons, I support SB2498 SD1.

Thanks for your attention.

Severine

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:52:24 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Arlene Twomey       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I encourage you to move to pass this important bill this session

Why?

- Our limited landfills are being filled up with this useless, bulky, non-recyclable material.
- It does not biodegrade. It may break into small pieces, even minuscule pieces. But the smaller styrofoam pieces get, the harder it is to clean up.
- It is made of fossil fuels and synthetic chemicals. Those chemicals may leach if they come in contact with hot, greasy or acidic food. Yes, they keep your coffee hot – but they may also add an unwanted dose of toxins to your drink.
- Animals sometimes eat it. Turtles and fish seem to mistake styrofoam for food, and that can kill them. Not only can they not digest it, but the foam could be full of poisons that it has absorbed from contaminants floating in the water.
- It can't be recycled. Some commercial mailing houses may accept packing peanuts, but for the most part community recycling centers do not accept throwaway foam food containers.
- I'm either on the beach or in the ocean almost every day. Every day I pick up pieces of styrofoam - either on the beach or floating on the water.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:03:08 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dyson Chee          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I believe that passing SB 2498 is crucial because the next generation will, at the current rate, bear the brunt of previous generations' reckless activities. Beaches are littered with polystyrene, fishes are consuming chemicals embedded within it, and we are consuming those fish. Polystyrene is a cancer for future generations, and the best way to destroy it is to eliminate it NOW, before it becomes even more problematic. We—the future generation—will not have an equal footing compared to previous generations. We will be inheriting a degraded, traumatized, and dying planet. Passing this bill would at least make the footing a little more equal. And every little bit counts.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 3:51:56 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Isabella Macchioni  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Any trash that we can eliminate from our waste is something I support. Polystyrene foam needs to be taken out of our waste because it's something that is harming the oceans. If we harm the ocean, and the sea creatures we eventually will be harming ourselves, if we haven't already. We need to take action and stand up for what is most important, human well-being. Please eliminate polystyrene foam so we can take one step closer to have clean oceans again.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 8:50:07 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carissa Cornelius   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Polystyrene foam is hazardous to animals and to the environment. Marine animals often ingest it, mistaking it for food, and when it breaks down, it produces an unhealthy effect for animals and the environment. Animals also can get tangled or stuck in litter such as polystyrene foam. It is 2018, we are capable of producing environmental friendly packaging, so there is no longer any excuse to use harmful products like polystyrene. Even if we were not to consider the animals, at least consider the environment. Tourism is huge for Hawaii, and litter like polystyrene foam makes the environment ugly and is detrimental. I urge you to ban polystyrene foam containers for the animals, for the environment, as well as for the people of Hawaii. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carissa Cornelius

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:19:43 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| heidi better        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please please ban styrofoam. As a beach resident I pick up trash daily on my home beach. None of us need a styrofoam container or cup. There ARE alternatives and we as part of this planet need to reduce use of all these things that are killing the oceans and our planet. Sad we have to make laws and that people do not do this voluntarily. Please bam these harmful products. We all can and will be able to find alternatives and are willing to pay for them. Change is difficult

but necessary. We must act on these environmental laws for our future on this earth. Styrofoam is so harmful and horrible and dissolved into microbits and is infested by sea creatures. It is good for no one or no place. Mahalo for being part of the solution.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:11:26 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ashley de Coligny   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:48:19 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Molly Mamaril       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 5:52:21 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lily Hormel         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hello,

My Name is Lily Hormel, and I would just like to express my support for the new Bill banning foam products. I care so deeply about the ocean and all the ocean wildlife, and I am certain this bill will have a significant positive impact in reducing the amount of pollution. Let's protect our beautiful oceans and incredible animals! We owe it to them!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:28:54 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Kathleen Elliott | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

Please, please **PASS SB2498** to ban polystyrene foam.

Styrofoam is terrible for our environment, and it is not a necessary product. It breaks down into tiny pieces and pollutes our waters, and birds and marine animals ingest it. I see it in the streets and on the beaches all the time.

Many businesses have chosen to be environmentally responsible and have found alternative products without great financial strain. The ban is coming. It's going to happen eventually, because it is the right thing to do. Businesses have been aware of this for a long time. We gave businesses years for the transition away from plastic bags, which went very well outer island, but many O'ahu establishments just found ways around it, using thicker plastic bags (Long's, Times) which disrespected the spirit of the ban.

Styrofoam is completely unnecessary and I urge you to put our environment ahead of these commercial interests.

Thank you.

aloha,

Kathleen Elliott

Honolulu, HI

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:58:07 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alice Terry         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Styrofoam (or polystyrene) is nonbiodegradable and a huge part of the plastic problem in our oceans. Because it's so lightweight, it easily gets carried down waterways and into the ocean, where it leeches toxic chemicals and is ingested by fish and other marine life, entering our food chain. Many cities and companies have already banned the use of styrofoam and there are biodegradable alternatives for food packaging that are already being utilized by Hawai'i restaurants. As a resident of Hale'iwa and user and lover of the ocean, I strongly support this bill.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:48:29 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelsey Barden       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Kelsey Barden, and I am a local business owner in Honolulu. We offer standup paddleboard yoga classes on the ocean, and our main demographic is tourists visiting this beautiful island. Tourists come to experience practicing yoga on the ocean, taking in the beauty of our surroundings. Unfortunately, more and more, our pristine waters are being polluted with polystyrene. Pieces of white foam, largely from food containers, drift by us during our class. Seeing this marine debris deeply disheartens me as I think about the health of our oceans and the marine life, but it also embarrasses me that we are not better stewards of our environment. My livelihood (as well as many others) depends of the pristine beauty of Hawaii, and it is imperative we keep polystyrene out of the ocean to protect the tourist industry. I am in full support of the bill to ban polystyrene, and I urge you to do the same. Please pass the bill SB2498 and get styrofoam out of our waters and off our island!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:34:48 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jon Ching           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

On an island with finite resources, which ships in almost everything consumable yet do not ship out nearly enough, it is important for the sustainability of the land and water and for the health of future generations that Hawaii's waste be minimized and able to deteriorate. Polystyrene and other polymers never degrade relative to our standards of time and have been allowed for too long to enter Hawaii's ecosystems. They are a severe threat to the health of the islands and to the health of the oceans as a whole. There are many more sustainable alternatives that would affect the economy very marginally and there is no reason what polystyrene should be used, especially as a one-time use product. We need to think about our children and the future and stop perpetuating about our temporary, short sighted habits. Please help to pass this measure! It is leadership by our elected representatives that will take our voices and make it into action.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:51:10 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| K Hughes            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

This ban on polystyrene foam containers is crucial for our environment. As an island state we need to continue to be mindful about how we can reduce our impact on the environment. There are so many foam products visible in our oceans, streams, on hikes, and on the side of roads. They're visible because they are made of materials that don't biodegrade. Animals eat them and get sick. We have so many environmentally and budget friendly options that could replace foam products that there should be no question about whether this bill should move forward or not. Let's lead the nation in caring about our resources, as we did with the plastic bag ban. Let's continue to show that we care about our natural resources in Hawaii and are proud of our stewardship. Mahalo!



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:53:10 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joshua Tjarks       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a free diver and spear fisherman I care about the ocean that surrounds us and provides for us. Styrofoam is one of the materials that you constantly see out in the ocean and on the beaches. A total ban would make a huge difference for the ocean and ocean life.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:36:00 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| David Jones, MD | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

I am a concerned resident of East Oahu and **I SUPPORT SB2498**. I have adopted a stretch of beach that I maintain by walking each morning with a bag in each hand, one for recyclables and one for waste. Styrofoam makes up a significant portion of the latter. While the surf action readily breaks Styrofoam cups and containers into very small pieces, it is naive to think it biodegrades completely. In fact, my naturalist friends with Federal Fish and Wildlife and State DLNR tell me these small pieces end up in the guts of fish and fowl, so, in addition to being an eyesore, Styrofoam poses a threat to wildlife.

I know there are suitable, more eco-friendly alternative materials for cups, coolers, and plate lunch containers because many of the establishments I frequent have already made the transition.

**Please PASS SB2498**. I look forward to returning from my morning clean-up walks with a lighter load. Thanks.

David R.Jones, M.D. (ret.)

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:59:31 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cuong Tran          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

We need to start mitigating litter to our oceans. If we continue to accept litter, when will it be acceptable to say no more?

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:59:13 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy Davlantes     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

It's way past time that the state acts on this, given that the ocean surrounds us and the ocean is the recipient of too much of this--we can prevent this.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:37:38 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Theresa Freund | Individual   | Support            | Yes                |

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee,

My name is Theresa Freund and I live in Nuuanu. I am writing to you in strong support of SB2498, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Food containers on the island of Oahu.

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.
  - 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 dioxide[\[4\]](#) (a potent greenhouse gas) annually. Although touted as a "clean energy solution" for Hawaii, H-POWER only generates about 3% of Oahu's energy needs[\[5\]](#) 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 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).

This information in this testimony was provided by Rafael Bergstrom, Oahu Chapter Coordinator, The Surfrider Foundation.

I deeply appreciate your time and energy in considering these important matters and taking the right steps to preserve our beautiful islands.

Mahalo,

Theresa Freund

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[1] [http://www.stormwaterhawaii.com/swmp\\_wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Trash-Reduction-Plan\\_FINAL-10-18-16.pdf](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>

[3] [www.unep.org/pdf/ValuingPlastic/](http://www.unep.org/pdf/ValuingPlastic/)

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

[5] [www.islandpulse.org](http://www.islandpulse.org)

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

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

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:57:51 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kammie              | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hawaii is my home. I'd like to keep it as clean as possible. These products hurt all living things in our environment. Money spent now is cheaper in the long run too.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 4:56:03 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathryn Van Wagoner | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a tourist and a US citizen, I support this bill. We need Hawaii to set the example for the rest of the states in reducing plastic and polystyrene trash across the country. I often wonder how we can convince people living inland to protect our oceans when Coastal and Island communities don't take the problem seriously. Please set a standard for the rest of us to follow.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:29:53 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joy Agner           | Individual          | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments:

I strongly support the polystyrene ban for the following reasons:

- 1) Its production contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and acid rain.
- 2) Burning it creates toxic by-product.
- 3) Eating out of hot polystyrene is linked to cancer and endocrine dysruption. Its terrible for our health!

Please do what is right for our land, our water, and our bodies. These are our most precious resources and we elect you, as public officials, to make wise decisions in our best interest.

If you don't support the ban, you are betraying the people of Hawaii as well as the land and ocean.

Sincerely,

Joy Agner

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 3:33:53 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christy Stesky      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am in full support of eliminating polystyrene foam from our beautiful state. I try very hard to avoid businesses who use them right now, and support those who have already switched to more sustainable options. However, to ban them outright would be beneficial to all.

Thank you for hearing my testimony. Aloha Hawai'i!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:55:53 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Anjie Pham   | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

***This is long overdue. I strongly support banning all usages of polystyrene foam.***

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:44:49 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| june chee    | Individual   | Support            | Yes                |

Comments:

Aloha my name is June Chee and I am a resident of Honolulu (1888 Kalakaua Ave #3103, Honolulu 96815).

**I am reaching out to you today to support SB 2498 to reduce the use of polystyrene foam statewide.**

I spend my free time volunteering to help local restaurants switch from plastic and polystyrene products to more earth friendly choices. These local restaurant owners understand the initial work it may take to transition foam-free products, but are committed to quality for their customers, community, and the environment. None of these restaurants have reported financial burden from going foam-free and have been met with overwhelming support from the community and additional volunteers (like me!) who are dedicating time to help their business succeed! Foam-free restaurants are the future of successful eateries in Hawaii. The service and food provided is the value to customers NOT the foam container it comes in.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

June

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:50:09 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kate Engelsman      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

We don't need polystyrene, there are many other options that won't ruin our planet. It is vital you pass this bill to stop enviromental dangers such as polluting oceans and rivers, fouling beaches, killing wildlife and clogging landfills. Most of it ends up in our ocean, and takes 500 years to decompose (not to mention polystyrene manufacturing process is the fifth largest creator of hazardous waste in the United States). And most recyclers do not accept it.

Please ban polystyrene foam containters.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:47:14 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| jeremy strubel      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hello,

I work in the restaurant industry and am witness 1st hand to all of the waste that is created by operating this type of establishment. There are plenty biodegradable options available for restaurants and other food service establishments, as well is grocery stores to stock alternatives to styrofoam for home use as well. At this point in time I strongly believe there should be no reason to allow non-biodegradable and or non recyclable one time use products.

Thank you

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:51:35 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kirsty McWalter     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support banning polystyrene foam from our island home. We need to look into the future and the effects that our actions will have on our environment and our children's health. Please consider passing this bill. It is our responsibility and frankly, it is overdue.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:47:14 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| jeremy strubel      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hello,

I work in the restaurant industry and am witness 1st hand to all of the waste that is created by operating this type of establishment. There are plenty biodegradable options available for restaurants and other food service establishments, as well is grocery stores to stock alternatives to styrofoam for home use as well. At this point in time I strongly believe there should be no reason to allow non-biodegradable and or non recyclable one time use products.

Thank you

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:23:01 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| KayLeeJean          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

We must put our planet first

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 5:15:37 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacquelyn Orkiz     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

In regards to SB2498,

I am writing in support of Bill SB2498. Polystyrene Foam is polluting the beautiful ocean habitats of Hawaii. It is time we no longer use this foam and help make the ocean environment better for the animals who call it home. Not only that, but as a visitor of Hawaii, it's disheartening to travel to a beach and come across trash from this foam and plastic polluting the beaches that are thought to be some of the best beaches in the world. I support this bill to better our environment for human life and wildlife around us. Here are other solutions that environmentally friendly that can be used instead of the polystyrene foam. Therefor I urge you pass Bill SB2498 and help Hawaii set a standard to help preserve the gorgeous islands and keep them pristine.

Thank you,

Jacquelyn Orkiz

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:51:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Noah                | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Polystyrene has gotten out of control in Hawaii. Immediate action must be taken for the long term sustainability and preservation of this great state. Regardless of its cheap cost and availability, we as humans of the great planet are responsible for it and should put our greed aside to create a cleaner way to serve our citizens.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:25:16 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| matt hoyme          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

It is extremely important to think of future generations and the health of our oceans and environment. Ban polystyrene foam from the state of Hawaii and set the example for the rest of the world. You will be heros to future generations. Be proud and do the right thing. Protect the Keiki, Protect the Aina.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:45:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jill Adams          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Polystyrene is dangerous for the earth, the sea, and our bodies. This is an important measure towards a more sustainable Hawai'i.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:25:57 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tara Lavery         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this, please support the banning of styrofoam. There are so many other affordable options that will make a huge difference in the health of our planet, our ocean, our future, our islands & our children! Forward thinking is considering the future & what our mark will be, let Hawaii be known for leading the way!! Mahalo Nui Loa

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:30:40 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nathaniel Wehr      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

To the Hearing Committee:

As a Honolulu resident, I strongly support a ban on polystyrene foam containers for the environmental impacts. Notably, polystyrene leaches carcinogens and when burned emits toxic chemicals that can endanger human health; this light and brittle material blows into waterways and breaks down easily endangering marine life; polystyrene litter spoils the environment on which our recreational economy depends; the cost of removing polystyrene from storm sewers and waste streams is high, and the additional cost associated with sustainable substitutes are insignificant compared to the above benefits. I urge you to support the ban on polystyrene.

Testimony of  
ELENA ZUCCHINI  
Hawai'i resident

Before the Senate Committee on  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Monday, February 26, 2018  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2498 SD1  
RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

Aloha Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair Jill N. Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer protection, and health.

My name is Elena Zucchini and I am an international student at the Hawaii Pacific University. I am here today in order to give my support to the bill SB 2498 SD1 which seeks to prohibit the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide.

I decided to come to Hawaii in order to graduate in Environmental Studies. I thought it would be the best location to study about sustainability and the environment. However, when I first came to Hawaii, I saw several things that showed me that there is still a lot of progress to do in order to achieve a sustainable way of living. And Styrofoam is one of the reasons why I think that. Indeed, I don't understand how foam can still exist knowing that it has environmental and human health impacts as well as cleanup costs. This week-end, I had the opportunity to go help the Surfrider foundation during a beach cleanup and it stroke me to see how much plastic and foam are present along the beach. According to me, the reason is that people are not enough educated about the environment and its impacts. And because of that, predictions show that by 2050 there will be more plastic by weight in the ocean than fish. However, there are alternatives to Styrofoam. For instance, in France and other European countries we don't use foam but bio-composite materials as cardboard. These recycled

materials don't have any environmental impact and can even provide savings over Styrofoam materials in the long-run.

Hence, Styrofoam is impacting our environment, and it is our responsibility to change this trend. I do think that each step that we will make in order to ban this product will result in a positive impact on the environment and a chance to resolve our mistakes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2498 SD1.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:33:15 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James Waton         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Save the oceans! Save the islands! Save the animals!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:22:37 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Alicia Ward  | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

My name is Alicia Ward, I am a photographer and cinematographer on Hawai'i Island and I specialize in marine photography.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2498 due to the fact that, in the 15 years I have been active in my field, I have encountered an exorbitant amount of polystyrene in Hawaiian waters and have seen the detriment this product causes to our fragile wildlife and ecosystems.

Due to its lightweigh constitution and the ease with which it falls apart, polystyrene is regularly found in our surrounding waters and is consumed by the lower members the food chain, namely fish and sea turtles. As the "Circle of Life" goes: fish with polystyrene in their stomachs are consumed by larger and larger predators and the polystyrene builds up in the bodies of wildlife until our cetaceans, like our critically endangered False Killer Whales (*Pseudorca Crassidens*) are fraught with stomachs full of undigestible polystyrene and man-made waste, causing unnatural deaths and devastating populations due to intestinal blockages.

It's not hard to find a fisherman with a fresh catch in Honokohau Harbor. It is, however, difficult to find a fisherman whose catch does not have a stomach full of man-made contents including, but not limited to, polystyrene.

This product has found its way into the bellies of some of our most cherished and valuable wildlife, such as Fish, Sea Turtles, Albatross, Cetaceans and Elasmobranchs. These animals are vital to Hawai'i's ecosystem and continue to bring revenue to Hawai'i through ecotourism, scientific research and documentaries made about the fragility and splendor of the one of the most isolated land masses in the world.

Our geographical position in the Pacific Ocean has allowed our flora and fauna to become genetically unique / isolated and it is our responsibility, as inhabitants of this beautiful space, to protect and preserve our islands. I believe banning polystyrene from these lands and working to remove it from our waters is an important step towards proper stewardship of our islands.

Mahalo for your time,

Alicia Ward

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:08:46 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jade Delevaux       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am researcher at the University of Hawaii. I specialize in the impact of land-based activities on the ocean, ranging from modeling wastewater and storm water impact on our nearshore resources as well as water quality. I am strong advocate to tackling pollution at the source, given how challenging it is to clean it once it enters the environment.

Like many other Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiian understood the importance of managing from ridge-to-reef given everything is connected. What we do upstream is bound to impact downstream and other places offshore. Oceans are not a separation when it comes down to the Pacific - it connects us! But managing our resources and pollution across geopolitical boundaries has become extremely challenging.

This short youtube video to me symbolize our (human) impacts on other shores in our archipelago if we dont pay attention and embodies the challenges (and sometimes the impossibility) of cleaning up our mess: <https://youtu.be/PLkTTJW4xZs>

Please take the time to watch it and witness the impact we have on the planet that we are leaving to our children and the ecosystems which support our health and wellbeing! It is time we give up some our comfortability so our children can experience the beautiful aina of Hawaii.

Mahalo for listening

Jade



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 8:57:26 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| JENNIFER AHN        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I think in this day and age, we as human beings being the largest responsible for garbage and damage to the environment need to each make a difference to help protect the wildlife now and for the future. Styrofoam should be replaced with eco friendly materials that are out there.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:30:39 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| brooke friswold     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a conservation biologist I am in full support of this ban. Polystyrene is non-biodegradable and we are beyond the point of allowing this sort of unsustainable presence on our threatened island.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:01:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marvin Heskett      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

The discussion about whether or not to ban single use plastic derived materials has now received its own PhD with over 7 years of intense discussion and study. It has been made clear, from public testimony and research, that the very small cost benefits to using styrofoam and other single use plastic materials are far outweighed by the consequence of their use. Polystyrene foam is the king of destructive single use plastics in the marine environment. It is time to ban its wasteful use for disposable applications. There is no need to do further research, wasting time and marine life in the process. Anyone who spends time on the beach, knows the now all too familiar site of polystyrene foam waste showing up on our shores again and again. By continuing to allow the use of the toxic material in Hawaii is being complicit in intense environmental pollution. The only advantage to using the materials are realized by the profits enjoyed by the manufacturers of it (and very possibly by the favors they pay elected officials to allow their continued use.

Please do the right thing by upholding your state motto, representing the community you serve and say no thanks to polystyrene manufacturers stain on Hawaii's path.

Thank You,

Marvin Heskett

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:15:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joan Gannon         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:27:04 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Morgan Esarey       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I fully support this bill to look after our precious land and ensure it is around for our children and their children after that. We are only borrowing it from them, it is not our world to throw away. We must do everything we can to salvage the awful impacts we have made previously by not being conscious of our methods of consumption. We must be more mindful; this is the only way we can truly be sustainable.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:39:24 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erica Cirino        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am a freelance science writer who has traveled the world and sailed the Pacific Ocean from LA to Honolulu and then from Honolulu to French Polynesia with a Danish nonprofit called Plastic Change to document the problem of plastic pollution in the oceans. What I learned from my extensive travels and time spent in beautiful Hawaii is that expanded polystyrene is prevalent on Hawaiian beaches (I've spent months on Oahu, Kauai and Big Island) and in the seas. Scientists I sailed with took samples of plastic from the ocean and found that polystyrene is a significant source of pollution, especially in the waters off Hawaii. And where does that polystyrene come from? All the food containers and packaging supplies we use on land, because there is no easy way to dispose of them. As a science writer, I present scientific facts and observations. Scientists tell me without a doubt polystyrene is toxic and damaging to marine wildlife and the environment—and likely also human health. Because expanded polystyrene can be easily and relatively cheaply replaced with nonplastic alternatives, this statewide ban should be a no-brainer! Many native and adopted Hawaiians I know are in full support of the ban...they say it's time for the amazing state of Hawaii to set a precedent for the rest of the country.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 2:01:09 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa MacDonough  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I fully support a ban on all polystyrene single use containers.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:30:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| zeshan chisty       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:43:48 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelvin Chico        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Kelvin Chico. I am submitting testimony to show my support for SB2498 SD1. Polystyrene foam containers are not ecologically friendly and their disadvantages outweigh their advantage. There are many viable alternatives that are biodegradable and better for the environment. Polystyrene foam containers usually end up broken down into little pieces littering our beaches. It's the 21st century; it is time to commit to more sustainable options.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:06:19 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Arlene Estrella     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support this bill because we need to be more conscious with our waste. We live on an island and we should be considerate of our oceans that surround us.

Arlene Estrella

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:03:19 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| jessica white       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Polystyrene foam containers are not only completely detrimental to our sensitive island ecosystem, they are also proven to be extremely toxic, especially when hot substances are put in them. Chemicals from them are released into the food and then consumed causing many health issues.

They break into small pieces that NEVER decompose, and are eaten by marine life. We find so much polystyrene on beaches everyday. In order to leave behind an island that will allow the next seven generations to thrive, it must be banned!

Please pass SB2498!!! This is LONG OVERDUE!!! Ban Polystyrene!! There is no reason to keep it and endless reasons to ban it!!

Aloha

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:07:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier<br/>Position</b> | <b>Present at<br/>Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Melissa Butler      | Individual          | Support                       | No                            |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:18:56 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Serena Ettinger     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

It is imperative that this bill be passed. If we can all ban together and work towards the common goal of cleaning up our oceans, than we can set the example for everyone. Not just to clean up the oceans, but to also clean up the air quality, or stop the rain forests from being cut down. We need to ban together and stop doing the convenient thing for the benefit of our whole planet. This bill is the smallest rock beginning to fall in a rock slide that we desperately need.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:17:50 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| taylor              | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Plastics and styrofoam are polluting the planet, killing wildlife and poisoning our people. Our ocean wildlife and birds are dying from eating it, and the ones that don't die hold the toxins in their body, which poison the people who then eat the fish. Ban it and all take one step further in protecting our land.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:17:38 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| s watkins           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a concerned member of society, I completely support keeping ourselves and our oceans healthy. Plastic containers serve no purpose for our continued health and the well being of all the creatures in our waters. Thank you for your time and attention to this important measure.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:46:39 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Taylor Eastburn     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Save our oceans!



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:33:01 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Richard Camp        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members, I implore you to help make Hawaii styrofoam free. There are biodegradable alternatives that are cost effective and respect our land and ocean.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 7:25:58 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brittney            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I hope Hawaii can be the leader to the rest of the country in efforts to save our planet. A great start will be eliminating mass plastic production along with any and all Styrofoam. Please protect this beautiful land and sea and ban Styrofoam.

We turn a blind eye to what we are doing to this earth and the footprint we are leaving....but it's time for change.....before it's too late.

[http://greenliving.lovetoknow.com/How\\_Styrofoam\\_is\\_Bad\\_for\\_the\\_Environment](http://greenliving.lovetoknow.com/How_Styrofoam_is_Bad_for_the_Environment)

Madeline Payne

Lauren Nishimura

English 100

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Issues in the Oceans

It is no surprise that our oceans are suffering. The world's oceans are one of the primary ecosystems affected by society's lackluster effort to stop producing gross amounts of pollution. The Hawaiian Islands are a unique place, yet sadly, even in the middle of the Pacific Ocean there is a trash problem. Local beaches in Hawaii such as Makalei and Cromwell's are slowly collecting more and more litter. There are huge proactive organizations such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Oceana attempting to help, but still our islands are suffering. This assistance is significant, but it also appears such large conglomerate organizations cannot sympathize with our seemingly small scale losses. An option that we in Hawaii should consider is to take more control of our beaches leading us to pinpointing the specific, local pollution issues. This would greatly enhance our ability to eradicate the pollution. I believe it would certainly be a stronger and more effective option than waiting for acknowledgment from a faceless, less focused worldwide association.

There are numerous organizations dedicated to saving the oceans and the inhabitants of those oceans. Although some of the largest most impactful organizations such as Oceana, NOAA, and Ocean Research and Conservation Association (ORCA) are all international communities. They are doing great work and affecting change at an encouraging rate with

cleanups, pollution research, and informational public forums. However, none of those efforts are providing the direct results Hawaii needs and its beautiful, unique beaches deserve. Each organization is spread so thin across the globe, and taking on so many challenges in different geographic areas, they are unable to provide the focus needed to ensure that Hawaii's waters and sands are clean. Oceana's homepage features a drop-down menu asking the researcher to select the corner of the globe where they would like to see the status of projects. The options include an international view, European view, and a United States view; there is even a Philippines' (Oceana). This drop-down menu demonstrates the numerous geographical areas covered by the organization. "Since 2005, the Oceana Ranger catamaran has crossed the Pacific, Caribbean, Atlantic, Mediterranean and the Bay of Biscay." (Oceana). Over a little more than a decade Oceana has sailed throughout nearly every ocean, collecting data and creating change but never made a stop in Hawaii. They are helping in so many different areas, Hawaii is often neglected or swept under the rug. NOAA is another great example of a large organization whose large scope of effort is spread too thin. NOAA is a United States government agency funded by the American Government. Sadly, NOAA is another large organization, even a US funded organization, which still has been unsuccessful in assisting or helping to manage programs with our islands. Their current conservation efforts are going towards, "Data on ocean currents, temperature and salinity...migration routes of fish populations, whales, turtles, and even an occasional wayward Florida manatee ... [and] the establishment of a coral reef information system..." (Allegra). However, none of these efforts help decrease the trash being littered daily onto our beaches. NOAA is an organization which is funded by Hawaiian taxpayer contributions, yet the citizens of Hawaii do not reap the rewards that other citizens do. Our money is directed towards other

oceanic issues found outside our local beaches. ORCA is a large ocean conservancy organization based in Florida. The final issue with relying on large international corporations is the intimacy factor. It is difficult to schedule cleanups or to coordinate or even communicate with these organizations, since just a non-specific email address is provided on their website. Obviously, there is little chance or expectation of response. When I tried to navigate the speakers page within the ORCA website I was either circled back to the homepage or directed to a page that would not load (ORCA). This made it extremely difficult to estimate the price and timeline for scheduling an ORCA event in Hawaii. If Hawaii's citizens could identify the pollution issue, we could take charge of our own beaches. We could avoid having to accept being concealed, ignored, or forgotten again. We would be much more empowered to keep our beaches pristine.

Whether pollution is classified as micro-, meso-, macro-, or mega-litter each category takes a toll on our oceans, the organisms within, as well as ourselves. Each piece of litter ranging from microscopic to clearly visible with the human eye can take hundreds of years to break down. Degradation might not even be an option if the piece is swallowed first by an animal. In this day and age, we live in what has been called the Plastic Age. The main pieces of litter found within the Hawaiian beaches and close to shore are plastics and Styrofoam. A waterway blockage was built in 2011 within two Hilo watersheds. "In 205 days, 30 kilograms of debris (73.6% plastic) were retained from two watersheds compromising 10.2% of Hilo's developed land area." (Carson45). Data collected from this experiment was shockingly overwhelming. This debris was completely locally generated, meaning it is also 100% avoidable. Based on water currents and trade winds, all this debris is usually carried to Kamilo Point, also on the Big Island. "Since 2003, the Hawaii Wildlife Fund has removed an

average of 16 metric tons of debris per year from this 15km coastline.” (Carson45). Within the gross amount of pollution retained from the water shed the majority was plastics, such as Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles (17%), disposable plastic bags (7.5%), and polyethylene packaging (6.2%). These statistics are from *Tracking the sources and sinks of local marine debris in Hawaii*, which also states that over 35.6 percent of the trash collected could have been recycled. These outstanding and even ridiculous statistics do not even fully account for the litter within our oceans. Hundreds more pieces could have been blown into the water, directly dumped by boats, or left on beaches. Another journal article, *Regional distribution of styrene analogues generated from polystyrene degradation along the coastlines of the North-East Pacific Ocean and Hawaii*, supplies more statistics on the causation of our polluted beaches. This journal examined various ocean waters and sands within Hawaii, Oahu, and some western states. The scientists mainly looked for amounts of styrene trimers (ST), dimers (SD), and monomers (SM). These are particles that remain from broken down from packaging peanuts, lids, bottles, disposable cutlery, and most often Styrofoam. Out of 36 ocean water sampling sites, “The highest concentration of SD was found in the seawater from Hawaii Island.” (Kwon47). The SD found within the seawater was the highest of four different water currents sampled. This represents how much Styrofoam litter is within our ocean waters. On the sand in Oahu median amounts of ST were found and within the sands of Oahu and Hawaii Island median amounts of SM were found (Kwon47). It is troubling and disgusting that our sands have soaked up chemical particles of broken down Styrofoam that has been littered into the ocean. Families with their young children play and dig within the sands. Whereas SM can be found naturally within certain elements of the earth, SD and ST are completely manmade. No complete researches have been conducted on the effects of these toxins soaking into our

environments our animals or ourselves. There are easy fixes to prevent these toxins and carcinogens touching our loved ones and our beloved beaches.

My two solutions will greatly decrease the amount of pollution produced and found in Hawaiian waters and our beaches. By creating a personal connection with the local citizens of Hawaii, and proposing a program to increase the desirability of recycling plastic. The issue with the large international organizations is that they never create a sense of commonality. If the local community advertised recycling all plastics within their neighborhoods, and then the plastics could be taken to local businesses. This creates a sense of community that the huge corporations are missing. There could be a small monetary incentive to each business for collecting the bags of plastic trash that would then be picked up by government officials to be taken to already established recycling plants. Having each person support, each other and their planet would create a motivation within our community to produce less plastic litter. Styrofoam on the other hand must be recycled separately due to its chemical makeup. Affordable compacters were recently invented, “The plastic that Styrofoam is made from, polystyrene (PS), is used for other types of plastic extrusion and injection molding. This demand for PS gives compressed Styrofoam a market value.” (Hung2). Currently there are no Styrofoam recycling operations within Hawaii. By building and establishing these operations we could increase the desire and motivation of Hawaiian locals to recycle or reuse their Styrofoam materials. With the money, Hawaii would save from less litter costs and coastal cleanups, the funds could be reinvested into supplying Styrofoam recycling bins for the citizens. Once these are collected monthly, since Styrofoam is thrown away less often, then the Styrofoam could be packed down and sold to companies who reuse the compressed Styrofoam. These two simple and cost

effective solutions of communal recycling and compressed Styrofoam can save the government hundreds of dollars, and save the oceans thousands of lives.

Hawaii's beaches are suffering from increasing amounts of locally generated debris. Large international oceanic organizations are too difficult to coordinate with for assistance in efforts to keep the beaches clean. To decrease the massive amounts of carcinogenic plastics in the waters and sands, a community effort and impression must be created to increase and leverage the emotional attachment to our oceans. Styrofoam compressors will pay for themselves, once Hawaii begins to sell the compressed plastics being recycled by the community. If these two simple fixes were put into effect the public would feel bonded as they work together and strive to keep the local beaches in their pristine, unique, and gorgeous state.



## Citations

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**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:15:49 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sherry Pollack      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:14:14 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Debbie Millikan     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am writing in **strong support of SB2498.**

There is no longer a place for foam in Hawaii. I am a sustainability educator and I also speak for the many students of Hawaii who don't have a voice. It's their future we must protect and in order to do that, we must end the overuse of all disposable products, but foam in particular. There are equally valuable materials that won't end up polluting our waterways, oceans and air.

Please make the right decision on this bill and end the era of foam once and for all!

Thank you for allowing me to provide this testimony.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:03:53 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rachel Rounds       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support this measure to ban polystyrene foam containers in Hawaii. It is time to move past single-use plastics and foam into sustainable and reusable options. I am tired of seeing foam containers filling trash bins and floating in the ocean. We are small islands, and reducing single-use containers will also reduce the burden on our landfills. Styrofoam is one of the top contributors to our waste stream. It breaks down easily, which means that small pieces will wash down streams into the ocean, and pollute our coral reefs and be ingested by fish, turtles and seals. We can do better than this! Passing this bill will reduce waste, plastic trash on our beach and in our waters, reduce our carbon footprints and support more sustainable options for food containers. Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:57:15 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carie Sarver        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am writing as a resident of Honolulu in support of prohibiting the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers in Hawai'i. These containers are detrimental to our environment especially because they so easily end up in our surrounding waters where they pose a threat to the animals which live in and around them. There are plenty of alternatives to polystyrene which can be composted or recycled thus keeping them out of the water, off the streets and out of the landfills and incinerators.

Mahalo.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:25:42 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brandon Taylor      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

My name is Brandon Taylor and I am a resident of O'ahu. I am writing in full support of Bill SB2498, which prohibits the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers in food preparation statewide. Thank you for considering this important bill.

As a representative of the people, I urge you to make a decision that chooses the long-term benefit of Hawaii's people and environment rather than the short-term conveniences of business. First off let me start by saying that Oahu has been my home for the past 7 years, and I hate to support anything that negatively impacts it's environment. One of the worst things about using this material is that it is not fit to preserve food, whenever I order food from some of Bite Squad's participating restaurants and it is delivered in polystyrene foam containers it is "soggy" upon delivery.

I know BPI certified products take up the same space in the landfill as the polystyrene foam containers, and I know that as of today the State of Hawai'i does not have a commercial composting facility. With the changes happening in China, and them no longer accepting our waste, we need to rethink the life cycle of the products that we offer to the public and we might as well start with the ban of polystyrene foam containers. Perhaps the next step would be to offer free backyard composting bins, as they do on Kaula'i today – so the BPI certified products don't end up in the landfill!

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and of this important issue. Lets keep ka'aina beautiful!

Mahalo,  
Brandon Taylor

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:16:18 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erin Tamashiro      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Prohibiting polystyrene foam takeout food containers is a small step that we **need** to take, to care for this special place we call home. Please stop these non-biodegradable, single use containers from ending up in our landfills, streets, yards, parks, beaches, and ocean by cutting them off at the source. I urge you to vote in support of this bill.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 7:39:33 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Evangeline Kidd     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Styrofoam or polystyrene is terrible for our oceans. It breaks down into micro plastics so fast and stays in the environment for decades without degrading. There are so many better, safer, and cleaner options out there. Please support the ban of this material in Hawaii and across the country.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:13:20 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ida Fjeldsrud       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

My name is Ida Fjeldsrud and I am a resident of O'ahu. I am writing in full support of Bill SB2498, prohibits the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide. Thank you for considering this important bill.

As a representative of the people, I urge you to make a decision that chooses the long-term benefit of Hawaii's people and environment rather than the short-term conveniences of business. Transitioning from Norway to the U.S has been a big culture change for me. One part of your culture I have embraced full heartedly is your takeaway culture. I love how takeaway is an option even in fine dining establishments. What I don't love is getting my food served in polystyrene foam containers, knowing what we know about this material and the health risks connected with it. The worst thing about using this material is that it is not fit to preserve food, whenever I order a burger from some of Aloha2Go's participating restaurant and it is delivered in polystyrene foam containers it is "soggy" upon delivery. This has annoyed me so much, that I have requested Aloha2Go/BiteSquad to indicate restaurants using BPI certified products as a feature on their website. I am making a choice not to order food from restaurants using polystyrene foam containers.

I know BPI certified products take up the same space in the landfill as the polystyrene foam containers, and I know that as of today the State of Hawai'i do not have a commercial composting facility. With the changes happening in China, and them no longer accepting our waste, we need to rethink the life cycle of the products that we offer to the public and we might as well start with the ban of polystyrene foam containers. Perhaps the next step would be to offer free backyard composting bins, as they do on Kaula'i today – so the BPI certified products don't end up in the landfill!

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and of this important issue.

Mahalo,  
Ida Fjeldsrud

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:29:44 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ashlee Pritchett    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please take the first essential step in protecting our oceans by banning the use of foam in Hawaii

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:09:39 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jaunette Itsuno     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee,

Thank you for you having this hearing of this important bill for the banning of polystyrene food containers which I strongly support. We all know that polystyrene is hazardous to both human health as well as to the marine animals who accidentally ingest this toxic product. Also, the positive long-term effects to Hawaii's unique environment by banning the excessive use of polystyrene will substantially outweigh any short term economic losses. I hope that we can protect our already endangered natural environment by passing this bill.

Mahalo,

Jaunette Itsuno

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 7:16:06 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ahquin3             | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Im a child. Im doing this testimony because I want to make a difference. Did you know when you heat up plastic in the microwave styrene comes out and goes into you food and when you eat your food the styrene goes into your heath sytem and it is toxic for your brain. So for example say if kids are at school and they are on there way to lunch and they get there hot lunch in a polystyrene containers styrene comes out and goes into the food that they eat then an hour later there spose to take a test with toxic in there brain. Isnt that crazy. Im lucky because at my school they got rid of polystyrene. And when you get older the polystyrene can affect your heath and give you cancer. So lets make a difference, lets change the world!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 7:31:28 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| samuel              | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:56:19 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dana Orndorff       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please end the use of styrofoam

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:38:17 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| bailey              | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I stand for our environment, our oceans, and our wildlife to make Hawaii the first foam free state. Too many animals have died and suffered because of human carelessness and it is time we stand up and do what is right.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:21:54 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha. Please support SB2498 SD1 to ban polystyrene foam containers. Polystyrene leaches toxic chemicals into our food and precious marine ecosystem, litters our beautiful islands and is totally unnecessary in this day and age. There are a multitude of biocompostable alternatives that can easily replace this toxic container with a minimal additional charge per piece passed on to customers at point of purchase. Please do right by our keiki and support this ban. We must protect our precious aina and moana and do what's pono.

Mahalo for your consideration.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:59:33 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Selina              | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

We need to take action for our environment and it's animals. It is crucial that we eliminate the use of styrofoam before it destroys what is left of marine life.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:28:09 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lauren Blickley     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please support a bill to phase out polystyrene food containers in Hawaii! I have worked tirelessly on Maui to help pass the first polystyrene bill in the state in June 2017. Hawaii County followed suite in fall 2017. Both Maui and Hawaii county have recognized the need for this type of legislation, and understand the many environmentally preferable (and economical) alternatives to polystyrene that exist.

As a marine debris researcher, I have removed thousands of pieces of polystyrene off of Hawaii's beaches. Polystyrene constitutes at least 10% of the marine debris load on Maui, and is one of the Top 10 most commonly littered items according to annual beach cleanup data collected on International Coastal Cleanup Day.

With this bill, Hawaii will set a precedent across the nation for our efforts to combat single-use plastics such as polystyrene. Polystyrene is one of the worst plastic offenders, and is often ingested by fish, birds, turtles, and other marine life.

Many small businesses support this policy, and are happy to see Hawaii take another step towards sustainability. We recognize that we need to couple such bills with a more holistic approach to waste management, but the polystyrene policy is a critical first step.

Mahalo for your support of this important bill!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 3:18:29 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| mike biechler | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Baker and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 2498 and efforts to reduce our State's excessive use of polystyrene containers.**

I have dedicated countless hours to cleaning rivers, beaches, and shorelines around Hawai'i and am extremely aware of the amount of debris left at beaches from people's takeout food. Besides plastics from fishing vessels, polystyrene food containers are some of the most prominent things I have found. I have volunteered to clean beaches for Surfrider, Sustainable Coastlines, 808 Cleanups, and many more organizations. I even started my own hui to "MÄ• lama Waialua" on the north shore of O'ahu. On any given day, from Dillingham beach to Kaena Point parking lot, I can find between 10 and 100 styrofoam food boxes on the side of the road, in the naupaka and kiawe, and in the parking lots. Often times it is lodged deep in the bushes from being blown in by the wind.

I know that our state can do better! There are alternative food containers. Lots of them. And there are plenty of business that are out there running successful restaurants using these more environmentally conscious products. Moving away from products produced from petroleum, like styrofoam, reduces our islands' dependence on resources that threaten our State's very existence. Hawai'i has already recognized the threat that petroleum products pose to our islands and took action to stop our reliance on fossil fuels.

Using alternative food containers may come as a shock to people who are used to seeing their lunch in that little white box, but banning polystyrene is not only a great way

to protect our beautiful natural areas and marine life, which are huge economic drivers for the State, but it is also good policy, in line with our values as a State and furthers our State goals as laid out in HRS § 226-4, particularly that

*“... it shall be the goal of the State to achieve:*

*(1) A strong, viable economy, characterized by stability, diversity, and growth, **that enables the fulfillment of the needs and expectations of Hawaii's present and future generations.***

*(2) A desired physical environment, characterized by beauty, cleanliness, quiet, stable natural systems, and uniqueness, **that enhances the mental and physical well-being of the people.***

*(3) Physical, social, and economic well-being, for individuals and families in Hawaii, **that nourishes a sense of community responsibility, of caring, and of participation in community life.***”

I know that at this time in session there is a lot on the table and many priorities. I also know that this is a good bill with lots of support from communities, despite the manufacturers contentions. **Please pass SB2498 SD1 so that the merits can be heard and it can remain a topic for discussion to be vetted by other interest legislators moving forward in this legislative session.**

Sincerely,

Mike Biechler

Waiialua resident

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:25:47 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alicia Abramson     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Pretty PLEASE ban styrofoam!! Hello, I am actually from New York but Hawaii is my second home and where I plan to be the rest of my life. Styrofoam and other pollutants don't just affect your surrounding waterway, it affects everyone everywhere, you can start a global trend and have it better even the conditions here around Manhattan because it would be a shame if the water around Hawaii got to be anything like the Hudson River or the New York harbor, that would take a huge toll on the tourism. There's only good that will come from it so why not?? Can't have a capitalist system to pay out government officials if there's no earth to live on which is what styrofoam and other pollutants will cause!!! Thank youuuuu!! â•• ¢ĵ,• â•• ¢ĵ,• â•• ¢ĵ,• â•• ¢ĵ,• â•• ¢ĵ,•

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:32:10 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jack Laufer         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please support this bill to ban polystyrene foam containers. We need to get as much plastic as we can out of teh rubbish stream plus keep it from getting into the ocean.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 3:49:32 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Devin Thomas Moody  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

On both a personal and profesional level I whole heartedly support this bill. The only reason to propose it would if if there was a) financial loss b) the products to replace them were inferior. The company I manage provides meals for thousands of our clients each year. We decided to pay for compostable food containers instead of styrofoam ones and provide them free of cost the restaurant that serves our clients. The cost ended up actually being less than styrofoam and there have been zero issues or complaints. In fact, many people have educated themselves and prefer no to use styrofoam and see this as an added value. Furthermore, the cost will continue to decrease when lawmakers foce demand to go up. Hawaii is beutiful, do the right thing and help keep it that way.

Devin Moody - Honolulu resident, taxpayer and voter

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:51:02 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| naomi egami         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:25:53 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Milholen   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 3:43:59 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Yubi Peterson       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Committee Members,

I write to exclaim my support of Senate Bill 2498, which states to prohibit the sale and use of polysterene foam containers statewide. As a proud student of the University of Hawaii, Manoa I strongly believe in keeping our environment clean and free of litter pollution. With rising infrastructure and continous damage to the environment, the state of Hawaii is in danger of losing its natural beauty and the very essence of what makes Hawaii the aloha state.

The increasing rate of tourism in this state is economically beneficial but it will lead to detrimental environmental consequences unless something is done to mitigate the situation. With more people coming to visit means more waste will be produced and that will likely not stop in the short term. Additionally, by keeping Hawaii an environmentally conscous state we can preserve its natural beauty: the very thing that brings people here to begin with. By not protecting the environment, the State will lose out on future tourism.

Please consider the long term future for Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Yubi Peterson

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:47:24 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacqueline Chico    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support a ban on polystyrene foam containers. This will help protect our environment and will keep toxins from going into our food chain. When I do beach/park clean ups, I always find parts and pieces of these food foam containers. Marine animals are finding these pieces in the ocean and they are ingesting them. There are alternate solutions and there are already local vendors using them. The food containers they are using are biodegradable. I support these vendors. Polystyrene foam containers are not biodegradable. I urge the committee to please pass bill SB 2498 SD1.

Thank you for your time

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:11:06 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keith Volner        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Anyone who has done significant research into the effectiveness, efficacy, or environmental impact of Styrofoam would agree that the substance should be banned. Especially if they care at all about our water, our air, or our bodies. It is a toxic substance to produce and manufacture, and it creates a highly consumable product in which its waste is impossible to manage. It is unrecyclable, nearly un reusable, and complete unbiodegradable. It fills our dumps, our oceans, and our landfills, and it takes literally forever to breakdown. There are other options. It is completely unnecessary to keep using this material for food storage and packaging. I would ask our leaders to take 3 steps concomitantly: ban it, start educational programs regarding safe and economical alternative materials, and find a way to give incentives for consumers and businesses to use renewable, recyclable, and/or reusable materials instead Styrofoam or plastic. Thank you.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:42:16 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mio Chee            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Mio Chee. I live in Makiki area and I am in support of SB2498.

This bill is especially important to me and my family because we care about human health as well as the ocean's health. Every time we go to local beaches on the island of Oahu, they are always full of polystyrene foam containers. Despite our effort to pick them up whenever possible, they keep on appearing. I usually collect at least one bag full of polystyrene foam cups and containers whenever I go to the beach.

Those polystyrene products break down into small pieces which make it hard for us to pick up completely. When they are broken down into small pieces, small fishes eat them because they look like plankton. Those small fishes are eaten by bigger fishes and us humans eat those bigger fishes. We would not want to feed those fishes contaminated with chemicals that leached from the polystyrene to any human beings, especially babies and little children who are still growing.

With these reasons, I strongly support SB2498.

Mahalo,

Mio Chee

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:44:13 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Micah Chee          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am a middle school student in Honolulu. I support this bill. Please stop polluting the environment with polystyrene. We are the ones who will have to deal with this problem in the future.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:44:13 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Micah Chee          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am a middle school student in Honolulu. I support this bill. Please stop polluting the environment with polystyrene. We are the ones who will have to deal with this problem in the future.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:47:25 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Chee          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2498 SD 1.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:56:18 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Joe R.       | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's Oahu Chapter, in strong support of Bill 4, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Food containers on the island of Oahu.

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.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 10:10:36 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ana Dorsey          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Roughly 80 percent of marine debris originates from land-based sources. Plastics comprise 90 percent of floating marine debris.

This ban is important to our oceans and our aina. I support SB2498

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 10:23:57 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jason Parker        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please it is time we do something about the share volume of plastic entering our oceans. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose. It's about time we make sure our oceans and the creatures that live in it will be looked after for us and future generations.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 10:10:36 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ana Dorsey          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Roughly 80 percent of marine debris originates from land-based sources. Plastics comprise 90 percent of floating marine debris.

This ban is important to our oceans and our aina. I support SB2498

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 10:39:44 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Katherine forbes    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I Katherine Forbes am for the bill #SB 2498, Relating to polystyrene foam containers.

I support a state wide ban on polystyrene;

Polysterene amongst other plastics is causing health and environmental degradation and its production is energy intensive. Protect Hawaii's flora and fauna, reduce your green house gas production and keep the Hawaii islands (above and in the ocean depths) attractive to all that visit.

Hawaii, you can contribute to changing behaviours both locally and globally. As awareness of this issue rises, so will other plastics and with this, so much can be acheived to reduce and stop use of all plastics. You are in a unique position where you have millions of tourists visiting every year. Ban the foam and pass on the knowledge to contribute to change.

I also ask you to ensure there is a carefully thought out solution for their replacement.

I am for this bill, SB 4928

Thank you for listening.

Katherine Forbes (A lover of Hawaii from far away)

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 10:51:42 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pua Heimuli         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Testimony of Pua Heimuli

Supporting SB 2498 Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Monday, February 26, 2018 Room 229

While working in the native garden at Pali Lookout I dug out a styrofoam container while weeding around the native plants we had planted. Could it have been trash from one of the tourists who recently visited the Lookout or from a passing car long ago when the area was the old Pali Wayside?

Doing a simple google search on how long it takes for styrofoam to decompose says 500 years to forever! Time is NOW for this ban or generations will be digging out styrofoam from our 'Āina for years to come.

Mahalo piha for your support of this bill.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Pua Heimuli

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 10:51:45 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathleen McEvoy     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

No one should be using styrofoam anymore! It is harmful to the fragile and beautiful ecosystem that makes Hawaii the beautiful place it is and draws so many tourists to feed its economy. Future generations are being handed a trashed and abused planet and oceans because some humans have been careless and greedy. Better environmental choices NEED to be made NOW.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 10:42:31 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jason Lesser        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

The banning of any plastics or Styrofoam is a huge start in protecting the future of our earth. Styrofoam is nearly impossible to clean and is polluting our oceans. New sustainable and recyclable substitutions for Styrofoam must be used.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 10:59:26 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emily Lindahl       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Foam is polluting our oceans and land, destroying ecosystems and precious natural resources. We need to take action now by banning foam, in order to protect these resources for future generations!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 11:23:30 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nainoa              | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 11:26:35 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Megan Henry         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 11:57:30 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tom Eisen           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I pick up trash nearly everytime I'm at the beach or in the ocean, and it so often it is polystyrene foam. While optimistically, I imagine most people intend for the foam to end up in the trash and in the legitimate wastestream, so much of it ends up out in the environment where it causes well-known problems, We need to eliminate this insidious material from the wastestream and from the environment by banning it and promoting the use of readily available, more benign substitutes.

Aloha, Tom Eisen

## **Monitoring on Chemicals Derived from Debris Plastics in the World**

Katsuhiko Saido, Hideki Kimukai, Koshiro Koizumi,  
Minoru Ochiai

**Correspondence** and requests for materials should be addressed to  
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College of Industrial Technology, Nihon University  
Phone : +81-47-474-2560  
& Fax: +81-33691-5579

Address: 121 Izumi Narashinoshi, Chiba, Japan 2758575  
Key words: Debris Polystyrene, Decomposition, Contamination  
Styrene oligomer, Toxicity

Dear Senator Roz Baker's Committee,

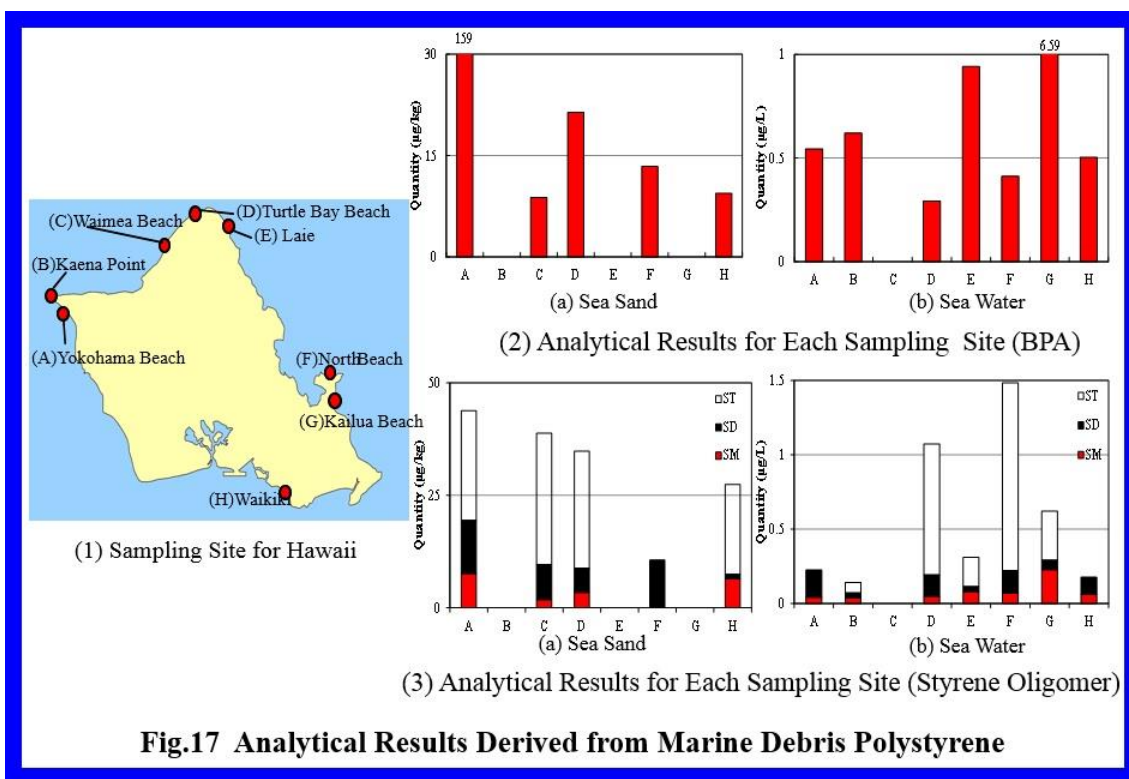
Researchers has been monitoring Oahu's coastlines  
for toxic chemical substance called Styrene Oligomer that leaches out  
from Polystyrene (Styrofoam). Disappointing to say  
that samples(beach sand and coastal sea water) taken from  
coastlines of Oahu showed both Styrene Oligomer and BPA  
contamination.

Broken up PS waste not only washes up on our beaches but  
also becomes the source of styrene oligomer (SO) contamination  
through elution and degradation under natural conditions(at 25°C).  
Field monitoring has indicated that as much as 140 million metric  
tons SO produced from 4 million tons of PS waste are possibly  
present in oceans throughout the world. SO containation has  
increased by 30,000 times as much in the past 60 years. The basic

structural units of plastic such as bisphenol-A which is also found through field monitoring pose significantly high risks to marine organism life, ecosystems and certainly, human health as well.

We can stop contaminating our future by acting now before it's too late.

We can become a leader by showing the rest of the world that State of Hawai'i care about our oceans that has been providing us with full of breath of life that connects us all. We cannot put a price tag on our oceans.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 12:29:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marjorie Bonar      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Elimination of this harmful source of marine and terrestrial debris is a small but important component of caring for our aina. The only justification for not prohibiting EPS is the benefit to the plastics industry and to those who feel that profit is the only thing worth caring for.

Please support the bill for the sake of Hawaii.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 12:34:33 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Avalon              | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

There are SO many eco-friendly products on the market that can be used for take-out containers. There is NO REASON for ANY establishment in Hawai'i to still be using this harmful, outdated material. It might be cheap, but the long-term environmental effects are insurmountable. These are only one of so many types of plastic that need to be banned. To tackle this iceberg, we need to start with the tip. No more styrofoam!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 12:49:01 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monika Haar         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

We must ban the use of polystyrene foam in our state immediately. It has lasting negative impacts to our health and the environment. The longer it is in use, the more we are polluting ourselves and the environment we live in. We must learn to take care of each other without these lasting toxins that not only destroys our health, but the entire ecosystem that we live in.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 1:18:40 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joshua Noggle       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Fully support any action to reduce single use items to minimize the pollution on our islands and our ocean.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 1:24:20 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dwamato             | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB2498. As a PHD scientist and professional environmental consultant, I understand that polystyrene has no role in our island state. Single use foam products need to be replaced with earth friendly alternatives. Based on the successful Ocean Friendly Restaurants program, it is clear that small businesses will not suffer from a slight increase in takeout containers. I will gladly pay \$0.25 more to not eat food off foam. Please do not let the plastic industry have a louder voice than the people of Hawaii. Mahalo.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 1:45:36 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carleigh Vollbrecht | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a volunteer who picks up litter in Honolulu I support the polystyrene foam container ban. These containers can be found littering our streets and often get broken up in to difficult to collect pieces that end up making their way to the storm drains, ditches, canals, and the ocean. I have recently seen other biodegradable options as well as restaurants offering dine in reusable containers as alternatives to polystyrene foam containers. Although the alternatives may have a higher cost, if all restaurants are held to the same standard the higher cost is fair across the playing field. The pollution of our land and ocean is not worth saving a few cents on packaging for the convenience of a to-go meal.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 2:09:48 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mark Bergner        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Foam was thought to be a great invention in its time, but we have seen it's negative effect on the environment and our planet. As a part time commercial fisherman, I cannot tell you how much foam chunks we are attempting to gather while at sea. I would invite any of you to come out with us and see for yourself. It is disturbing. There are better options for our planet. Foam will be eliminated from the way we use it today, and Hawaii should be a leader in this, not a late follower. Please ban foam as much as possible, at a minimum for plate lunches! Please! Our planet needs your help! Mahalo,

Mark Bergner.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 2:17:40 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Heather Armstrong   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Plastics are largely affecting wildlife in the oceans. There are so many issues with human waste products, pollution, and global warming. This bill must be passed so that the necessary steps can be taken to help sea creatures. It breaks my heart seeing the animals suffer due to human by products. Please pass to discontinue the polystyrene foam containers and other products.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 2:50:44 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Krysta              | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Making Hawaii the first foam-free state has the ability to make an impact on not only it's own surrounding ocean and environment but also worldwide. It's time to start caring for our precious resources by eliminating those that pose threats to the world we thrive upon. It's time to take a step forward and start making change for the better! This movement has such great potential and I firmly stand by it in hopes that we all do the same as responsible beings.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 2:48:07 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Katherine Ziemann   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Polystyrene contains toxic chemicals that leach into our foods, drinks, and environment when it comes in contact with them. Styrene is a known carcinogen and it is known to contaminate foods and beverages when they are warm, oily, or acidic. Polystyrene cannot be recycled and can be found ubiquitously polluting Oahu waterways and beaches. It has no place being sold or distributed in Hawaii. I urge you to help protect the health of our citizens and our environment by banning the sale and distribution of this harmful product. Thank you.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 2:52:23 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Matt Jisa           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Wanted you to know I support SB 2498

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 2:59:00 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Travis Usinger      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hello,

I live in Moloa'a Bay on the island of Kaua'i and I am in favor of this polystyrene ban. I pick up buckets of plastic off of our beach every day that are the result of disposable plastics. Many of the tourists are appalled and disgusted. Many of the residents feel hopeless and discouraged. I feel that this ban would help to make a difference in reducing the amount of disposable, nonrecyclable plastic waste that fills landfills and sometimes is discarded in a way where it ends up in our oceans and damaging the natural environment, the cleanliness of our beaches, and the way that tourists view our beaches and commitment to a clean ocean.

Thank you,

Travis Usinger

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 3:30:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kosta Stamoulis     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Polysterene plastics are environmental hazards. They are extremely toxic to make and difficult to recycle. Polystyrene and "Styrofoam" are even banned from many recycling programs because of contamination problems—less than 2% of polystyrene was recycled in 2013.

Please ban this unnecessary environmental hazard from Hawaii where most of it ends up in the ocean!

Sincerely,

Kostantinos Stamoulis

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 3:33:27 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rebecca Lane        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I think it's sad that we have to vote for something that is so clearly harmful to our environment, our community, our earth. Polystyrene foam is a danger to marine animals, and to humans. Animals eat it and we eat animals. It's no wonder human illness and disease has increased so.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 3:34:14 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| haley van noord     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please ban styrofoam in Hawaii. As a public school teacher, I see so much styrofoam waste used in school lunchrooms. Please make it stop.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 3:35:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kylie Cruz          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2498, which would prohibit the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide. This prohibition is necessary to protect our environment, health, and economy. Restaurants throughout the islands have proven that non-polystyrene foam options are practicable and affordable. It is time for Hawai'i to evolve beyond this damaging, outdated material toward greener, healthful, and modern alternatives.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 4:19:08 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kamal Kapadia       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am writing to urge you to please pass SB 2498. Polystyrene foam containers are destroying our ocean and shoreline environments, killing marine life and poisoning our food chains. Many other cities have successfully passed partial or complete bans on polystyrene foam containers with NO negative impact on local economies. This list includes New York City (and several other cities in New York), Seattle, Washington, Washington DC, Miami Beach, FL, Portland, Maine, Portland, Oregon (and several other Oregon cities) and Los Angeles County and San Francisco, California (and many other cities and counties in CA). Note that some of these cities have populations greater than our entire state's. If they can do it, so can we! Indeed, we must! I am an educator and work closely with students who are greatly worried about ocean plastics, and are brainstorming ways to make our school plastics-free. They need their legislators to step up and protect their future! We grownups need to kokua our own environment, lead by example and act pono for our youth. Mahalo!



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 4:36:06 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dabney Gough        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

It's about time we start making policy decisions that support our 'aina. Polystyrene is nonrenewable and harmful to our water and land. Please ban polystyrene for ALL food businesses!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 4:52:53 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| susan chouljian     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

It's not biodegradable, it's not recyclable it is made of fossil fuels and chemicals and it ends up in the ocean and the sealife eat it. Nantucket, Miami beach and other progressive place have already banned this. Let's protect our Hawaii environment too!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 4:57:21 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mrinal Sisodia      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Polysterene is a harmful substance, not only for the aquatic life, but also for human existence and survival on Earth. If we keep using as much plastic as we are today, this planet will soon gave more plastic and garvagg than the number of humans. Save mother nature, save our own species.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 4:59:21 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| hannah              | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Single-use foam and plastic are unnecessary and harmful to our oceans, people, animals, earth, and air. They are dramatically more harmful than helpful. Something needs to be done about it.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 5:05:41 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Matthew Chauvin     | Individual          | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments:

I support SB2498 and banning the sale of polystyrene for it's economic benefits to Hawaii's tourism industry (who wants to pay money to see a trashed beach?), for it's health benefits for anyone that eats fish and seafish (biomagnification of pollutants) and for it's ecological and environmental benefits.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 5:09:34 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelly Darling       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Polystyrene is unnecessary and unsustainable. These containers are designed to be used for a few minutes, but they will last hundreds of years in the natural environment. Please, ban polystyrene

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 6:07:07 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Suzanne Bright      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 6:19:50 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sage Morningstar    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS never degrade and are extreamly light, making it easy for them to blow into the water. My first time out on a boat to go whale watching, I saw more styrofoam to-go containers than animals. As a resident on a small island, I want to take care of the ocean and its inhabitants. Please support SB2498 to set an example for the rest of the U.S. to move towards more sustainable options.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 6:26:12 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Julie Kolomyski     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am in full support of a ban on polystyrene foam. It will make a cleaner Hawaii both land and sea.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 7:37:52 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| jill wirt           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support SB 2498! Our oceans, wildlife, and beaches will thank you for it! Ban polystyrene food containers statewide! Be the leaders of the US for the environmental change!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 7:38:26 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Judith Pittman      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 7:53:05 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Taylor Restall      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I want to be able to go to the beach and not see disposables, which largely consist of polystyrene foam. The coast is beautiful and I think we should keep it that way. Hawaii is already becoming a leader with the environment for the United States and with the ban on polystyrene foam, we will be contributing to a brighter future for tourism, local ecosystem health and the planet's health. Thank you for your time.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 8:25:22 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| SARAH BERGESON      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Sarah Bergeson and I am a resident of The Big Island. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 8:57:10 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier<br/>Position</b> | <b>Present at<br/>Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kat Culina          | Individual          | Support                       | No                            |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:26:32 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| john bendon         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

This is very important thing for Hawaii to do. There is so much trash in plastic in the ocean and this just enjoy getting our land and water sources forever

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:38:44 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tiare               | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please see attachme



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:45:11 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tiare Taylor-Brown  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Protect Our Oceans

Sylvia Earle, in her TED Talk “My Wish: Protect Our Oceans”, speaks as a “tireless advocate for our oceans”. She shares breathtaking images of the sea and the amazing creatures that inhabit it. She also shares about her own relationship with the ocean and how she’s seen it’s health rapidly decline within the past fifty years. She encourages her audience, the people interested in the ocean and value it’s importance, along with all other inhabitants of the Earth to not only learn about the ocean but she also urges everyone to preserve the health and life of the ultimate “life support system”. I couldn’t agree more with her message and argument and also encourage our entire human race to see how important the ocean is to every species and how important it is that we save it.

“The oceans cover over 70% of the Earth’s surface, carry out about 50% of global primary production and support the greatest biodiversity on the planet” (University of Hawaii). In her TED Talk, Earle explains how about half of the oxygen in the Earth’s atmosphere is supplied by the ocean including the oxygen-generating plankton that lives in it. She also talks about how the ocean is a part of all essential cycles in our life (the carbon cycle, the nitrogen cycle, the oxygen cycle, the water cycle) whether it be directly or indirectly. The ocean is a serious provider in our lives not only atmosphere-wise but also economically and nutritionally.

The ocean also provides food for not only the animals living in it but also us humans, “more than 3.5 billion people depend on the ocean for their primary source of food” (savethesea.org). “Fish supply the greatest percentage of the world’s protein consumed by humans” (savethesea.org). Without the health of the ocean, a lot of species of fish wouldn’t be healthy or even alive to consume.

Fishing in the ocean is also a job popular amongst humans, however overfishing is a major problem. “Most of the world’s major fisheries are being fished at levels above their maximum sustainable yield” (savethesea.org). National Geographic reports that “in 2006 in the journal Science grimly predicted that if fishing rates continue apace, all the world’s fisheries will have collapsed by the year 2048”. Overfishing is not only wasteful and disrespectful toward the ocean but also causes endangerment and extinction.

Moreover, another major cause of ocean endangerment is pollution. “One hundred thousand sea mammals are killed in the ocean by pollution each year” (Conserve Energy Future). Pollution like oil spills, toxic wastes, and plastic (the most common pollutant) not only hurt the oceans wildlife but also washes up on the beaches and kills the shores wildlife as well.

There are many ways to contribute into helping the issue and protecting our oceans. One major way the people in Hawaii can help is to always make sure you dispose of your trash properly when going to the beach, wear reef safe sunscreen, and/ or join in on local beach clean ups. There are many friendly non profit organizations that you can donate your time to and if you aren't available to give that then they also have places to donate money. Local organizations on Oahu include Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii (<http://sustainablecoastlineshawaii.org>) and 808cleanups (<https://www.808cleanups.org>). Their websites include other forms of contact as well as useful information like where to donate, upcoming cleanup events, and how to even run your own beach cleanup (available on the sustainable coastlines website). With a cautious minds and a little help from everyone, our oceans don't have to die and can return to its original healthy state. Take care of the ocean because the ocean takes care of us.

## Works Cited

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27, 2010 PUBLISHED April. “Overfishing.” National Geographic, 27 Apr. 2010, [www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/oceans/critical-issues-overfishing/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/oceans/critical-issues-overfishing/).

In the essay (above) that I have recently wrote, I explain my care for the ocean and its health. Polystyrene foam are one of the most common kinds of litter pollution in Hawaii and by eliminating the threat of this kind of litter to our oceans and beaches, we leap one huge step closer to helping the ocean recover and become healthy once again. Please help our oceans.

Mahalo,

Tiare Taylor-Brown

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 9:50:30 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| jillian wenderlich  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Working as an individual and with different organization I've seen first hand the irreparable damage caused to our wildlife through our choices. banned substances that are use for a single use is not only necessary but imperative to keep our state waters and lands clean and healthy.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 10:06:07 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| cassidy             | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

While styrofoam is convient and money saving now, it comes at a high cost to the environment. Hawaii's economy cannot survive without tourism which is based on the health of our oceans. There is substantial evidence that styrofoam has detrimental effects on the environment. Hawaii needs to be concerned with its sustainability and this ban is a step in the right direction. Many say that this would take a huge toll on local businesses but it will in fact help them in the end. What we do to the oceans, we are doing to ourselves. People tend to forget how influential the ocean is to every person daily. In the words of Sylvia Earle, " We need to respect the ocean as if our lives depend on it. Because they do"

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 10:18:57 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| katherine dement    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Katie DeMent and I am in support of SB2498, the polystyrene foam ban. I am a regular beach visitor and find myself 10 out of 10 times picking up broken pieces of styrofoam along the waters edge. In Haleiwa, where I live there are many food trucks and restaurants that serve their products in these containers. Many busy days on the north shore of Oahu there will be trash cans filled to the brim with plastic containers, straws and cups along with styrofoam that are spilling out onto the beach. and being blown into the water. Please take this into consideration when reviewing the bill. Many visitors of Hawaii do not understand the impact they are leaving on our island. Please help us Malama our land and ocean.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 11:05:27 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael Amrhein     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to ban polystyrene foam containers in Hawaii. These products do an incredible amount of harm to our environment, and, in particular, our oceans. Given that the ocean plays such a vital role in Hawaii's culture, economy, and beauty, I believe it is imperative that we take steps like these to preserve its health. I hope Hawaii can remain at the forefront of environmental consciousness and serve as an example for the rest of the country by passing important measures such as the bill proposed here.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 5:27:17 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| franciska quan      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Styrofoam should be banned in Hawaii because the negative qualities of it outweigh the positives. The positive is that it's cheap, lightweight, and easy to make. However, at what cost? For one, it's made from questionable chemicals and materials that are potentially hazardous to our health. It's not biodegradable and will sit for years and years- we see this all the time in our ocean or in the jungle. In turn, sea life and other animals will ingest the styrofoam which will inevitably harm them, through poisoning or intestinal blockage. Even if we wanted to recycle it- where could we do so? I'm not aware of any recycling or waste facility in Hawaii that specifically takes styrofoam to recycle it. Banning styrofoam in Hawaii is one step closer to creating a cleaner, safer home for us and our wildlife. Please take that into consideration.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 7:35:23 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cullen Brady        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hawai'i is a magical place. We all know this. In the face of so many threats, Hawai'i can be a beacon of hope and positive role model in acting to protect what it treasures. Styrofoam has no place in Hawai'i. Seeing foam when at home on the North shore of Kauai on Hanalei, or visiting the Big Island in Hawi -it is a constant reminder of what we can so easily avoid. This is the 'aina we love. From endangered monk seals on Laysan Island to children playing on the beaches in Hilo. We are all affected by this. Please ban the foam.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 8:38:13 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Steven Hernandez    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hawaii should be so proud, that your leadership towards helping our environment, and banning polyesterene shows the world an example of a conscious and responsible government. please allow this to pass. Polyesterene is a product that doesn't belong in our Oceans, and if it is not banned, it will continue to be polluted. We need to demonstrate to other states the benefit this can contribute to protecting our ecosystem from becoming our trashcan.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 8:40:34 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Angela Huntemer     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a regular participant in beach cleanups, north shore resident and sailor I implore you to move this bill ahead. Hawaii has an opportunity to lead the way here (although we would not be the first place to ban this disgusting material.) Banning this dangerous and unhealthy material is a great idea from the point of view of 1/ reducing pollution of our land and oceans and the vertebrates and invertebrates that end up consuming it. 2/ Because polystyrene is made of soft plastic it can release some of it's chemical compounds when heated. Using it to serve food in was a bad idea from the outset. Time to get rid of it. As to the potential argument from business owners regarding a possible economic "hardship"- There is a growing awareness about the stupidity of single use plastics in general. People will be increasingly asking for alternatives. I have witnessed a change over in many of the restaurants I patronize. I actually am so averse to using single use containers that I usually travel with glass containers and ask for them to filled up. Mahalo for you time and attention to this impornat bill.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:06:31 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Crystal Dombrow     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I'm a graduate student at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and I support reducing the amount of polystyrene foam in use and circulation in the state of Hawai'i. First and foremost, polystyrene use is a threat to public health. It is a plastic made from oil and chemicals that break down and leach when exposed to heat, which includes contact with hot food. These chemicals are known carcinogens and cause endocrine disruption, as investigated in the recent documentary "A Plastic Ocean." Containers made of polystyrene also don't biodegrade, are not recyclable, and their light weight often means they easily become litter when wind blows them out of garbage cans. I've witnessed this happen often throughout my time living on the Big Island and frequently visiting O'ahu. Polystyrene pollutes our waterways and ocean, further leaching chemicals when exposed to sunlight which can make it into our drinking water sources. Researchers recently found that microplastics are present within 94% of the US tap water and bottled water supplies, with a staggering 83% found in drinking water worldwide. California state has removed polystyrene from circulation with success; biodegradable and compostable alternatives are now used in restaurants, and many customers bring their own containers for take out foods or leftovers. For more information linking to published scientific articles about polystyrene as a health and environmental hazard, please visit <https://plasticpollutioncoalition.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/226347768-Chemicals> .

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:11:49 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dolores Dy-Liacco   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please support SB2498 SD1 in every way you can without delays. We have a small window of time wherein we can do something for generations to come.

There is an immediate need to create awareness around the issue of one-time use styrofoam and plastics and its detrimental effects on our landfills, waterways, and oceans.

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. By being leaders on this front, Hawaii has everything to gain.

There is compelling evidence that our oceans are being choked by all kinds of plastic and if we don't act immediately, we will run out of time.

Let's be united and put our planet and oceans before profit , it's the right thing to do.

Mahalo for your service,

Dolores Dy-Liacco

East Honolulu Resident

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:26:16 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kim Perez Hults     | Individual          | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kim Perez Hults and I am a resident of Kailua. Me and my family support this ban because foam packaging is harmful to the environment and unnecessary, with so many environmentally-friendly options now available. Let's think about our keiki and the world they will live in. Hawaii needs to be the leader for environmental stewardship, and each of these bills (such as the plastic bag ban and plastic straw ban) are one step in the right direction. We need to remove styrofoam from our landfills and move towards more sustainable choices.

We all know Hawaii loves plate lunch - and surely thousands of these styrofoam containers are getting tossed in the trash each day in our islands, with just a single use. A simple change in legislation will make a difference - so don't delay in passing this bill

Mahalo,

Kim Perez Hults

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:40:09 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Malia Heimuli       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Testimony of Malia Heimuli

Supporting SB2498 SD1 Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers

Committee of Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Monday, February 26, 2018, 10:00 AM, Conference Room 229

I strongly support this bill banning Polystyrene foam products in Hawai'i. The reason it is important to me to ban polystyrene use in Hawai'i is because it is not sustainable to use those products. In my personal life in the past 5 years, I have stopped using one-use plastic and polystyrene products to reusable glass and compostable products to hold and store the food I consume. I also encourage my 'ohana, friends, and co-workers to use reusable products to minimize the amount of 'opala that sits in our out of sight, out of mind landfills.

I know that with the stop of polystyrene use and more encouragement of using reusable products, we can all work together in our communities to keep our 'Ä• ina and our kai 'opala free and healthy!

MÄ• lama,

Malia Heimuli

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 10:25:05 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jeff Milisen        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support bil SB2498 because Hawaii should be leading the way in a clean lifestyle. There are lot of substitutes for polystyrene that will not continue to pollute our environment centuries later. Our community depends on the ocean, and our oceans need your help. Please support this bill.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 10:30:51 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| J Haltom            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha kōkou,

as a steward of our precious coast lines and beaches I support SB2498. The amount of polystyrene that ends up in our coastal waters is astonishing. I know this because I pick it up every time I walk the beach and clean up marine debris that litters our shores.

Polystyrene does not biodegrade. It multiplies into small, harder to manage particles that are ingested by many marine animals including our endemic monk seals, protected sea turtles, shearwaters and albatross to name a few. Any animal is affected when they consume fish that have ingested polystyrene particles, this includes humans. The state of Hawaii needs to act immediately to protect our islands' fragile ecosystems. Our endemic species are at risk, and our beaches are heavily impacted. The many endangered and protected species that call Hawaii home will benefit from a statewide ban on polystyrene. We will also be setting a great example to other coastal communities. We need to do everything that we can to reduce our impact and protect our beautiful beaches and marine environments. Mahalo.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 10:50:56 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Richard Furst       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2498, banning polystyrene foam food containers. We all know that "styrofoam" food containers are one of the most prevalent forms of marine pollution found in Hawaii, which causes irrevversible damage to our environment and our tourism economy. There are many environmentally-preferrable products available that serve as a replacement for these styrofoam containers. It is critical that we take action now to prevent further pollution from styrofoam food containers.

Mahalo for your support of this important legislation!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 10:54:06 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lee Monroe          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

This is a good bill for our state as our tourist driven economy relies on a clean beautiful, environment.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 11:10:50 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Todd          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support the ban on Styrene Foam in Hawaii. As an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, we are deeply affected by the use and waste of plastics and styrene foams locally and around the world, as the waste that washes up on our beaches and is eaten by our local marine life is from many places in the Pacific as well as local waste streams. If we want to preserve our health and environment, we must be an example to the rest of the world and take the necessary steps to help stop the poisoning of our environment. Please, for the sake of the health of our community, ban this unnecessary and destructive product from our island.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 11:56:05 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erik Anderson       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

For our children's generation. Polystyrene contains the toxic substances Styrene and Benzene, suspected carcinogens and neurotoxins that are hazardous to humans. Hot foods and liquids actually start a partial breakdown of the Styrofoam, causing some toxins to be absorbed into our bloodstream and tissue. Not only is it bad for the environment and takes 500 years to breakdown it is bad for our health to consume from.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 11:59:06 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Evie                | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Plastics are destroying our oceans and our world!!! Please pass this bill!!!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 12:04:52 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erica Scott         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 12:11:01 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jack Bazz           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Plastics are polluting our oceans at an increasingly devastating rate day to day.

Hawaii's unique ecosystem and livelihood depend on clean oceans and healthy sea life.

Allowing the food/restaurant industry an unchecked source of distributing pollutants to the general public is irresponsible of us as shepards of our environment.

I spend alot of my free time in the ocean, and have personally seen the amount of waste in the middle of the Pacific, it is shocking, and cannot be contained by any modern or current means available to us.

We can curtail it by removing it from the hands of those who are blind to the issue.

Hawaii needs to lead this cause, we are a closed off ecosystem, polluting ourselves out of existence.

Thank you.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 12:20:48 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cameron Dabney | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

As an avid ocean enthusiast and dedicated conservationist, I **strongly support HB2498.**

The use of Styrofoam is unnecessary. There are other more sustainable options that come with little extra cost to businesses and consumers. We are living in an age where things like single-use plastics, take out containers, coffee cups, etc. are convenient now, but something we will ultimately deal with later. We see such negative impacts of marine debris already on our shores, with wildlife, and with tourism and we need to do something more to stop it. The solution – STOP PRODUCING IT. STOP SELLING IT. STOP USING IT. There is no reason to have Styrofoam in Hawaii. Hawaii needs to continue to be the forefront of conservation as stewards of the land and ocean. Let's remove single-use items, like Styrofoam, all together.

I urge you to pass HB2498.

Thank you,

~Cameron Dabney

February 24, 2018

RE: SB2498, in support

I am 11 years old and I Katelyn, a student at 'Iolani School learned something new this week. This week the B.E.A.C.H organization came to teach us about the bill, sb2498 relating to polystyrene foam containers. This bill promotes the ban of polystyrene foam containers. Polystyrene is a toxic chemical, when you put hot food in the foam containers it will release that chemical. This chemical can be very dangerous when it's released, it can give you cancer and other severe diseases. These foam containers are made out of plastic. Plastic can last forever, it is not renewable. This plastic is made from oil. In that oil is a chemical called benzene. Scientists recently found in their latest research that coral can digest plastic so not only us will get affected, but our environment will get affected too. As I said plastic is not renewable. If you see a triangle with a six in it, it is not recyclable, only one and two are recyclable. Thank you for allowing me to testify in strong support of SB2498.

Mahalo,

Katelyn from Iolani School

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 12:54:46 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tiare Jorquera      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As the state of our oceans steadily declines due to pollution, it is important to take whatever steps we can to limit the harmful wastes that end up in our oceans. Eliminating polystyrene foam containers is a small but very impactful step we can take in order to protect our ocean and environment.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 1:50:15 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Doris Resch         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please support the ban of takout/takeaway containers and tableware statewide. The toxic chemicals that leach out of containers filled with oily, hot or acidic foods have the the biggest effect on children. I am a grandmother and it strong concern of mine. The EPA and the International Agency for Research on cancer consideres styrene as a possible carcinogen. China banned polystyrene foam containers in 1999, India and Taiwan before 2007. Polystyrene does not biodegrade for hundreds of years and is restistant to photolysis. Animal mistake it for food. Polystyrene blows in the wind and floats on water, having serious effects on the health of birds and marine animals.

Thanks for your concern and supporting the ban.

Doris Resch

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 2:32:20 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michelle Benedict   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

LITTER IS **NOT** LITTER.

This measure is long overdue. Polystyrene is hazardous to the environment, and ultimately us, as well as a poor use of petroleum resources.

Polystyrene is PERMANENT litter, it just becomes smaller and smaller as it breaks down. The same style/type of product can be made from paper which is completely biodegradable, without special facilities. This means that eventually the paper will break down into components that are not hazardous to the environment.

Banning polystyrene is inevitable if we want to save our seas. PLEASE support this measure and show that Hawaii is serious about preserving and caring for natural resources.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 2:50:08 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sandy               | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I see this product littering our beaches. I support this bill, to ban Polystyrene foam, for the reasons stated in tihe bill:

The fragments of polystyrene foam that are left leach styrene, a known carcinogen, and other toxins that then poison the environment and the local food chain. The sight of polystyrene products littering Hawaii's landscapes serves as a detriment to the State's number one industry, tourism. Polystyrene foam also contributes to the potential death of marine animals and avian populations through ingestion.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 2:58:16 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shannon Shea        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Shannon Shea and I am a resident of Kona. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe that waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 2:59:05 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cynthia King        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 3:07:14 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kristi Ingel        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

To: Chair Baker and CP Committee

From: Kristi Ingel

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB2498

I am writing in strong support of this bill. I am a teacher at Pearl Harbor Elementary School. My school uses containers made of Polystyrene. Students at my school (as well as their parents) are unaware of the health dangers posed by this material. Polystyrene contains chemicals that are carcinogenic. I believe that this type of container should be banned.

Besides being dangerous for the health of humans, this material is detrimental to the environment as it is not compostable; once it is in the ocean, waterways, or earth, it is there forever- leaching carcinogens into the soil and water.

There are many alternatives to Polystyrene: paper based containers as well as those made from other material that is not harmful to living things. Please pass this bill to ban Polystyrene.

Thank you,

Kristi Ingel

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 3:10:58 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Miya DeVoogd        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Miya DeVoogd; I am an Honors College grad living in Kapolei.

To start, there are many problems with the polystyrene product. It is made with petroleum, and when it's being made, it releases hydrocarbons into the air. When it is heated, it can leach toxic chemicals. These chemicals can actually leak into hot drinks in small amounts. The product NEVER biodegrades; it just breaks down into smaller pieces. It floats in water and blows around with the wind, which is obviously a problem in Hawai'i for tourism's sake, as well as it being injected by animals, some of which are endangered. When it's injected, it can cause serious illness. It makes you think: what happens if a tuna continually injects it throughout its life, and then a human ingests the tuna?

The only reason that we haven't banned polystyrene already is because we live in a culture of single use products and convenience. We can break free from this and start new sustainable habits. One of the biggest uses of polystyrene in Hawai'i is to-go containers like restaurant boxes or cups. There are many other options that could easily take the place of these, and it could even encourage customers to bring their own tupperware for leftovers. This will support markets for more sustainable products (like reusable, compostable, biodegradable, and recyclable products). The building of an industrial composting facility is doable, and the Dept of Environmental Services will be able to manage and enforce this ban, as they already do with the plastic bag ban.

Residents will be educated on consumer responsibility through passing of this bill, and the topic of producer/manufacturer responsibility could be a new conversation. One of O'ahu's big waste goals moving forward is source reduction. Decreasing single use products is one of the easiest ways to increase source reduction. We are already doing it with the plastic bag ban, but need more programs to support this initiative, especially because it is hard to measure its progress otherwise.

The County of Honolulu and the state of Hawai'i have been American leaders in sustainability, inspiring other counties and states to do the same. We cannot slow our progress and we cannot stop now. Please consider passing this bill for the sake of the public health, environmental health, tourism, source reduction, and sustainability.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Miya DeVogd

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 4:15:18 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Peter Beutler       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii, a state surrounded by and dependent on the ocean, I fully support this bill and believe it will help protect Hawaii's most precious resource for future generations. Viable non-styrofoam alternatives exist so negative impacts to businesses and consumers should be minimal.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 4:48:12 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bonnie Sharkey      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please help reduce the toxic trash that finds its way into our ocean. Not only does it destroy the beauty of environments that attract tourist dollars, it is poisoning the creatures of the ocean and disrupting the balance of already fragile ecosystems. Thank you so much for your time and I hope you will help lead the country in eliminating this unnecessary single use packaging.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 5:20:41 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Octavia Petrovici   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a boater sailing the Hawaiian waters often I see a disturbing amount of single use plastic and foam containers floating in our waters. I fully support the ban on polystyrene foam containers.

There are many better alternatives that will not pollute our ocean and hurt our sea life.

Respectfully,

Octavia Petrovici

Captain on SV Bella Marina

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 6:06:34 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Katrina             | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Polystyrene litters our streets, oceans, rivers and will never go away. We use this for a one time use and then throw it away never to use it again. It then just builds up and contaminates our earth. We need to rid this from our island to make a difference for our future generations and save the wildlife on our planet.

Thank you for your time

Katrina

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 6:21:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| mario espino        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Being an avid surfer and free diver , I Mario Espino Do not want anyone to use of sell styrofoam anymore . It is kill our fish and demolishing our ecosystem. Growing up in Hawaii I can testify that it has been getting way worse and something needs to happen dramatically for this crap not to be in our ocean . Aloha



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 7:17:59 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joy Silver          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I supprt SB 2498. We owe it to future generations and the environment to use alternatives that do not have such a negative impact to our island.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 7:22:20 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brittany Huntington | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Having just returned from yet another beach cleanup in Kailua, where I collected numerous pieces of polystyrene foam, it's time to ban this material from further use on the islands. Kakua aina, Kakua kai. Environmentally friendly alternatives exist and consumers will absorb the additional cost.

Mahalo,

Brittany

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 7:52:58 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| afsheen siddiqi     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 8:07:25 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kari Goodbar        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kari Goodbar. I am a resident of Palolo Valley and am employed as an animal care specialist at Dolphin Quest. I am writing you today to voice my support for SB 2498 and request that it be further considered. Every day at work my job entails educating our guests about dolphins and the issues their species face in the wild. One of the largest problems we focus on and encourage our guests to avoid are single use plastics such as polystyrene food containers. As polystyrene is light and impossible to recycle on the island, it is one of the most commonly found materials burdening storm water management systems and polluting the marine food chain. Proponents of polystyrene production argue that "litter is litter" and all trash is equally harmful to the environment regardless of material. However, this argument is completely devoid of scientific merit as countless studies have shown that materials such as polystyrene and other plastics are non-biodegradable and remain in the environment for thousands of years to ingested by marine animals or leach toxins into the food chain.

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. Please help the residents of Hawai'i stop pollution at its source by supporting SB 2498 and eliminating the presence of polystyrene in our society and therefore in our oceans.

Respectfully yours,  
Kari Goodbar

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 8:16:17 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Spencer Reemelin    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

please support this bill. There is a correct path to protect our islands. Please live pono and take care of our aina, reefs and animals/humans by banning styrofoam. Mahalo, Spencer Reemelin

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 8:24:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shannon Murphy      | Individual          | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Shannon Murphy and I the president of a beach cleanup organization at Kaiser High School called the Wipeout Crew. Throughout the past 3 and a half years, I have cleaned thousands of pounds of marine debris across the island. One of the most common items I find across the sand or deep into the bushes is styrofoam. These broken down millimeter sized pieces are incredibly hard to clean up because they are extremely light-weight and blow away in the wind. Everyday, hundreds, if not thousands of pieces of styrofoam arrive on shore from across the ocean- but it is impossible to get rid of.

Not only that, polystyrene is dangerous to our health and is a chemical classified as a possible human carcinogen by the Environmental Protection Agency. Trace amounts of polystyrene migrate into food, especially in hot food according to a senior scientist at the Environmental Working Group. Chronic exposure to polystyrene is associated with headache, fatigue, weakness, impaired hearing, depression, and effects on kidney functioning. The list goes on and on.

The solution to this issue is extremely simple: switch to paper or molded-fiber products. Hawaii does not need styrofoam any longer. As a 17 year old, I know my generation can make this change and adapt our lifestyles to being plastic free. This ban will ignite that change; we can save marine organisms and live healthier lives. At my age, I have realized polystyrene is a convenience and nothing else. It does not need to be in this beautiful island that we call home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:10:21 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Elana Jadallah | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

Aloha Honolulu County Council Members,

I am writing to you in strong support of SB2498, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Containers here in Hawai'i.

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.

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. As I walk the beach each week, there is more plastic than seashells which is absolutely alarming. These effects are all detrimental to the health of our ecosystems and leave an ugly scar on the landscape.

I hope that through this bill being passed and others to follow, that our Cities, Counties, and State can lead the way to rethinking the manner we create, handle, and discuss waste. 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.

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.
- The Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) created a plastic cleanup valuation study for 90+ counties in California:
  - CA taxpayers are paying \$428 million per year to clean up plastic through storm drain management, street sweeping, and cleanups.
  - 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.
  - 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 dioxide (a potent greenhouse gas) annually. Although touted as a "clean energy solution" for Hawaii, H-POWER only generates about 3% of Oahu's energy needs 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.
- 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 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)
  - 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).

I truly appreciate your time and energy in considering these important matters and hope you understand the incredible power you have to make an enormous impact in the future of Hawai'i and our world.

Mahalo nui loa,

Elana



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:21:04 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aaron               | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Honolulu County Council Members,

I am writing to you in strong support of SB2498, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Containers here in Hawai'i.

We are at a pivotal point in our plastic pollution and waste management measures. The burdens of single use plastic are getting out of control all around the world as the amount of plastics accumulating 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!

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. These facts are sickening and change is needed.

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. As I walk the beach each week, there is more plastic than seashells which is absolutely alarming. These effects are all detrimental to the health of our ecosystems and leave an ugly scar on the landscape.

I hope that through this bill being passed and others to follow, that our Cities, Counties, and State can lead the way to rethinking the manner we create, handle, and discuss waste. 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.

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.
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  - CA taxpayers are paying \$428 million per year to clean up plastic through storm drain management, street sweeping, and cleanups.
  - 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.
  - 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 dioxide (a potent greenhouse gas) annually. Although touted as a "clean energy solution" for Hawaii, H-POWER only generates about 3% of Oahu's energy needs 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.

- 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.
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- 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 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)
  - 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).

I truly appreciate your time and energy in considering these important matters and hope you understand the incredible power you have to make an enormous impact in the future of Hawai'i and our world.

Mahalo,

Aaron

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:26:03 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James               | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is James and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona, HI. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future. Today, there are so many alternatives to polystyrene foam containers. Prohibiting the use of polystyrene foam containers would help to reduce the environmental impact of disposable containers by forcing businesses to use other available options.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:26:04 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy               | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Honolulu County Council Members,

I am writing to you in strong support of SB2498, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Containers here in Hawai'i.

We are at a pivotal point in our plastic pollution and waste management measures. The burdens of single use plastic are getting out of control all around the world as the amount of plastics accumulating in our oceans is rapidly increasing. As an island we should be the leaders for the world in reducing these detrimental plastics like polystyrene foam!

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. These facts are sickening and change is needed. As someone who has lived in Hawai'i for 40 years, I would love to see the damage these products are causing be brought to a halt.

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. As I walk the beach each week, there is more plastic than seashells which is absolutely alarming. These effects are all detrimental to the health of our ecosystems and leave an ugly scar on the landscape.

I hope that through this bill being passed and others to follow, that our Cities, Counties, and State can lead the way to rethinking the manner we create, handle, and discuss waste. 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.

The economic, environmental and human health impacts of foam to our islands are more than I can list and it would be incredible to see this plastic banned in my lifetime. I truly appreciate your time and energy in considering these important matters and hope you understand the incredible power you have to make an enormous impact in the future of Hawai'i and our world.

Mahalo nui loa,

Nancy



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:36:05 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| kaylee taylor       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

The amounts of Styrofoam waste that accumulates is colossal, as only 1% of Styrofoam is recycled in California according to a 2016 [Los Ange](#)news report. Problems created due to large amounts of waste include the following:

- Styrofoam easily breaks into small bits. Small land and aquatic animals eating these pieces die due to toxins and blockage of their stomachs leading to starvation, according to Los Angeles Times.
- This, combined with the fact that Styrofoam is lightweight and therefore floats, means that over time a great deal of polystyrene has accumulated along coasts and waterways around the world. It is one of the main components of marine debris.
- Given its porous nature it absorbs many other carcinogenic pollutants in the sea water like DDT produced in other countries, according to Los Angeles Times.
- Much of it sinks to the bottom of the sea where it pollutes the seabed. When the fish eat toxic materials in Styrofoam and the additional pollutants it absorbs, the chemicals bioaccumulate and can harm people who consume this seafood according to the Los Angeles Times.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:36:58 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tre                 | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Tre. I am 11 years old. I am writing to ask that you consider banning polystyrene containers.

There are many reasons why there should be a ban on polystyrene foam containers for food and drinks. One reason to ban polystyrene containers is because it contains benzene. Benzene is very harmful to one's health and causes cancer. Another reason to ban polystyrene is because it contains styrene. Styrene leaches or comes out of the containers on to the food when it is heated. This is dangerous because styrene is toxic to the brain and nervous system. It has been found to adversely effect red blood cells, the liver, the kidney, the stomach, and the immune system also. Oil things cause leakage and acidic things make the styrene come out. Additionally, all plastic numbers 1-7 including BPA free plastic leaches chemicals causing estrogenic activity or EA. This is harmful because it causes fake hormones. It can also cause breast cancer, prostate cancer, diabetes, obesity, and EA. The worst effect on a body is autoimmune disease. The first-born child gets 50% of the mother's autoimmune disease. Another reason polystyrene is bad is because people litter polystyrene and plastic lasts forever. Later albatross chicks eat the plastic and die. Polystyrene breaks down quicker in seawater and is ingested by coral and algae. Then, it goes up the food chain and we eventually could eat the fish that is contaminated with polystyrene. These are the reasons why there should be a ban on polystyrene containers.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will truly consider this important ban for the sake of our health and environment.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:38:15 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mala Arkin          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Feb 24, 2018

SB 2498, RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2498. I strongly support this bill. A prohibition on the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers is long overdue and will immediately and permanently improve human and environmental health locally and beyond. We need to move towards more biodegradable and reusable options to reduce the amount of toxic trash going into our landfills and oceans. Please pass SB2498 this year!

Mahalo,

Mā• la Arkin

PO BOX 11988

Honolulu HI 96828

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 9:42:36 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chai Blair-Stahn    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2498 and the banning of polysterene foam. Polysterene is detrimental to our environment and can kill engandered animals such as sea turtles or humpback whales -- animals that are protected by federal law. I have been to beaches on the North Shore of O'ahu that are lined with pieces of polysterene that has washed back up from sea. We need to protect the beauty of Hawai'i and the health of our Island's unique marine life. Also, studies show that marine creatures may unintentionally eat polysterene and other plastic items; by default, when we eat fish, we are eating this toxic material too! This is both a major environmental and human health issue. Please stand up to protect the citizens of Hawai'i and vote in favor of SB2498.

## Testimony for SB2498

I support SB2498. I am an 11 year old that lives in Manoa, who is concerned about the future of my community. Polystyrene is not the best choice to use as a container. There are better alternatives that are not bad for the environment, such as paper, bamboo, fibers, etc. Polystyrene has negative chemical effects on our health, hurts the environment (the one we're working **so** hard to protect, right?). Plastics like polystyrene do not *biodegrade*. I want to keep our island a paradise, not an uninhabited, poisoned, chemical wasteland!

Polystyrene has many negative chemical effects. It contains two dangerous chemicals that are suspected carcinogens and neurotoxins. One is benzene (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>), which causes cells in our body to work incorrectly. Styrene is another dangerous chemical contained in polystyrene. It is toxic to the brain and nervous system and also adversely affects our red blood cells, kidneys, liver, and stomach. These chemicals seep into food from the polystyrene. Heat releases the chemicals from the polystyrene, allowing them to seep into our food and drink (whatever is in the container). Another chemical effect of polystyrene is that it causes estrogenic activity that can lead to breast cancer, diabetes, obesity, and feminization. Finally, our firstborn children get **half** of our chemicals causing leukemia, lymphoma, or other cancers.

Polystyrene also has a great effect on the environment, because it is **non-biodegradable**. Wind carries it to the sea and streets causing pollution. Once the polystyrene (carried by the wind or other force) falls in the ocean, small fish (such as lantern fish) eat it. The chemicals are carried up to the top of the food chain, and the fish you ate last night could have been full of benzene or/and styrene. There have been cases of fish affected by estrogenic activity as result of eating polystyrene. A male fish grew **egg sacks** (feminization). Coral take in the nanoplastics and die. I want to help conserve places like Hanauma Bay, one of our state treasures, by supporting a ban on polystyrene products.

People say that the polystyrene ban will have **such** bad effects on our environment. Polystyrene cups (in contradiction to paper cups) use around 42% less water, require about 17% less energy and use 22% less petroleum to source materials and ship. However, on the other side, paper cups (in contradiction to polystyrene cups) produce about 28% fewer fossil fuels, will decompose in a landfill in 20 years or less (as opposed to 1,000+), decompose in water in a few days with little to no chemical traces (instead of 50 years and lots of harmful chemicals), are easier to recycle and reuse, and are not toxic. I think that the better container is *paper*. 28% less fossil fuels reduces global warming. *Paper* also decomposes faster and does not leave any harmful chemicals like benzene or styrene behind.

It might be costly, but less people will die and get sick as a result from a polystyrene ban. I fully support the ban on polystyrene (SB2498). I care about our ecosystem, so I wish to see this senate bill turned into a law. Polystyrene is littering our oceans and hurting our beautiful island. San Fransisco banned polystyrene and as a result, had 36% less waste. Please malama our island by turning this bill into a law. Mahalo!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 10:36:51 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brandi Marlowe      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I fully support SB 2498, which prohibits the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers. Styrofoam is in our streets, in our parks, in our high tourist areas, on our most beautiful beaches, and in our ocean. It is everywhere. I work in the produce department of a local grocery store on Oahu. We receive pounds upon pounds of styrofoam boxes each year. We have pallets of old styrofoam boxes which sit outside, waiting to be thrown away. We throw them in the dumpster and smash them down so we can fit as much as possible inside; this causes pieces to fall and they blow around with the wind. Many pieces make their way to the storm drain in the middle of the road just a few feet away. We have styrofoam boxes come in faster than we can get rid of them. I'm glad to see something might be done about styrofoam because it is a hazard. Now that I see how much comes and goes in our store alone, it makes me wonder just how much we receive in *all* of Hawaii. The ocean is key for our tourist industry, and it is important for life as we know it in Hawaii. I worry about our oceans and our local reefs and it's animals. I also worry about us. It is toxic and it is nearly impossible to avoid. Please place a ban on styrofoam in Hawaii; place a ban on styrofoam *for* Hawaii.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 10:44:53 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Derrick             | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2498. It is harmful to our bodies and to our environment. Please protect our islands and ban it from Hawaii. Thank you.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 11:02:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaja A Gawronski    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support banning the use of all polystyrene foam containers in Hawaii. This will reduce waste and help the environment. I would like people to use earth friendly options instead, such as bringing a coffee mug from home instead of using the styrofoam cups, using and reusing cardboard egg cartons, and restaurants wrapping togo food with options like Meli Wraps which are alternative togo containers... cloths made from cotton, wax, tree resin and plant oils. There are many creative and sustainable alternatives to Styrofoam which do not harm the environment. Styrofoam takes hundreds of years to break down in landfills, and cannot be recycled. It is polluting the land and oceans. Please ban polystyrene foam containers in Hawaii so we can keep these islands and the ocean clean and beautiful for future generations.

Sincerely,

Kaja Gawronska



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 11:08:40 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emi Todani          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support the ban on the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers in Hawaii. We are subjected to many chemicals in our environment, through the foods we eat, toxins in the air we breathe, chemicals in the products that we use on our skin, etc. We need to take steps to decrease the contaminants in our life where ever possible. We need to be "pro-life", live a healthy life. We should be proactive and take control of the health of ourselves and our environment. We want to give our future generations, a future. Let's work together to support our future.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 11:38:59 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| akua campanella     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hawaii can be a better example of what responsible communities do to protect their resources. We are an island community that can see first hand how our beaches and animals (and ourselves) are impacted by non-biodegradable products. It is shameful that so many businesses seem uneducated and unwilling to consider using more earth-friendly containers. Though change can be a big adjustment for some; this type of change is a progressive step that is for the sake of our present and our future. Can Hawaii be forward thinking and support this bill? I sincerely hope so. Below is a list, compiled by Groundswell, of just some of the cities with Polystyrene bans in the US. California has 65 ordinances that can be seen on the Surfrider website. There are even more cities and islands around the world banning Polystyrene.

New York City (and several other cities in New York)

Takoma Park, MD

Seattle, Washington

Washington DC

Miami Beach, FL

Freeport, Maine

Portland, Maine

Nantucket (City & County), Massachusetts

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Portland, Oregon (and several other Oregon cities)

Los Angeles County and San Francisco, California (and many other cities and counties in CA)

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 11:41:51 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization              | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Harvy King   | Testifying for High Crown | Support            | Yes                |

Comments:

I am Harvy King, currently a resident of Kaneohe. I am Veteran of the US Navy. I am certified in Environmental Protection. **I strongly support SB2498.** I submitted testimony on this bill last year. Since then I have sought out and discovered the work of Professor Katsuhiko Saido PhD of Nihon Univeristy in Japan. He is an internationally recognized member in the field of Chemistry, referenced on the front page of the New York Times back in August 27, 2009 in an article titled, "Our Plastic Legacy Afloat." He and his team have written several scholarly papers and toured the world presenting their work. Polystyrene is just one of the toxic chemicals that he has studied. It was his research on ocean plastic leaching bisphenol A (a.k.a BPA) into the environment that spearheaded the FDA's BPA ban in products made for babies. BPA is an edocrine disruptor. BPA, Polycarbonate (PC), Epoxy resin (EPX), Polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and **Polystyrene** (which is a known **carcinogen** and **neurotoxin**) are being found in everywhere in the world. Some of these plastic byproducts have even been found in the livers of Bald Eagles in Alaska from the consumption of salmon. The top of the food chain in some of the most remote ecology in the world are not safe from the toxic chemicals. Professor Saido has received awards for his work on ocean plastic. His life's work has been studying plastic byproducts and the extent of which this problem is consuming the world. It is my recommendation that you give his work the attention it deserves with concern to SB2498, Hawaii Nei, and the World. He has even developed technology that is ready to solve the problem of marine debris washing on coastlines around the world.

Your work is greatly appreciated.

Thank You, Muchas Gracias, Mahalo Nui

Harvy

(harvy@hawaii.edu)

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 11:46:28 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bonny               | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a concerned citizen, parent, and educator, I am writing to document my support of SB2498.

Studies have shown that polystyrene containers are detrimental to our health and environment. Thus, there are many reasons to support a ban on polystyrene foam containers. The components of these containers, including benzene and styrene, are toxic. Heating the containers compromises them and causes them to leak substances that are carcinogenic and damage the immune and nervous systems, as well. In addition to being extremely harmful to our health, polystyrene containers often litter our parks and oceans. Just as with heat, salt water weakens the containers. When marine animals and birds ingest parts of these containers, it causes them much harm. Unfortunately, the toxic chemicals can contaminate the entire food chain. For these alarming reasons, there should be a ban on polystyrene containers.

Your time and consideration are truly appreciated.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 12:35:03 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pranay Singh        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Honolulu County Council Members,

I am writing to you in strong support of Bill 4, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Food containers on the island of Oahu.

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 Hawaii 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.

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.

Foam and plastic bags are 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 Bill 4 needs to passed right now or else we might not be able recover our pristine ocean ecosystems**

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 12:44:59 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Raj Kumar Singh     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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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.

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Foam and plastic bags are 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 Bill 4 needs to passed or else we might not be able recover our pristine ocean ecosystems.**



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 3:00:23 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ted Bohlen          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hawaii uses more polystyrene per capital than any other state. As a Honolulu resident, I strongly support a ban on polystyrene foam containers for four main reasons: human health, animal health, environment, and costs.

â—» Polystyrene leaches carcinogens and when burned emits toxic chemicals that can endanger human health.

â—» This light and brittle material blows into waterways and breaks down easily, endangering all kinds of marine life that think it is food.

â—» Polystyrene litter despoils the beautiful pristine environment on which our recreational economy depends.

â—» Finally, the costs of removal of polystyrene from storm sewers and waste streams is enormous. The additional cost of sustainable substitutes are insignificant compared to the above benefits. Please ban this plastic garbage! Mahalo!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 5:27:22 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alexia C Benrezkellah | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Alexia Benrezkellah and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 5:59:13 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elizabeth Lenz      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hawai'i must be a leading example in sustainable living. We must mitigate the negative impacts of waste, by banning hazardous petroleum-based plastics from our State. Polystyrene is excessively used in food industries, storage, and insulation. The manufacturing of polystyrene alone has health risks associated in addition to the release of hydrofluorocarbons into the atmosphere which further contributes to carbon emissions in the atmosphere. The accumulation of waste is appalling. Polystyrene takes 500 years to decompose, that is ~20 generations. If polystyrene is burned in the incinerator, it produces toxic air and the remaining ash is discarded into landfills, being a source of leaching chemicals. There is no counterargument that could possibly justify the continuation of polystyrene use because of the enormous impact on our air, land, and water. We need to prioritize the health of our community and environmental resources. This is a choice. Hawai'i has the opportunity to be a leading example. Hawai'i can continue to make sustainable choices that shows through our actions that how we value the environment over short sighted, low cost food containers. Let's improve our State and challenge others to live a more sustainable life with low impact on other communities and environments.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 6:00:01 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Qian Li             | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am supporting the call to action-getting polystyrene foam out of our island. This action should've been done long ago. To save our planet and home.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 6:44:28 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cynthia Josserand   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Just drive or walk down any street and you will see the need for this ban. We are choking on polystyrene foam. The beaches are littered with it and when it is broken down into small pieces, it is impossible to pick up.

There are other products that can be used.

We need to take every step possible to protect our beautiful island and the ocean.

Mahalo

Cynthia Josserand

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 6:56:48 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kekai Quartero      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:03:36 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Madeline Job        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please vote in Support of SB2498! A single-use plastic free Hawai'i can set an example for the world on what responsible communities do to protect their resources. The ocean and islands system is the biggest resource we have. Let us be stewards of this incredible, diverse ecosystem and show love for that which makes Hawaii unique: biodiversity and ocean life! Set a precedent as the Americas, and world, move forward into a the third revolution (Jeremy Rifkin; Germany: China): a sharing economy, dependent on renewable resources, with new infrastructure and laws supporting growth and respect for life systems and creatures. Think of all of the revenue Hawaii brings in with tourism. Expand that revenue by continuing to make Hawaii a top ecotourism destination, that will teach visitors to appreciate Hawaii, as we do. Thank you for your your time, taking a moment to support a measure that will sound for ages into the future, to keep Hawaii pristine for all to enjoy!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:03:50 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natalie Urbano      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I don't know how much more evidence is required for us, humans, the ones to blame for the pollution of our oceans, the sustent of our existence, to do something about it. This is the moment to begin making a difference.And this is a perfect way to do so.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:20:25 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Terrie Bennett      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Honolulu County Council Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of Surfrider Foundation's Oahu Chapter, in strong support of Bill 4, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Food containers on the island of Oahu.

I appreciate you taking the time & consideration to listen to the testimonies in regard to the long term health of the ocean environment in and around the Hawaiian Islands & the mounting issues of plastics on our fragile and threatened reefs. As an island Hawaii should be leaders for the rest of the world in reducing these detrimental plastics like polystyrene foam.

Thank you in advance from a concerned citizen and ocean activist.

Mahalo,

Terrie Bennett

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:24:03 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joshua              | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha!

As an avid waterman, nature lover, and resident of Maui I implore you to consider supporting SB2498 in its current form. I swim in the waters, and hike the trails of Maui and Lana'i on a daily basis, and volunteer at monthly beach clean-ups - and can confidently testify that polystyrene foam food containers (or broken down pieces thereof), are by far what I pick up most frequently on a daily basis.

These specific items are polluting coastal and mauka environments across our state at unprecedented levels, and the data is clear that the benefits this legislation will provide to our residents and guests will far usurp the minimal cost associated with restaurants who are compelled to comply. In addition, studies of other municipalities who have passed similar measures, have shown that not only does this type of legislation reduce waste, and improve the health of our environment; but it dramatically reduces the cost of clean-up, therefore reducing the burden placed on State & County budgets, and subsequently the taxpayer. Further, it provides the many volunteer organizations around our state the ability to re-allocate our resources to other much needed projects such as clean-water initiatives, energy sustainability projects, and invasive species removal.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your leadership in supporting this initiative; and for your past support of other initiatives that have made Hawai'i a shining example for others to follow.

Aloha,

Joshua Sewell

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:31:38 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Orion Quintanilla   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please support SB 2498 to ban polystyrene foam. Our environment is the most important resource we have. Keeping our environment clean and ecosystems healthy will help them last for decades and beyond, and promote more revenue through a pristine environment and efforts to conserve it. The future is long. Support a future with a clean environment, with a healthy ecosystem, with stewardship that can teach future generations, and with respect for humans and all other marine and island-dwelling creatures.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:34:46 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rebecca Pang        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

One of the ways to move Hawaii to a more cleaner, more sustainable future is to eliminate the use of polystyrene foam. My family has lived in these islands for five generations, and I feel an imperative responsibility to take care of our home and keep it clean for ourselves and future generations.

Polystyrene may be cheap, but it is also contaminates the environment and requires centuries to biodegrade. We see it regularly in our oceans, streams, and coastlines. Whether intentional or not, it's there. Forever.

Polystyrene also poses a legitimate threat to our marine life, who may mistake small pieces of foam for food. We, in turn, are eating these fish. What a vicious – yet preventable – cycle.

I travel regularly and know it's possible to phase out polystyrene, as cities like San Francisco have already done so. Hawaii just needs to catch up with everyone else.

The bottom line... we know polystyrene is bad. We know it does not break down. So why not do something about eliminating its use?

Let's move legislation forward to reduce the source of this unnecessary pollution that is so damaging to our bodies and our environment. We deserve a cleaner future.

Thank you for letting me voice my concerns.

Rebecca Pang

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:37:49 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| anna                | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Anna Curtis and I am a resident of Waialua on the island of Oahu. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:48:56 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaily Wakefield     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker and Committee Members,

My name is Kaily Wakefield, I am a Kaneohe resident and an advocate for the health of my community, our state, and our environment. As such, I am writing in my individual capacity in Support SB2498.

Polystyrene foam is an unnecessary modern convenience that is damaging to the environment and human health. It contains elements that are known to be carcinogenic, it is rarely if ever recycled, and because of its light weight it easily blows out of rubbish cans at public parks and beaches. Polystyrene foam litter is a regular occurrence - one that could easily be mitigated by the passage of this bill.

While the plastics issue is far bigger than just foam, I believe this bill is a step in the right direction, which could easily reduce a large contributor to pollution that is harmful to our beautiful home. I support SB2498 as a step towards bringing back the health of our beaches and marine life. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Kaily Wakefield

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:51:23 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| laurel podesta      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support limiting polystyrene foam.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:57:14 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Charlie Taylor      | Individual          | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2498 and any efforts by the Hawaii State Legislature to limit and/or ban polystyrene foam containers (and single-use disposable plastics as well). This is an important time for Hawaii and the planet in general, and Hawaii should be bold and help take the lead with this initiative.

I am a seaman and the amount of non-disposable plastic/foam containers that I see way out in the ocean (hundreds and even thousands of miles out) is horrifying. We've got to put a stop to this.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:07:45 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David corley        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is David Corley, I am a resident of Kailua-Kona. I am testifying in support of SB2498 because waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's, and the world's, future.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:09:31 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michelle DeMuro     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of bill SB2498. Polystyrene Foam is not necessary for the containment of food. This product has and still is doing significant harm to our earth and there are better substitutes. I am very excited to see this bill.

Thank you very much!

Michelle

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:18:27 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Meredith Buck       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support SB2498 SD1, banning Polystyrene in Hawai'i. Our communities are already suffering the consequences of ubiquitous single-use plastics. The beaches and roadsides are frequently littered with styrofoam. Fish and bird populations suffer, and this affects the economy as well as our citizens. Please kokua - together we can eliminate plastic pollution by ending our reliance on single-use plastics and styro, and looking to better solutions in the islands.

TO: Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Commerce,  
Consumer Protection and Health

NAME: Dean Otsuki

RE: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2498 SD1**  
Relating to polystyrene foam containers  
Committee hearing on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at 10AM.

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Commerce,  
Consumer Protection and Health,

I am writing in strong support of SB2498 which would prohibits the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide.

Polystyrene foam is harmful to people's health. Polystyrene foam containers contain the chemical styrene which leaches into hot food and drink. Acidic foods and drinks also causes styrene to migrate out of the foam and into food and drink. Styrene has been linked to cancer, vision and hearing loss, impaired memory and concentration, and nervous system effects.

Polystyrene is made from petroleum and contains benzene which is carcinogenic. Styrene, the chemical in styrofoam, which is also known as ethenylbenzene, vinylbenzene, and phenylethene, is a derivative of benzene. The National Toxicology Program lists styrene as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen". HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons) are used when manufacturing polystyrene foam which are still linked to depleting the ozone layer and affecting global warming. Workers in the polystyrene plastic industry are known to have higher incidences of cancer and suffer adverse effects from inhaling styrene.

With research showing that eating and drinking out of polystyrene containers is harmful to people's health it is obvious that we should eliminate foam food and drink containers from the state of Hawai'i.

There are better, healthier alternatives like compostable containers for polystyrene food containers on the market today that don't have the toxic chemicals in them like styrene. Compostable containers are 100% plant based so if they do get into the marine environment they will not harm marine life as compostables are non-toxic. Prices of compostable containers have been going down because demand is going up from restaurants. I avoid restaurants that serve food out of polystyrene foam and other people are doing the same. Another alternative to polystyrene foam containers is to bring your own reusable container.

Food vendors and food packagers should not be allowed to substitute polystyrene foam for another type of plastic because researchers have found that all types of plastics 1-7 leach chemicals having estrogenic activity. These chemicals mimic the hormone estrogen and can cause all types of hormonal imbalances in the human body.

Polystyrene foam containers are very light and can easily blow into the ocean where marine life can ingest them. Plastic in the ocean accumulates persistent organic pollutants

(POPs) such as DDT, DDE, PCB's, and dioxins on the surface of the plastic up to a million times more than the surrounding sea water making the plastic very toxic. When marine life ingest marine debris those POPs migrate to the fatty tissues of the animal. These POPs bioaccumulate up the food chain where the top of the food chain including humans get the most chemicals. POPs are endocrine disruptors that can interfere with the endocrine (or hormone) system. Endocrine disruptors can cause cancerous tumors, birth defects, and other developmental disorders.

Please pass SB2498 to protect residents and visitors from the toxic chemicals from polystyrene foam and help save marine life.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Otsuki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "O".

Dean Otsuki

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:19:14 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Randy Ching         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support this SB2498 because I have witnessed first-hand the pollution and destruction of nature caused by waste containing polystyrene products. Polystyrene breaks apart; it does not decompose. I am worried for the future of our seas and the health of the fish/food we eat. We need to protect the natural resources that we have in order to sustain life on this planet.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:41:46 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ed lee              | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha, let's show that we care for our keiki and make Hawaii a foam free State.  
Let's show the real meaning of aloha and show aloha to our islands and our people.

Mahalo

Ed Lee

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:47:12 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Makia Gerell        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hello, my name is Makia Gerell, I am 11 years old and I live in Hawaii Kai. I am writing in strong support of SB2498 which bans the use and sale of polystyrene foam containers. Polystyrene is one of the harmful plastics in chemical terms. Polystyrene is made from petroleum and contains benzene which causes cancer. Polystyrene can leach styrene which is toxic to the brain and affects red blood cells, the liver, kidney and stomach. Every single plastic contains chemicals and when heated can release styrene. So since I am a kid I have the power to change these health problems which is why I'm writing. These problems can impact health a lot and the world doesn't want that.

Sincerely,

Makia Gerell



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:00:32 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cameron Ching       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support this polystyrene ban because I've seen how it affects our many animals in the ocean and us the most. My name is Cameron Ching, I'm in 5th grade at Iolani School and I stand for this polystyrene bill. The polystyrene will not byo-degrade in the landfill and will leach harmful styrene that will go into the ocean and kill many other animals. The styrene affects many humans also. Some people eat out of polystyrene containers everyday. Pass this bill for the health and safety of humans and other living animals. Protect this planet for the next generations. Mahalo, Cameron

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:01:55 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Krista Donaldson    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Anthony Sargis and i am a resident of Kailua Kona, HI. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because i believe waste managment and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaiiis future.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:02:57 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By       | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Chelsea Huddleston | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

I am a resident of Maui and I'm writing to ask that you hear SB2498 in the CPH Comm. Will you schedule a hearing for this bill? If not, can you tell us why, especially when Maui County just passed a similar bill last year?

Maui has a unique opportunity to further position ourselves as a leader in the environmental movement and eco-tourism community, with a broad view that that reducing use of plastic/ foam products is not only essential to preservation of our land & water but recognizes a healthy ecosystem as key driver of our local economy. A few facts to consider:

- Polystyrene food containers are one of the most toxic forms of plastic (made from non-renewable fossil fuels) and are one of the most littered items in our beaches
- Hawaii has one of the highest per capita uses in the country.
- Styrene is a dangerous carcinogen and neurotoxin that leads to cancer, lymphoma and leukemia. The EPA says 100% of humans have styrene in their fat tissues (Study from National Institutes of Health)
- EPS foam food service products break apart and are blown out to sea, where they are consumed by marine creatures who mistake them for food, including endangered species like sea turtles and albatross.
- The foam never biodegrades but only breaks into smaller micro-plastics which are sponges for toxic chemicals in the ocean, continuously poisoning marine ecosystems.
- Over 110 cities and counties across the country have enacted EPS foam bans with dramatic decreases in litter and savings to the county (30% decrease in EPS litter within one year after San Fran ban)
- There are many affordable, compostable, biodegradable and/or non-toxic plastic alternatives that can be recycled posing much less threat to the environment and human health ...also costing counties far less to clean up.
- A recent study in Science showed that plastics are a major cause of coral reef disease and decline, and our Islands are dependent on our coral reefs for seafood, ocean recreation and tourism.

Thankyou for your leadership in this issue.

Aloha,

Chelsea

**SB 2498**  
Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers  
**In Strong Support**

Hearing Date: Monday, February 26th, 2018 at 10:00 AM  
Room: Conference Room 229  
Committee: Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Dear Senator Rosalyn Baker and Senator Jill Tokuda,

I am a resident of Manoa and a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in Materials Science and Engineering and strongly support SB2498, the statewide ban of polystyrene food containers.

Being part of a committee that protects the consumer and our health, you should support this bill as well. Polystyrene food containers leaches toxic chemicals (styrene) into the food when served with liquids with an increasing contamination of the food when those liquids are hot, such as tea, coffee, soups, currys, or sauces. These are known and well studied facts but here in Hawai'i most take-out containers are still made of styrofoam, school cafeterias still serve our kids their lunch out of polystyrene food containers, risking their health simply because polystyrene is the cheapest choice. Polystyrene together with single-use plastics is one of the most littering materials on hawaiian beaches but cannot be recycled, so the only option we have in Hawai'i is to burn it. This results in greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide) and air polluting fumes such as styrene which is known to be carcinogenic to humans and animals.

The main argument that this bill has not passed in the past decade was usually that it would be a financial burden for the business owners that provide take-out containers. I agree, polystyrene is cheaper to buy (5 cents per 8" clamshell) compared to plant-based options (22 cents per 8" clamshell), but would you intoxicate your guest just to save 17 cents. There is always the option to pass this extra expense down to the consumer that needs a take-out container, and a lot of restaurants already do so. If you consider the millions of dollars that the state has to spent to clean up our beaches from styrofoam litter, then polystyrene food containers are more expensive in the long run. Once this bill has passed there will automatically be a higher demand for compostable food-containers and more demand leads to competition among the many distributors and therefore to a lower price per unit.

Most people indeed are not aware of the negative impact of EPS foam containers on health and the environment. Therefore it is our duty, yours and mine, to educate and protect those who do not know about those facts and those who trust in the honorable decisions that are made by you to protect their health. It is simply not acceptable if a committee on consumer protection and health would not support this bill just to please businesses that knowingly use toxic food containers.

Maui and the Big Island are already foam free and so should the rest of the islands. The islands and our health should be our highest priority and it is our role to protect it. I am very optimistic that the State of Hawai'i can play a leader role in protecting our environment from such health and environmental hazards by banning EPS foam food containers.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony and for your time.  
Aloha nui loa,

Natalie Wohner

Contact: [natalie.wohner@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.wohner@gmail.com)

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:09:46 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Christina Comfort | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

Aloha - I am Christina Comfort .I am a long-time resident of Oahu and currently live in Pupukea on North Shore. I am an oceanographer at the University of Hawaii with a focus on coastal oceanography and humen impacts to our coastal waters.

**I am writing in strong support of SB2498.** Last year, I submitted testimony in support of a similar bill but I understand that it stalled in your committee and it never got scheduled for a 2nd hearing. I was extremely disappointed to learn this, as it is a crucial bill for the long-term sustainability of our island, reefs, and oceans, and this year I am happy to see this bill getting the consideration it deserves.

Single use plastics like polystyrene foam are pollutants that do not disappear over time, but instead remain in the environment and break up into small, persistent pieces that are easily mistaken as food by marine organisms. Foam eaten by organisms can cause lethal effects (such as lining the stomachs of reef and pelagic fish and seabirds, inhibiting food absorption, and causing starvation) and sub-lethal effects (toxin build up in the food chain - eventually to humans). Drifting, persistent pollution such as foam is also a disease vector in the marine environement and could expand the geographic scale of outbreaks of disease (such as coral disease, or marine viruses affecting fish and large animals).

I just attended the American Geophysical Union's Ocean Sciences meeting 2 weeks ago in Portland, OR, where over 5,000 marine scientists from around the world gathered to share work. The negative effect of plastic pollution on marine life was the focus of **63 presentations** at this meeting and was mentioned in almost every session I attended. Wasteful foam and plastic use is a global crisis. We see its effects daily in our island home, where foam pollution regularly contaminates our beaches and volunteers like myself spend many unpaid hours cleaning up the mess created by the reckless use of this material.

In addition to marine effects:

- Styrofoam has confirmed carcinogenic effects, especially when heated (e.g. for hot food)
- Cleanup efforts for clogged storm drains and polluted beaches cost extravagant amounts of money each year

- Alternatives exist! We are more than capable of using recycled and/or biodegradable products on-the-go, or, even better, bringing our own containers for food and drinks. Convenience does not outweigh our need to live sustainably on this planet.
- The Ocean Friendly Restaurants program by Surfrider Foundation proves that restaurants can be successful without using foam products. It is completely feasible.

**Please support SB2498 this legislative session.** It is extremely important. Our oceans, health, and fiscal responsibility are all at stake.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:27:54 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Giovannie Rivas     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:37:22 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kimberly            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

The oceans are in desperate need of our help and it is our duty to do exactly that. If the world's oceans are vulnerable then so are we.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:40:11 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>           | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| stella avetisyan    | Testifying for oahu supporter | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments:

I agree that foam should be banned across all states we are polluted the oceans and our wildlife is dying.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:42:59 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| schroeder           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2498 SD1.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:43:44 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Katie Taladay       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As an Earth Scientist, I understand the toxicological and adverse environmental effects of polystyrene on both natural ecosystems and human health. These dangers go well beyond the unsightliness of litter. Research has shown that polystyrene is composed of carcinogenic (benzene and styrene) and neurotoxic compounds and when exposed to hot foods, these compounds are released, can be consumed, and are ultimately harmful to human health. Further, when carried out to sea, fish are known to consume Styrofoam debris, while people, in turn, consume those fish. Environmentally, the production of polystyrene is energy intensive with a large greenhouse gas footprint. It is costly to recycle, it is a choking hazard to all life forms, is a major pollutant to our oceans, and takes hundreds of years to decompose.

I ardently support Bill SB2498. The difference in cost between polystyrene foam containers and biodegradable containers is marginal, and we cannot put the slight profit margin of businesses over the health of people in our communities and our environment. As an island community, we should all be keenly aware by now of what it means to live sustainably and conscientiously. I ask that you please pass SB2498 to ban polystyrene foam containers.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:44:16 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mariya Gold         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Our planet is in dire need of help. Living on an island this becomes even more obvious walking our beaches seeing all the polystyrene foam and micro-plastics that litter the sand and parking lots. It is our responsibility to take care of our planet as it takes care of us. This bill is one of many measures we can take to help offset the heavy footprint we have made on this planet. There are several alternatives now to polystyrene foam containers that are much more environmentally friendly. If there's an argument that restaurants and other food vendors will have difficulty affording other more eco-friendly products I see no issue with them adding the extra cost to their products. I would happily pay a few cents more to help our planet. As advanced as our society is, it's ridiculous to me that polystyrene foam is still in use at all. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL AND HELP OUR PLANET AS IT HELPS TO SUPPORT US. Mahalo & aloha.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:44:54 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| andrea crawley      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support and request the Ban of Polysterene Foam from the markets and food restaurants around the island of not only the islands of Hawaii but of the entire world. We must start somewhere before the oceans are filled with more unremoveable and undisposable plastic. I for one am tired of it being at every take out or event I attend. I make every attempt to avoid it yet it still is there. Please for the sake of the future children my daughter included Pan polystyrene foam. And for that al plastic from the take out world. We have made so many new incentive and environmentally safe products that deecompose into our soil. Why wouldn't we? It's selfish and unloving yo mama earth. She provides our food our water and our air. Protect it so we can all live a healthier happy life. The animals in the ocean need our help drastically. They not only pollute there home, but there food source. We will be eating this sea food and in the end killing ourselves. Go vegan and save the planet! Amen and god bless al who make this decision. It must go now! We're running out of time. Sincerely Andrea Crawley

save the children of our world

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 7:23:32 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| cheryl              | Individual          | Comments                  | No                        |

Comments:

I agree that these should be banned as well as so many other plastic type containers etc. BUT what will be the solution for our islands. So many people use them daily.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:57:46 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dan Bissell         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hi my name is Dan Bissell. I am a North Shore resident on the island of Oahu and have worked in hospitality at Turtle Bay resort since 2009. I strongly believe that there is no need to continue allowing polystyrene foam to be used in any way on the islands. Not only is it terrible for the environment, but there are a multitude of more environmentally friendly options that we could use in its place that would better serve our community, islands, and oceans as a whole.

Please support this bill.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 12:01:52 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| aidan               | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

People can use many other low-cost materials besides styrafoam that do not harm the planet nearly as much as styrafoam does.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 12:04:36 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Wiedner     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Elected Officials,

My name is Barbara Wiedner and I am a resident of Kapaa, HI. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Barbara Wiedner

1774 Puu Kaa St

Kapaa HI 96746

808-635-2593

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 12:15:46 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Diliaur Tellei      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Polystyrene foam is a non-biodegradable material used in single-use items like packaging and coffee cups. As it is non-biodegradable, its harm is much greater than any benefit that the single-use materials provide, especially as there are proven, environmentally friendly alternatives for such materials (especially coffee cups!). No longer can we continue to sacrifice the health of the environment (which extends to the health of the people) for convenience. Polystyrene materials should be banned from these islands. It will bring us one step closer to fully protecting our environment which can only ensure the health of the community.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 1:32:55 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laurie McKeon       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am Laurie McKeon and I am a resident of Oahu. I am writing in full support of Bill 71 to reduce polystyrene foam on O'ahu. Thank you for considering this important bill.

I am an active ocean user. I swim, paddle and dive in the waters of our beautiful islands. Every time I do, I find (and retrieve when possible) piece of foam that are polluting our ocean. The problem is SERIOUS. I also find foam in the parks and along the roads where I walk. The trade winds often blow take-out containers right out of the trash cans!

Over the last few years, I have decided to boycott restaurants that continue to use foam food containers. I would MUCH rather give my money to a business that has evolved and is using products that will biodegrade. I know it is not only possible, but cost effective for businesses to convert to these products because there are already hundreds of foam free restaurants in Hawaii! The Surfrider Foundation's Ocean Friendly Restaurants Hawaii program has certified over 140 of them! They are voluntarily foam free, and most of them being small, locally owned businesses. None of these restaurants have reported financial burden from going foam-free.

It is TIME for Hawaii to get on board and start now to protect and preserve our very precious ocean resources. Getting rid of FOAM is a logical, cost effective and sensible way to begin!

Please pass this bill and lets set an example for others. After all, we ARE AN ISLAND STATE SURROUNDED BY OCEAN.

Mahalo,

Laurie Mckeon

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 1:33:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Katie Christofferson | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Katie and I am a resident of Kauai. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 1:47:38 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emily Knowlton      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 1:55:42 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Angela Posatiere    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support the purpose of this bill to protect Hawaii's environment by prohibiting the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers statewide. Because polystyrene is an ultralight product, it bypasses existing collection systems and accumulates in land and in waterways. Further, polystyrene foam is known to leach styrene, which is a known carcinogen, and other toxins that poison the environment and local food chain, as well as contributes to the potential death of marine animals and avian populations through ingestion. A statewide ban is a must!!!



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 2:25:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Catherine Juliano   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Senator Baker,

As I read your title I think of what an honor it must be to be the chair of the Senate Health and Human Services committee. A bipartisan committee that respects ideas, information and facts from all of its members as well as those opinions and concerns of the citizens you serve. To protect the health and basic human services of the people that live in your city is a task that requires you to listen to those people. I am one of those, along with many others, that require your help to feel that my basic health is being considered when you are making decisions as this committee's leader. Listening is what a leader does best. I am writing to ask that you listen to a bill that is being proposed to your committee. That is all. You don't have to do anything else than listen to us to speak, which is the foundation of a healthy democracy. Our world, and our oceans, are currently very sick and you are meant to be working toward protecting its health.

Bill SB2498 prohibits the sale and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide. Hawaii has consistently been a leader when it comes to protecting the health of our environment. We have all seen, worldwide, the effects that our lifestyle is having on our physical, mental and environmental health. I have left numerous restaurants simply because they do not use Ocean Friendly receptacles. As a conscientious consumer I actively seek out places that serve take-away food in biodegradable containers. I am happy, as a consumer, to take on the extra ten cents it would cost me to ensure these containers are made available state wide. I am making this request that you hear this bill because it is a sensible thing to do. I am not alone in this commitment to refusing to partake in the polluting of our oceans. There is a big difference between trash that destroys our environment and trash that does not. There is evidence that styrofoam is toxic to us. You are meant to protect the overall health and well being of our state. By allowing a toxic material to seep into our ground water and our ocean you are consciously contributing to the poor health of your people. "Improving

the health, safety and well-being of America,” is your departments motto. Choosing to ignore this plea means you are not fulfilling the basic requirements of your job. We only ask that you do your job and listen to this bill.

Thank you,

Catherine Juliano

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 2:29:32 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Blake Briddell      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Let's be the leaders and show the world that Hawaii still remembers what it means to live pono, to live sustainably. We all know that this planet will soon evolve beyond single-use plastics. Straws are the lowest hanging fruit. They are unnecessary. Let's take a major step in the right direction. Our keiki and wildlife deserve it

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 7:13:54 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Malia Storm         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support this because it is a stepping stone to reduce non-biodegradable pollution in the State of Hawaii's land and surrounding ocean.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 2:39:03 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrew Purves       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am an avid diver, sailor, surfer and all around lover of the ocean and environment. Throughout my extensive experience in the waters surrounding Hawaii and all the way to the remote reaches of the Northwestern Hawaiian Island and Palmyra Atoll I've personally seen the effects of anthropogenic inputs into our surrounding environment. Even in places where human beings are not within 1000 miles there are still signs of this input and its negative effects. While pollution of our marine ecosystems is a global problem there are steps we can take at the local and state level that would be contributing to the overall health of this vital party of our environment. A significant amount of the marine pollution that I see is styrofoam. This is in part because it never disappears and it's chemicals can accumulate in the food chain which we depend on as coastal community, for resources. There are a number of alternatives to using styrofoam and as a consumer I would rather take my business to those establishments that offer these alternatives.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 2:45:53 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brittany Yim        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Polystyrene foams essentially act like little pollutant sponges, picking up and concentrating some of the nastiest contaminants in the ocean, then something like a sea turtle or fish comes along and eats this thinking it is a jellyfish. The eps foam then expands in the stomachs of these creatures and ultimately kills them because their stomachs can't digest nor allow nutritious food to uptake properly.

Eps foam also can not be recycled like other products like cardboard because of the way the eps foam is manufactured making this product non sustainable and toxic to our environments.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 3:03:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lorin Ifkovic       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE PASS THIS BILL! WE CONTINUE TO PICK UP POLYSTYRENE ON ALL MAUI BEACHES, PLEASE BAN POLYSTYRENE. THANK YOU.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Karen Abe and I am a senior at 'Iolani School . I am writing in full support of SB 2498, Polystyrene Foam ban to reduce polystyrene foam on Hawaii Island. Thank you for considering this important bill.

As an active high school who love exploring the beauties of the island, I am truly upset and disappointment by the immense plastic waste that is destructing the island. I personally take action against the use of plastic by bringing my own containers and straws to my favorite cafes and food stops. However as a teenager, I also understand the large consumer population islands that includes locals as well as international tourists, who uses plastic as it often the only options available to them in stores. Therefore I strongly believe that it is up to the state to control the flow of these straws into the consumers hands.

I strongly believe that this Bill is a crucial and significant method in protecting the Hawaii's aina and improving the life of all animals and residents. Styrofoam is a material that all children and adults see everyday, not only because it is utilized in serving food but because it is found as litter on the streets. The 90% air based structure makes it lightweight and easy for consumers as well as easy to be blown out of the trash cans and into the oceans. The foam, which is never recycled in Hawaii, ends up in the oceans take hundreds and thousands of years to decompose on its own, and oftentimes are consumed by animals because they are mistaken for food. These facts are more than devastating because of the well known beaches, parks and rare sea life Hawaii beholds is at danger of destruction. In fact, I, just today, was awed at the amount of trash that was piling up at the bottom of the fences near the Kakaako park. My friends and I could not help but to stop walking and pick up the never ending trail of old greasy plastic containers and brown-tinted styrofoam that played in the grass. Although, my friend and I had tried our best to pick all the debris off the grass there were more beyond the fence and scattered across the field.

With negatives of styrofoam being spoken about, I believe it would be important to observe the positives of altering the state into a foam-free community. Firstly, with the growing number of plastic free activists, it would be beneficial for restaurants and businesses to change to plastic-free alternatives since it would be an easy way to spread the word and attracts environmentalist to support their business. For instance, With the hundreds of foam free restaurants in Hawaii the Ocean Friendly Restaurants Hawaii program has certified over 140 restaurants, all of which are voluntarily foam free. These restaurants often attract individuals like my friends and I, and are more likely to be chosen when debating between another restaurant who serves with plastic containers. In terms of financial perspective, there is clear evidence that even small business are not financially burdened from going foam-free. From paper to biodegradable plastics the alternatives are endless, and interestingly, these alternatives have a better "aesthetic appeal" compared to white and bulky foam containers. Especially to teens and tourist who are indulged in taking photos of the island deli, the physical appeal takes a great part in whether or not a consumer wants to purchase a product. Thus, the



switch to foam-free alternatives will not only better the community but would aid businesses to flourish.

Hawaii, as a unique state surrounded by the marine life all around, we are one of the few state that has a bold connection and understanding of the environment in the United States. I believe it is our duty to lead our nation by example and implementing this foam ban in our state. Our state must be the one to illustrate the "Malama Aina" culture and illustrate the care we and love we have for our environment and native species. As majority of the human population is aware, humans are the destructors of their own environment and there must a spark to emit an environmental evolution. Hawaii can be that spark.

Therefore, as a representative of the people, I urge you to make a decision that chooses the long-term benefit of Hawaii's people and environment rather than the short-term "conveniences" of business. It is our responsibility to create a better environment for future generations, and it starts today with important bills like this.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and of this important issue.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Karen Alohalani Abe

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 3:29:18 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sara Martel         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I'm writing as a concerned American citizen to express my support of SB2498. Passing this bill would be an important step towards helping reduce plastic pollution, which is a major threat to marine life, including the iconic albatross.

I have a background in ornithology, having worked as a zookeeper in the Bird Department of one of the nation's top zoos (St. Louis) for over a decade, and also served as an assistant wildlife biologist, helping with in-situ seabird research on Black-legged Kittiwakes, Atlantic Puffins and more.

You are aware that seabirds are among the most endangered bird group in the world? Of the world's 22 species of albatrosses, " 17 are Globally Threatened according to BirdLife on behalf of the IUCN Red List." (That is from the Birdlife International website, and probably out of date, as the stats are from 2009.)

Plastic pollution is a major threat to Hawaii's albatrosses. I've tried to paste a link to a scientific paper that demonstrates that albatrosses are inadvertently ingesting plastic debris, including foam, in appalling and detrimental quantities. I'm not sure if it will work, but here goes:

**[PLASTIC INGESTION BY BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS PHOEBASTRIA NIGRIPES FROM KURE ATOLL, HAWAI'I: LINKING CHICK DIET REMAINS AND ...](#)**

KD Hyrenbach, MM Hester, J Adams, [AJ Titmus](#)... - Marine Ornithology, 2017

There are many more papers out there that back this up.

I strongly support this bill, as a good step towards a less polluted marine environment. Thank you for your consideration, and thank you on behalf of the albatrosses, who I love so much! (And are a big tourist draw, I might add! Visiting Hawaii's albatross colonies—that is tops on my bucket list!)

Sara Martel

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 6:32:08 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| chrisdowsett        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I'm an amateur underwater photographer and I've spent many underwater sessions removing polystyrene from our coral reefs and keeping it away from precious animals like our beloved sea turtles. I often spend more time removing rubbish than actually taking photos. I also regularly attend beach cleanups and both the scale of polystyrene waste on our shores and in our waters (not to mention, being eaten by animals) is devastating.

There's no reason why we need polystyrene containers anymore. We have many, many other options that are beneficial both economically and environmentally. There are biodegradable plastics and cardboards that are a lot better for our planet and are comparable in cost to polystyrene containers. There's also the considerable, long term fiscal benefit from tourism as a result of beautiful marine parks when so many others around the world are dirty and full of rubbish.

I believe Hawaii can be a globale leader here (like it has on many other measures) and protect both its amazing ecosystem as well as lead the world. States like Hawaii are really at the forefront and this decision makes sense both in fiscal terms and environmental terms. I urge the Hawaiian government to do the right thing and stop the sale of polystyrene containers. Thank you for your consideration on this matter and thank you in advance for taking a stand to protect our marine friends.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 3:15:45 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tiare Devenot       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Tiare Devenot and I am a resident of Maui. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498. As the population of Hawai'i continues to grow, it is our duty as residences to make decisions that keep the well being of the islands and the surrounding oceans in mind. We have to take action to maintain **Individual** le ecosystems of marine life, and to show new residences that environmental care is important to the state of Hawaii. Born

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 3:30:41 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Nicole Chatterson | Individual   | Support            | Yes                |

Comments:

Testimony SB2498

Consumer Protection and Health Committee

February, 26th 2017

Room 229

10am

Aloha Chair Baker and Co-Chair Fukunaga,

I am a graduate student studying waste management at the University of Hawaii and I am writing in **strong support of SB2498**, which would prohibit the use of polystyrene foam containers in restaurants.

From the perspective of consumer protection, which is the purview of this committee, I like to highlight the 2016 Trash Reduction Plan by the Hawaii Department of Transportation. This plan found polystyrene to be one of the top littered items in Hawaii—noting that significant funds are spent removing polystyrene from our storm drains. Right now, taxpayers carry the burden of paying to clean-up this polystyrene. **This clean-up cost is significantly more (some estimates reach about \$7 million/year to manage polystyrene pollution) than the 10 cents extra per container that consumers would pay for a compostables.**

To date, over 150 restaurants in Hawaii have committed to going foam-free through the [Ocean Friendly Restaurants Program](#)—with no harm to their business. In some cases,

the business owners find that customers are attracted to their eco-friendly practices. All 21 food vendors at the University of Hawaii, Manoa campus (**18 of which are small businesses**) have been foam free since 2013, when the UH Board of Regents passed a campus-wide polystyrene ban. These campus vendors, like the food truck Punchbowl Café, use non-foam containers and still provide meals between \$6-12 to meet student budgets. **These local case studies demonstrate that the oft touted argument that small business cannot survive the price increase is unsubstantiated, Business do not bear the price increase, consumers do**—and the local case studies from the University of Hawaii (which serves a fixed/low income population) show that consumers are willing to pay to support their planet. In addition to these local case studies, communities nationally and globally have already moved away from polystyrene foam with success.

While there is currently a cost difference between polystyrene and environmentally-friendly alternatives, it is simple to embed that cost difference in the pricing. It is a **10 cent difference between polystyrene clamshells and a compostable clamshell**. Restaurants have the flexibility to adjust their pricing accordingly and pass the cost to the consumer. Eventually, when market demand increases, the **prices of the alternative products will decrease. A ban on Styrofoam will help induce this market shift.**

From a competition perspective, implementing a foam ban would even the playing field when it comes to product purchase. Currently, small businesses that choose respond to consumer demand for ethical products must price higher than businesses that ignore their civic duty to protect Hawaii's natural resources. In an industry that already struggles with waste and excess, it is important to find ways to reduce impact.

I appreciate your consideration of this bill and look forward to witnessing the decision making on Monday.

Aloha,

Nicole Chatterson

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 5:28:08 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>            | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sheri Elisha        | Testifying for Surfrider oahup | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

The ocean is what gives our planet live! And to not make any efforts to protect this is just as good as allowing our planet die when we all know how precious life is.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 3:44:23 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Candice Lecroix     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Living on our island home, we must become sustainable in order to preserve our environment and way of life. As the development and population increase, the effect of wasteful and harmful products on our environment has increased as well.

Polystyrene readily floats and travels through our rivers and ocean system. These products then continue to break down into tiny pieces where they are ingested by marine creatures. Research has found that polystyrene is one of the most prevalent type of debris on beaches and in the ocean. These debris find their way into our water systems, our environment and then back to us when we eat the creatures who have been dining on polystyrene debris.

In order to preserve our natural resources and protect Hawaii for years to come we must change our reliance on these products and remove them from daily use.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 4:50:30 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| M Iolani Castro     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support of Senate Bill 2498, that prohibits the sale of polystyrene foam containers. We need to protect our ocean and everything that lives in it. Single use plastic is winding up in our oceans and polluting our ecosystems. Birds and marine life can't tell the difference between plastic and food. They are eating plastics thinking it is food and we are slowly killing them. Scientists have been finding dead birds and marine life with thier stomachs full of plastic. We need to stand up and protect our oceans from all this pollution. The ocean is vital to our existence. Plankton creates more oxygen than any land-based plant there is. We need to start thinking past ourselves and understand the implications that our actions are making for the next several generations. Thank you!

Iolani Castro

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 4:01:03 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vivienne Edwards    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

This is hugely important to protect both marine life and terrestrial health.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 4:58:33 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wai'ala Ahn         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Wai'ala and I am a resident of Hawai'i Island; I writing to express my strong support of SB 2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future. Hawaii can pave the way towards a zero waste sustainable future; our island and ocean is a delicate ecosystem that styrofoam rubbish wrecks havok on; and this bill would help end that.

Other countries have implimented similar and more extensives laws against disposable waste materials such as styrofoam; with excellent results.They are leading the way towards a clean, sustianable future. We need SB 2498, please suppot this bill and help Hawaii become a clean, zero waste place for us and future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for your time. Aloha,

Wai'ala

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 3:02:51 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mallorie Stefan     | Testifying for Keiko | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

We need to protect the animals of the ocean and marine life. Please pass this act, the ecosystem will thank you.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 5:11:24 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lindsey whitcomb    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 6:24:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joshua Thomas       | Individual          | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of bill SB2498. I think it is mandatory that we ban the use and sale of polystyrene. Not only is it made up of harmful chemicals that have been proven to cause cancer and neurological problems, it is extremely wasteful and does not ever biodegrade. Therefore it is littering our island, beaches, and ocean across the state.

I constantly am picking up styrofoam at the beaches that have been left behind or blown from overfilled trash cans from plate lunches and or styrofoam coolers. This litter gets blown around our beach parks and it either gets caught in the coastline or ends up in the ocean. Our oceans are filling up with this kind of plastic waste and I think the state of Hawaii needs to set an example for the rest of the world about how to properly care for our environment and especially the ocean.

Just today I spoke with some tourists that were here visiting Oahu and they were shocked to see how much styrofoam is used in our state, especially being a state that is completely surrounded by the ocean.

It is time for a change, whether that be through passing new bills to protect our environment or a change in government officials who will choose to do the right thing.

I will see you at the hearing Monday morning!

Sincerely,

Joshua Thomas

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 6:46:46 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Catia Garell        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB2498.

I also ask that your committee ammend the bill or draft an additional bill that creates commercial composting facilties throughout our state to appropriatley process compostable alternatives to polystryene.

Mahalo,

Catia Garell



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 2:55:00 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rosa Mar            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I'm writing to express my support of Senate Bill SB2498, which bans the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers statewide.

After the County of Hawaii and Maui passed similar bills that limited the use of these plastics, I feel like this statewide ban will set a great example of environmental responsibility. It is very exciting to consider the positive impact and consequences that this bill will have not only in the US, but worldwide.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 6:50:15 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| neyda               | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

people might use it to make profit but please put all you greed away and protect the wildlife and what is our home and know that polystyrene and much more is damaging and killing our wildlife very quickly.

You want to show that Hawaii is known for its beauty,

and all this polystyrene needs to have an end.

so please make the step in eliminating the use of polystyrene.

Nikos A. Leverenz  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
26 February 2018 -- 10:00 AM  
SB 2498, SD1 -- SUPPORT

Sen. Baker, Sen. Tokuda, & Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 2498, which would ban the sale and use of polystyrene foam.

As the Oahu Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation notes, “We are at a critical juncture in our waste management and plastic pollution measures.” Polystyrene foam is a petroleum-based product that does not readily degrade. Many fish and birds consume indigestible smaller pieces of foam and plastic. Larger pieces of plastic settle on shore, get caught in reefs, or join large patches of garbage on the surface of the ocean.

Limits on the use of polystyrene foam have been enacted in many coastal cities and counties on the continent. The list includes California cities like Huntington Beach, Hermosa Beach, Newport Beach, Dana Point, and San Clemente. These jurisdictions, many of them dominated by conservative Republicans, recognize the importance of maintaining clean oceans and beaches as they are vital to their economic and civic well-being. Hawaii’s interest in maintaining clean oceans and beaches is even more compelling.

Hawaii’s broader commitment to a more sustainable future should also include limits on the types of waste produced by businesses and consumers. Strengthening litter control programs, the proffered alternative of discrete economic actors who profit from the production and use of polystyrene foam and plastics, reduces neither the quantity nor the quality of waste produced. In contrast, the hundreds of volunteers who spend thousands of hours cleaning Hawaii’s shorelines are acutely aware of the deleterious impact of foam and plastics on the ecosystem.

It is the kuleana of all those who live in this precious landscape to recognize the interconnectedness of their activity with that of the larger environment and to fundamentally change patterns of consumption that have impacts that reach far beyond the reach of our own lives. As a consumer who has become more mindful of the ecological implications of the production, packaging, and disposal of products over time, I appreciate the efforts of state and local policymakers who are vigilant about

sustainability. I also consciously support businesses like World Centric and EarthChoice, which produce food service products that are less harmful to the environment.

With the City & County of Honolulu deliberating the fiscal viability of maintaining its modest recycling program, it is even more imperative for decision makers at all levels to pursue policy options that reduce those environmental harms associated with mass consumption before waste is placed into the stream of disposal.

SB 2498 will benefit this island's waterways, the ocean, and the magnificent array of life that requires increasingly conscientious public stewardship from policymakers and community stakeholders. It will also significantly benefit those who are impacted by economic activity that is centered around the bounty of Hawaii's natural landscapes and seascapes.

Sincerely,  
Nikos A. Leverenz

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 12:05:44 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| zach price          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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 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 it once, and according to the US EPA less than 1% of foam is recycled nationally. 0% of EPS Foam is recycled locally.
- EPS Foam is composed of over 90% air, so even when properly disposed of, foam products easily fly out of trash bins and dumpsters, and they enter into the natural environment, eventually polluting our ocean and negatively impacting ocean health and threatening marine wildlife.
- EPS Foam also breaks apart more easily and quicker than other plastics, making it more difficult to clean up than other plastics and easier for animals to mistake as food and ingest

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 6:59:20 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| RuthMarie Quirk     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ruth Marie QUirk, I live in Hawaii kai.

The health risks of polystrene foam are known, and the risks to the environment are also well know.

I applaud all the business who can all ready see the writting on the wall and who care enough about our health and planet to have already switched to eco friend containers. I will still bring my own containers as i can, and reuse the eco firendly ones.

Thank you for all your hard work and for voting to support this bill

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:40:16 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Timothy Sullivan    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Timothy and I am a resident of Hilo, Hawaii. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future."

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 7:03:14 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Charlie Quesnel     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please pass this bill, it is important to the protection of our reefs, beaches, and water quality and mammal life preservation.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 7:12:28 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Paula Huddleston    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I'll keep this brief because it's more important I get my position recorded than I wax eloquently on the topic. Basically, polystyrene containers have little or no positive value in our society, but many negative ones. They are harmful to humans, they are harmful to animals, they are harmful to the environment... and that harm is eternal. (Besides, they're nasty to eat out of.) Ban them, and let's be rid of one more pollutant.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 7:52:34 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ashlie McGuire      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Ashlie and I am a resident of Pukalani Maui. I am testifying in strong support of SB 2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 7:15:20 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Nicole Olayon | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

The time is now for the State of Hawaii to step up and set the tone for the rest of the nation by banning the use of polystyrene foam containers. Polystyrene foam containers can cause ill health effects in both humans and our precious marine life. The high use of Styrofoam containers in Hawaii combined with the low probability of the containers actually being recycled becomes a viable threat to our island community.

First of all, the compound found in Styrofoam containers, called styrene, has been proven to be harmful to the health of marine life, and may be a possible carcinogen to humans.<sup>1,2</sup> One recent study has found that styrene may have detrimental effects on the survival rate and reproductive systems of a freshwater crustacean species.<sup>1</sup>

Another reason why polystyrene foam containers are problematic is because it does not biodegrade. Instead, polystyrene breaks down into micro-sized particles making it even easier for animals to ingest.<sup>1</sup> The fact that it does not biodegrade also means that styrene will remain in our environment (soil, water system, etc.) for generations to come. It is vital that we not only protect our environment for today's generation, but also for the generations to come.

Please consider the alternatives of using polystyrene foam containers. Many individuals are personally choosing to live a more waste-free lifestyle by bringing their own containers for take-out food, or by choosing to avoid take-out food that is served in polystyrene foam containers. With this waste-free movement in mind, it would be in the best interest of the state to evolve with the trends of the population. In fact, restaurants may spend more on more eco-friendly containers, but in the long run they may also gain more customers and more recognition for making more eco-friendly choices.

1. Cui R, Kim SW, An YJ. Polystyrene nanoplastics inhibit reproduction and induce abnormal embryonic development in the freshwater crustacean *Daphnia galeata*. *Sci Rep.* 2017;7(1):12095.

2. Christensen MS, Hansen J, Ramlau-Hansen CH, Toft G, Kolstad H. Cancer Incidence in Workers Exposed to Styrene in the Danish-reinforced Plastics Industry, 1968-2012. *Epidemiology.* 2017;28(2):300-310.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 7:16:51 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Martina Wing        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

“My name is Martina Wing and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona on the Big Island. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii’s future, now more than ever.”

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 7:44:25 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marion McHenry      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am a resident of Kauai. I would testify in person, but it is a hardship. I am very grateful that I can testify in this way. I strongly support this bill. It is extremely important to ban use of styrofoam containers. I am sure that the committee has the scientific facts before you on the dangers of styrofoam to our environment. The costs of eco friendly alternatives are quickly coming down in price. Many of our small businesses on Kauai have already switched. Legislation would insure that all will follow suit. Please do not delay this important legislation any longer.

Mahalo,

Marion McHenry

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 12:04:49 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| alison ellis        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Alison, I currently live on the Big Island of Hawaii. I work at a restaurant on the beach and have participated in several beach cleanups.

I'm passionate about keeping the coasts clean and safe for the fragile ecosystem that is the ocean.

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 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 it once, and according to the US EPA less than 1% of foam is recycled nationally. 0% of EPS Foam is recycled locally.

- EPS Foam is composed of over 90% air, so even when properly disposed of, foam products easily fly out of trash bins and dumpsters, and they enter into the natural environment, eventually polluting our ocean and negatively impacting ocean health and threatening marine wildlife.

- EPS Foam also breaks apart more easily and quicker than other plastics, making it more difficult to clean up than other plastics and easier for animals to mistake as food and ingest

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 7:45:08 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary                | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

It's time for Hawaii to completely ban polystyrene. I support sb2948 and the ban it imposes. Polystyrene is essentially toxic litter that never goes away. It ends up in the bodies of birds, fish and marine mammals. Burning for electricity is a short-term solution which should come to an end now because we have better lasting solutions that do not create pollution. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Spadaro

Honolulu



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:30:29 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jamilee Carter      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support bill SB2498. We need to do everything we can to decrease the amount of styrofoam com littering our environment and making its way into our oceans. I am including a pic of styrofoam on the edge of a creek in Koloa Kauai. I picked it up before it could blow in.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 7:59:42 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian Kirsch        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

This is a crucial decision that can help inspire national change to stop the pollution of the environment. Pleas vote Yes!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:48:34 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| jean chee           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

We need to end the production of the polluting polystyrene. You can not go to a single beach or public space without finding numerous polluting polystyrene

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:31:47 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cynthia Cabrera     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Cindy Cabrera and I am a resident of Kauai. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:31:47 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cynthia Cabrera     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Cindy Cabrera and I am a resident of Kauai. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:33:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Norma Napoles       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Every time I go to the beach I see tiny particles of styrofoam in the sand. There is so much styrofoam being thrown out that you can find containers along beach trails and often seen on side of highways. I already avoid many businesses that only serve food in styrofoam containers. I support businesses that have green alternative containers or that reward clients that bring their own reusable containers. Let us keep our planet healthy and move away from styrofoam.

Thank you!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:34:56 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Aaron Katzeman | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda and Members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee Committee,

As a unverified student, Hawaii resident, and lover of these islands, I am writing in strong support of SB2498 SD1 to prohibit the use of polystyrene food containers. Polystyrene food containers are one of the most littered items in our Islands, and they are also one of the most toxic forms of plastic, and Hawaii has one of the highest per capita uses in the country.

An EPS foam ban was implemented in San Francisco, and there was a 30% decrease in EPS litter within one year (San Francisco Street Litter Re-Audit, 2008). Over 110 cities and counties across the country have enacted EPS foam bans with dramatic decreases in litter and savings to the county. For an extensive list see: <http://www.surfrider.org/pages/polystyrene-ordinances/>.

Industry lobbyists will also say that banning polystyrene food containers 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 registered more than 150 restaurants that are foam-free in the last 14 months! Here's a partial list of all the restaurants in Hawaii: [www.oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org/](http://www.oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org/).

At beach cleanups around the state, EPS foam products are among the top items we find everytime. In fact, as part of International Coastal Cleanup Day, 17,383 cups, plates and pieces of EPS foam were removed from Hawaii's beaches in a single day on Sat., Sept. 19th, 2015! That's why we need this bill, which would help reduce these litter problems and environmental issues by requiring restaurants and food service vendors to stop using toxic EPS foam containers.

This bill provides vendors and restaurants enough time to use their remaining inventory and transition to safer products, which hundreds of restaurants have already done without any problems.

I appreciate that Hawaii's legislators have been environmental leaders in moving forward policies like the bills to ban plastic bags and create smoke-free parks & beaches. Now, I ask you to assert that same leadership on this issue. Because

polystyrene food service products are toxic to the environment and human health, their use should be banned. There are many affordable alternatives that are non-toxic, biodegradable and pose no threats to the environment or human health and will cost the counties less to clean up.

Protecting our land and people should be our top priority, not allowing a few companies to profit from outmoded products that harm the environment and our wildlife. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue.

Aloha,

Aaron Katzeman



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:42:04 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| R. Kinslow          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support this common sense bill to rid our islands of destructive polystyrene single use containers. There are affordable alternatives.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:44:04 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ashley Lister       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am in FULL support of SB2498. Mahalos!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:48:28 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| mikey               | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Mikey O'Shaughnessy. I live and surf on the North Shore of Oahu and I see first hand the amount of styrofoam trash that first is served to customers at food establishments and then makes its way to the trash cans at the beach. Due to the large amount of visitors to the north shore every year this adds up. At the end of each day most, if not all trash cans are filled to the brim and then the trash makes its way to the water. Please consider our environments health for our future generation. There are so many better alternatives for packaging food. Aloha, Mikey O.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:48:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Bowman-DeMent  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support SB2498 because of the negative environmental impact polystyrene foam containers have on our land and ocean.....our planet. These containers are generally used as single use items which generate an abundance of unnecessary waste in our landfills. I see evidence of the improper disposal of these items on our beaches, in our parks, on our streets and other open areas where it "litters" our aina and is not biodegradable. Please take action and do the right legislation by banning the use of these containers.

Mahalo

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:40:16 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Smart          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

This is a bad idea. These are containers are practical and make life better. We have more important issues in our state. If you care about the environment, resolve the homeless problem. They generate more trash and unhealthy debris than these containers ever could.

Do not pass this bill.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:02:49 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Atcheson      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

It's time for Hawaii to break up with polystyrene foam. The relationship was founded on convenience and seemed at first to make sense -- as long as we could shield our eyes from the downsides. Before we knew it, though, we were out of control, leaving a trail of foam refuse in our wake. It became an eyesore for residents and tourists alike, expensive to clean up, toxic to burn, and a threat to ocean life that often mistakes bits of plastic for food.

SB2498 can help Hawaii break off our dysfunctional love/hate relationship with foam and clear the way for a healthier relationship with our environment, one founded on respect and appreciation. Services we used to get from foam can be provided by environmentally friendlier alternatives including reusable, washable serviceware where possible and single-use containers made from renewable and compostable materials where reusable is not an option.

I suggest that the legislation prohibit food vendors at events from serving prepared food in polystyrene foam containers in addition to the prohibition for restaurants.

It's only appropriate that food service practices in our island state be consistent with protecting ocean life, keeping our beaches clean, and reducing fossil fuel consumption and associated toxicity in the air and water. Please pass SB2498.

Sincerely,

David Atcheson  
1212 Nuuanu Ave, Apt. 906  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:05:42 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>      | <b>Organization</b>                    | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rylee Brooke<br>Kamahele | Testifying for The<br>Plastics Project | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2498. Styrofoam is harmful to people and to the environment. Bans like this are necessary because manufacturers need to make changes and unfortunately, importance has been placed on money and convenience when they should be considering the effects of plastic and Styrofoam pollution on both human health and the planet. Maybe grown ups aren't worried because they won't be around to see the long term effects of the damage being done, but my generation will be. This is why I am speaking up. We are already seeing the harm of items like styrofoam on our beaches when we do clean ups. With the ridiculous amount of plastics and styrofoam being created and used on a daily basis, we are creating a problem we cannot undo. These items do not go away and cannot all be recycled. We need change and it starts with forcing companies to rethink their products. Please pass this ban.

Thank you, Rylee Brooke Kamahele

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:27:58 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| geri maeshiro       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

I testify in full support of SB 2498 (RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS), as I have full faith that Hawai'i as a community, can and has responsibility to strive to exemplify the changes we wish to be in the world. We have the capacity to be a beacon of global interconnectedness, earth stewardship, and human awareness and considerate action. Being island born, it is obvious to any of us who venture off these shores, that we represent a particular seed of an ideal of idealic to the world. This is no image to uphold, and the more we strive to tune ourselves toward living in an interdependent system with utmost courtesy, respect and reverence, the more Aloha we can spread through to this world.

It would be no small step to ban our use of polystyrene foam containers, as we are capable of adapting to more responsible and elegant solutions as intelligent and capable beings.

Mahalo Nui Loa for the time to take this testimony into consideration.  
Thank you to those who put energy into moving this bill into this potential.

Please contact me if there is more I can do to help move this bill into reality

Most sincerely,

geri maeshiro



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:31:00 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Oppie         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As an island group in the middle of the Pacific it should be considered a responsibility to stop using polystyrene foam and other plastics. Period. We should start focussing on how Hawaii can show the world that we don't simply say we love our land, air and water but we take steps toward proving that we do. In a world in which the oceans are being filled with plastics and other nonbiodegradable garbage killing our wildlife in record numbers, it should be clear that allowing the continuation of the use of these products says more about our indifference to the health of our planet than about our commitment to making it a better place. Please support SB 2498.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:32:11 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shawna Ryan         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hawai'i's greatest asset is its natural beauty; it seems to me that we should do everything we can to preserve that beauty, and the health of the island and its inhabitants. There is no reason why polystyrene foam containers should be sold or in use when more environmentally friendly options exist. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain with this ban.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:34:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Yvette Moleman      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I hereby fully support this bill, It will help creating a cleaner and more healthier ecosystem.

A lot of these plastics end up in the ocean and they cause a lot of damage to the wildlife, confusing them for food.

Yvette Moleman

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:17:06 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Benjamin Quintana   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I have pulled polystyrene foam food trash out of the rocks around Magic Island. I have seen polystyrene plate lunch trays filling beach park trash cans. I understand that some people work in polystyrene production plants on Oahu but the amount of damage that polystyrene foam trash causes outweighs the inconvenience of a career change for some of the citizens of Oahu. Because of the way that expanded polystyrene foam resists break down, the sooner we can stop the production of foam, the better. PLEASE BAN THE FOAM!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:48:10 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| yuri cardenas | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

I am in support of SB2498, prohibiting the use of disposable polystyrene (plastic foam) food service containers. Please pass this very important bill.

More than 100 municipalities across the country have banned the use of polystyrene takeout containers, citing health and environmental concerns. I understand the plastic foam companies lobby against this ban. I am sorry to hurt their business. However plastic foam is unnecessary, potentially harmful to our health, and wasteful, so please ban it now.

I would like to address points often raised by people concerned with this necessary change :

1. That some businesses still need polystyrene containers because the recyclable containers simply do not hold up for hot plate lunches that are heavy and for food items with a lot of liquids like sauce or soup,

This is simply untrue. There are many compostable options that 'hold up' for hot plate lunches that are heavy and for food items with a lot of liquids like sauce or soup. On Maui there are at least three vendors, VIP Maui, Sustainable Island Products, and Hansen Maui, that carry reliable compostable options. There are also online vendors such as WorldCentric, Be Green Packaging, and Eco Products.

2. That despite this, many restaurants are already moving towards these recyclable containers on their own as they can, that use of the recyclable containers is already on the rise and that many are participating in the Ocean Friendly Restaurants Hawaii Initiative which is a positive driving force so we are questioning whether this is even needed,

I am pleased to see Ocean Friendly Restaurants get recognition as a positive driving force. But this is a bit of a joke. Ocean Friendly Restaurants is a campaign just starting out, run by a handful of volunteers, currently celebrating restaurants that have already stopped using plastic foam. This does not address the restaurant owners who continue to carry plastic foam. I would LOVE if all the restaurants that use plastic foam were

making the switch to compostable containers on their own. But there is a lack of awareness among many restaurant owners. I have had feedback from restaurant owners who carry plastic foam that they aren't aware there is any problem.

3. The primary importance that we found is that the biggest culprit is litter when it comes to marine animals and not just polystyrene and that we on the polystyrene task force as well as many other groups, offered to create a litter control campaign which the County has not yet taken us up on.

Litter is only one part of the problem with polystyrene. The creation of polystyrene containers is actually the most toxic part. One suggestion may be that the Maui Visitors Bureau, which receives around \$4M annually in a County grant, should have a proviso that \$50-\$75K of their grant goes to litter awareness, education and clean up.

We have environmentally better options for our restaurants and an obligation to our visitors, Ocean and ama to make more earth friendly choices.

We can and must do better for our Islands--please pass this very important bill!!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Yuri Cardenas

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:50:06 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ken Sentner         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Senator Baker,

Thank you for hearing SB2498. This letter is to urge you to pass SB2498, SD1 which bans polystyrene foam containers. These containers have proven to not only be hazardous to those consuming food in them, but also to be one of the most toxic forms of litter found on our beaches and in our precious marine ecosystems.

Over the years, I have personally cleaned up several pounds of foam fragments from our beaches. Please pass SB2498, for the sake of preserving our precious environment.

Mahalo,

Ken Sentner

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:15:12 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sarah Catino        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda and Members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committee,

As a citizen of the world, and the beautiful state of Hawaii, I am writing in strong support of SB2498 SD1 to prohibit the use of polystyrene food containers. Polystyrene containers are one of the most littered items in our Islands, and they are also one of the MOST toxic forms of plastic, and Hawaii has one of the highest per capita uses in the country. This is not only alarming to me, but in immediate need of rectification.

I am a 27-year-old student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and have been a life long activist for a cleaner planet. A planet that I will be able to raise my children on and that they will be able to proudly raise their children on. However, at the rate we are going, I am unsure that that will be a reasonable expectation and that is why I ask for your help and action, now. When I was 9 years old I lived in New Jersey and began noticing a correlation between the amount of trees being cut down, new homes being built, and dead deer on the sides of the road. As a 4th grader I was unable to sit idly by, and so, I hand wrote a note to the mayor of my town asking that he "do something to stop all the dead deer and dead trees." Eighteen years later, and luckily my vocabulary has grown, I am writing to you with the spirit of that 9 year old child and I am asking you to please, please take action. You have the power to be the positive change this world so desperately needs, and I am hopeful that you will uphold that wonderful role.

Thank you greatly for your time and all that you do, Aloha,

Sarah Catino



To: CHAIR ROSALYN BAKER & VICE CHAIR JILL TOKUDA,

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Re: SB 2498 SD1, RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

Hearing: February 26, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

My name is Natalie Landis, I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill 2498 SD1, Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers.

First and foremost, polystyrene foam, also known as Styrofoam, containers are one of the most commonly littered trash items in Hawaii. Also, due to the lightweight nature of polystyrene and its tendency to break apart easily, it is more difficult to clean up than other plastics, and as a result it is polluting our oceans and beaches, and harming the marine life who ingest it. Thus, banning polystyrene containers is equally as important as the ban on plastic bags, which have similarly harmful properties. Furthermore, polystyrene food containers are a public health hazard. Polystyrene has been found to contain carcinogens that can be released into hot food and can cause cancer. What's more, both Maui and the Big Island have already committed to the prohibition of polystyrene food containers, and many restaurants across Hawaii have already begun using alternatives to polystyrene foam containers as a part of the Ocean Friendly Restaurants campaign.

In conclusion, prohibiting the use of polystyrene foam containers would be an enormous step forward for Hawaii. Please vote in favor of SB 2498 for a cleaner, more ocean-friendly Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Natalie Landis

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:19:16 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| William Wright      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I rise in support of this Bill because the islands are inundated with strofoam that harms birds and marine organizms. Stryofoam does not degrade like the replacment products do.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:24:41 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary-Joy Llaguno    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Chairs and Committe Members:

I, Mary-Joy Llaguno, support bill SB2498 because this bill, like the bill banning plastic bags in our state are great ways in encouraging our community to think about their impact on our planet. I do believe that these small changes can create huge impacts not only to our planet, but most especially on how people see the world and how this mindset is passed on to the generations to come. This bill will not only ban the use of polystyrene foam, but most importantly help people understand the bigger picture and to question the world around them. Awareness will be this bill's greatest impact and hopefully open a lot of eyes and open a lot of minds. Please support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:14:46 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Darlene Miranda     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair**

**Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair**

**Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and, Health**

**Darlene Miranda, BSW student at University of Hawaii at Manoa**

**Sunday, February 25, 2018**

**Hearing: Monday, February 26, 2018**

**In SUPPORT of SB 2498, Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers**

**I would like to submit testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2498. If passed this bill would prohibit the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide, effective on January 1, 2019.**

**I am a current student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Myron B Thompson School of Social Work. I am also a wife, mother and concerned citizen. I am writing in strong support of SB-2498 SD1 to prohibit the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide.**

**As a mother, and future social worker I feel that it is necessary to step up to protect our children but also all members of our communities from harm. EPS foam is a toxic form of plastic. The chemicals used to make these containers**

**leach out over time, especially when exposed to heat, or hot food items. These chemicals which are now in our food and the food of our community members can lead to medical illnesses such as cancer, leukemia, and lymphoma.**

**Our environmental capital also suffers greatly with this type of plastic. It is one of the most littered items on our beautiful and incomparable islands. Our marine life, to include many endangered species, suffer since they mistaken the plastic filled with toxic chemicals as food. Our coral reefs which protect us, and that we rely on for seafood, recreation and tourism are suffering from diseases caused by plastic causing them to decline.**

**Although many restaurants have been making the transition into more earth friendly containers, the opposition is arguing that this bill will harm small businesses which has not been the case. Our neighbor islands have set the example for our state. It can be done and it should be done. We need to set the example for others to start not only taking care of our planet but also our most valuable asset, our children who we as leaders and parents must protect.**

**Thank you for your time, and for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of SB-2498, Relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Containers.**

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:27:55 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                 | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ali Niswonger       | Testifying for Surfrider Foundation | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Ali Niswonger and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future. Malama o kekai.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:45:08 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natalie Bruso       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Natalie Bruso. I graduated from the University of Hawaii with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology. Over the past decade I have been finding polystyrene foam floating in Oahu's harbors, wedged into rocks and mangrove roots along the shore, and blowing through the grass, parking lots, & into bushes at beach parks. Polystyrene foam food containers are more difficult to clean up than other types of litter because of the way the environment affects it. The foam can become water logged & slimy, clogging drains and waterways. Foam can also become brittle & break apart into infinitely smaller pieces, making it impossible to retrieve, & sadly also making birds and fish mistake the polystyrene pieces for food. For environmental, economic, & public health reasons, I strongly encourage The Senate to ban polystyrene food containers.

My name is Natalie Bruso. I graduated from the University of Hawaii with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology. Over the past decade I have been finding polystyrene foam floating in Oahu's harbors, wedged into rocks and mangrove roots along the shore, and blowing through the grass, parking lots, & into bushes at beach parks. Polystyrene foam food containers are more difficult to clean up than other types of litter because of the way the environment affects it. The foam can become water logged & slimy, clogging drains and waterways. Foam can also become brittle & break apart into infinitely smaller pieces, making it impossible to retrieve, & sadly also making birds and fish mistake the polystyrene pieces for food. For environmental, economic, & public health reasons, I strongly encourage The Senate to ban polystyrene food containers.

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:27:55 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                 | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ali Niswonger       | Testifying for Surfrider Foundation | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Ali Niswonger and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona. I am testifying in strong support of SB2498 because I believe waste management and marine debris control are imperative for Hawaii's future. Malama o kekai.



**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 2:19:08 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>        | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Heather McCarthy    | Testifying for Vegan Hills | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am employee from Vegan Hills and we are a very small restaurant business. We believe in sustainability and freeing the world of harmful styrofoam containers. As an employee I chose to work here because of this belief they have in their business and in their food as well as their own lives. I wanted to work for a company that held the same high standards and beliefs as I do because I know we all need to play our part in this growing world especially when it comes to protecting and conserving the environment.

I am also a student and am really getting interested in the ban on styrofoam and plastics due to further education by my roommate and various friends at UH and in the local community. I recently went on a beach clean up and it was horrendous the amounts of styrofoam and plastics we picked up around the beach. I spent 20 minutes cleaning up one small hole between rocks at the Ala Moana beach park and I found 25 plastic straws and handfuls upon handfuls of various sized pieces of styrofoam. In one tiny hole! It was covered up by various sticks and leaf debris but I kept digging until the hole was complete. I was shocked. If that amount of styrofoam and plastic is in that small 12x12 inch hole, then it's undoubtably shocking and terrible knowing that that amount of trash is hidden elsewhere. And also not being hidden. It was too easy picking up the trash as you walk along, but I wanted to dig for it because I knew there was always more buried beneath the surface. And the amount of styrofoam that was broken down into little pieces was so horrible because when I went to pick it up it would break apart and then be washed back into the water through the rocks, making it impossible for me to go after and cleanup. This means even though we are trying to clean up, the small pieces are still being broken down smaller and smaller making it even more ridiculously challenging to pick up and properly dispose of.

As a young adult and about to embark on my 30s, I really hope we can make a change as a global community because I want to raise my children in a clean environment and not force the next generation into cleaning up what our ancestors have left for us. It must stop sometime and if not now, then when? Change is now. It must be. And as an employee at Vegan Hills, the change to compostable materials was so easy and it didn't cost us much difference but we know that customers appreciate our compostable materials and keep returning because they also believe in the same principles, and gladly this appreciation is growing! I've even had customers turn away some of the compostable materials because they bring their own containers. Now that is really a

step in the right direction. We must educate and be the leading example and I believe working at Vegan Hills I see this happening. The owners know that by leading and living the example of styrofoam free that we are positively contributing to our local and global communities. And we all feel good in our hearts about it. So I really hope this helps in understanding what we are going through and how we badly need to eliminate styrofoam. Thank you for reading this. I really appreciate the time and effort going into reading all these testimonies. We are here to support our environment and our future generations living in the world today and to come, while also knowing that local and global businesses can benefit at the same time by being the leaders in protecting and sustaining our environment too, which will undoubtedly bring in more customers.

Thank you!

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:50:52 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James McCay         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

After years of picking up pieces of polystyrene from our rivers, parks, and beaches, I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2498.

Ultimately, to keep this as simple as possible, the choice is pretty easy: toxic and status quo, or pass SB 2498 and move the bar for industry to clean up its game (and our oceans and aina accordingly). I'm sure you've read studies proving toxic leaching from hot foods touching these containers. If human health isn't the only concern, so are the animals that inadvertently snack on the tiny pieces of polystyrene as containers age in our increasingly polluted natural world. This is a special place in the world and must be respected as so. This bill is just one small step correcting a bad business and consumer habit from times of a lazy past. Let's grow up and keep making the small positive corrections needed, and pass SB2498.

Much Aloha & Malama Pono,  
James McCay  
2957 Kalakaua Ave Honolulu HI 96815

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:07:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Paula Moehlenkamp   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I hereby would like to testify in support of this bill. My name is Paula Moehlenkamp, I am from Senator Stanley Chang's district, and I have been living in Hawaii for 3 years now. I am a graduate student in the Department of Oceanography at UH Manoa.

I decided to become foam free, because I feel this is, where I can start contributing a little to a more sustainable world. Plastic waste is something that can successfully be regulated on a local level and make a great difference. In my opinion, it is largely unnecessary to eat from styrofoam containers as there is more sustainable alternatives available.

First of all, the environmental impact of EPS is large: EPS is being designed to be used it once, and according to the US EPA less than 1% of foam is recycled nationally. 0% of EPS Foam is recycled locally. EPS Foam is composed of over 90% air, so even when properly disposed of, foam products easily fly out of trash bins and dumpsters, and they enter into the natural environment. Snorkeling or diving in the waters around Hawaii, I have frequently encountered styrofoam containers or parts of them.

EPS Foam also breaks apart more easily and quicker than other plastics, making it more difficult to clean up and easier for animals to mistake as food and ingest. During my degree I have worked on microplastic pollution, which presents a threat for marine life and ultimately us as we base our living on resources from the ocean. Once released into the marine environment, wave action, sun and wind break large plastic pieces into microplastics, which then are impossible to collect and small enough to be ingested by organisms at the bottom of the food web. As plastic surfaces readily adsorb heavy metals and other toxins, bioaccumulation and magnification are valid concerns.

Besides environmental impacts, the onetime use of styrofoam is costly: 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.

This is largely unnecessary as we have good alternatives: Compostable clamshell burns 1.76 times greater energy compared to one EPS Foam clamshell of the same size. And burning compostable products come without the toxic ash or smoke that EPS foam

creates in the burning process. The material for fiber containers can be grown and then made here in Hawaii, so more jobs and sustainable ones can be created.

In conclusion, the use of styrofoam presents an unnecessary environmental threat, because there are good alternatives. In addition, styrofoam is costly for the consumer and bears potential health risks.

For these reasons, I strongly support the foam container ban. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely, Paula Moehlenkamp

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:56:15 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gerhardt Robinson   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in full support of SB2498.

Polystyrene foam can last a million years, so please take a moment to imagine what that entails. The first use of oil was in the 1850s, and as of today we have used approximately half of the total amount sequestered by natural processes over billions of years of geological time. If you were to look at a graph with a million years of time on the x axis and the total amount of energy available to humans on the y axis, the period of global petroleum use would appear as a tiny spike. The by-products of this blip, this strobe of massive consumption, will determine how degraded the quality of life is for future generations. Instead of saving these fossilized hydrocarbons that give us nearly free energy for future prosperity, we are pumping and burning them as fast as possible- and one of the products made with oil and natural gas is EPS foam. A million years may seem like an abstract number, but for context the modern form of humans evolved only around 200,000 years ago. It is tragic how recklessly we are using our one-time endowment of fossil energy, creating single use plastics that will likely persist for five times as long as our species has *existed*. When considering this ban, please think not just of the world that is being left for my generation, but for the thousands yet to come.

Mahalo,

Gerhardt Robinson

**SB-2498-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:03:03 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Zack Stoddard       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

The manufacture, use, and disposal of polystyrene is harmful to the environment as well as human health. Polystyrene has been identified as a likely carcinogen by the federal government. It takes hundreds of years to break down. There are viable alternatives that are cost effective and being used across the state and around the world. Our state is a sensitive environment and should be leading rather than following in guiding our society to exist harmoniously with nature and take care of our citizens' health. Please pass this common-sense legislation.