

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2498 SD2
RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS**

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 16, 2018 Room Number: 329
Time: 9:00 a.m.

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) will need additional resources if required
2 to implement administrative rules to implement the ban.

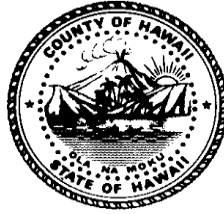
3 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports the intent of S.B. 2498 SD2, which proposes a ban on
4 vendor sales and restaurant use of polystyrene food containers to be implemented by the DOH.

5 The bill requires the DOH to adopt administrative rules to support the implementation of the
6 ban. Since the proposed ban is complete, with no exemptions, the department doesn't anticipate the
7 need for administrative rules. We therefore request amending the bill to give the DOH the option to
8 develop rules instead of requiring the department to do so.

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

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Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4



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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

Representative Chris Lee
Chair, House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Hawai'i State House of Representatives

March 14, 2018

**Re: In Support of Senate Bill 2498, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
To be heard by EEP on 03-16-18 9:00AM in conference room 329**

Aloha Chair Lee 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 1st, 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-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 4:26:50 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

TO the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi Vice-Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services:

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 **SB2498 SD2** relating to Polystyrene Foam Products; Prohibition; Disposal of Nonreusable Prepared Food Containers; and Litter Reduction.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB2498 SD2** and strongly supports its passage for the following reasons:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has added styrene as a possible carcinogens. 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.

SB2498 SD2 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it prohibits the sale of polystyrene foam containers and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide; and authorizes the department of health to include within its administrative rules a requirement for prepared food vendors to educate their customers about proper disposal of nonreusable food containers and litter reduction, effective 7/1/2019.

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 **SB2498 SD2** prohibits the sale of polystyrene foam containers and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide; and authorizes the department of health to include within its administrative rules a requirement for prepared food vendors to educate their customers about proper disposal of nonreusable food containers and litter reduction, effective 7/1/2019, 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, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:54:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rob Parsons | County of Maui, Mayor's Office | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, I write to you in strong support of restrictions on polystyrene food service wares. I am here in San Diego at the 6th International Marine Debris Conference with some 30 other Hawaii residents.



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

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To: Rep. Chris Lee, Chair
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair
Members on Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members on Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Chair
Hawaii Restaurant Association

Subj: SB2498 SD2 Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers

Date: March 13, 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.



Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

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

(808) 393 2168 · www.b-e-a-c-h.org

DATE: 13th March, 2018

TO: Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and
Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services

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

RE: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2498 SD2**
Relating to polystyrene foam containers
Joint committee hearing on Friday 16th March, 2018 at 9AM

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committees,

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 committees to pass this bill as is.

The reason polystyrene foam food and drink containers need to be banned is because they are harmful to both people's health and the environment. Passing this bill will make a big difference to both 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. The same leaching of chemicals also takes place 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 and 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 foam. There are even a number of children and teenagers who are eating out of polystyrene foam 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 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 foam and what they are being subjected to on a daily basis. Children, teenagers and their parents are being exposed to chemicals unknowingly on a weekly and sometimes daily basis.

Polystyrene leaches a man-made chemical called styrene, a chemical that is made from benzene (which comes from petroleum). Benzene is proven to be a human carcinogen. 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 foam 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 omelettes are different and should not be confused. Eggs are used to make omelettes - omelettes 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. The chemicals then bioaccumulate up through the food chain, so the entire food chain is affected. 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 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.

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 than any other plastic. Plastic breaking down is a problem as the smaller it becomes, the more bio-available it is to the base of the food chain - plankton. And when plastic is in tiny pieces it is impossible to remove from the environment. We need to do everything we can to reduce plastic on beaches and in the ocean in order to save marine life. Polystyrene foam cups, containers and pieces of foam can and do blow and wash into the ocean which is why polystyrene

containers for food and drinks need to be banned.

Your leadership is needed to help protect the health of 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.



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-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 6:02:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thomas Fasulo | 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 representative. 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.

Please let me know any thoughts you may have on the subject and I truly hope to see the right decision made.

Thank you for your time,

Thomas

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:08:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lisa Bishop | Friends of Hanauma Bay | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Mizuno, Commitee Members,

The Friends of Hanauma Bay **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB2498 SD2 relating to polystyrene foam containers. Indestructible polystyrene foam is found everywhere and leaches styrene, a known carcinogen, and other toxins that then poison the environment and the local food chain. Polystyrene foam also contributes to the potential death of marine animals and avian populations that ingest it. Removing this product from our homes, streets, parks, beaches and ocean will measurably improve the health of our environment. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay



Environmental Caucus
of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 14, 2018

To: House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Health & Human Services

Re: **SB 2498 SD2 – Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers**

Hearing: Friday, March 16, 2018 9:00AM

Position: **Support**

Aloha, Chairs Lee and Mizuno, Vice-Chairs Lowen and Kobayashi, and members of the House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Health & Human Services,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports measures that protect Hawai'i's natural resources and the environment that its human inhabitants live in, as does the platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. We therefore appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2498, banning the sale or use of polystyrene foam containers statewide.

As the bill indicates, polystyrene is difficult to collect and properly dispose of, is the most common litter found in Hawaii'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, and certainly our country, taking the lead to reduce human ecological impact.

We support this bill and thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Lana Rose Olson, Vice Chair
Environmental Caucus, Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:28:00 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leimomi Khan | Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucu | Support | No |

Comments:

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus joins other supporting testifiers of this bill that would prohibit the sale of polystyrene foam containers and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers and a requirement that food vendors educate their customers about proper disposal of nonreusable food containers and litter reduction. The bill is in line with the Democratic Party of Hawaii platform that was formulated after much discussion among Democrats. Banning/managing plastic bags and styrofoam containers is also among the top priorities of the Environmental Caucus. Consistent with Native Hawaiian values that malama 'aina, this bill helps to protect "mother earth."

We recognize the impact this bill may have on Hawaii businesses who produce styrofoam containers, on businesses who use this product, and also the potential impact of increased costs that may be passed on consumers. A difficult balancing act that pits protection of the environment against businesses/economic interests. In the end, the priority should be placed on protection of the environment, since once destroyed, there is no alternative. It would take hundreds, if not thousands of years to repair and millions of dollars. Too, there are alternatives to polystyrene foam containers already in use by many businesses.

Passage of this bill will help ensure that we pass on to future generations a clean, safe environment.

Please pass SB2498 SD2.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
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TO:

Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Committee on Health and Human Services
Rep. Chris Lee and Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chairs
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen and Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Friday, March 16, 2018
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Conference Room 329

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.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:05:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fawn Liebengood | 808 Cleanups | Support | No |

Comments:

please lass this!!! It's waaaaaay overdue.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 12:22:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaleo Schneider | Buzz's Original Steak house | Support | No |

Comments:

We at Buzz's support SB2498. Mahalo Kaleo Schneider

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 12:54:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Devin Moody | Kailua Beach Adventures | Support | No |

Comments:

As the manager of Kailua Beach Adventure, I would like to express our support for the ban on polystyrene foam in Hawaii. We have recently taken a couple of steps as a company to reduce any connection to styrofoam use and it has been very well received by our customers. One big step that we have taken is to purchase plant fiber food containers for our neighboring business, K&K BBQ, who provides many meals for our kayakers. The cost turned out to actually be cheaper than what they were paying for Styrofoam containers and customers have shown an appreciation for the higher-quality looking material. I have even had some of our neighbors come to personally thank us for taking this step. Our other neighboring restaurants, Bob's Pizzeria uses paper plates exclusively and Kalapawai Market is recognized as an Ocean Friendly Restaurant. We are proving that Styrofoam is completely unnecessary to run a successful business and is even frowned upon by many locals and visitors.

Kailua Beach Adventures

130 Kailua Rd. Kailua Hi 96734

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 1:27:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cathy Goeggel | Animal Rights Hawai'i | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 2:13:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrew Elwood | Hawaii Beach Time | Support | No |

Comments:

I would love to see our beautiful ocean and beaches free of this unnecessary trash. POLYSTYRENE is incredibly harmful to the environment and completely avoidable. Let's get this passed!

Aloha



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
March 16, 2018**

Re: SB 2498 SD2 RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

Good afternoon Chair Lee and Chair Mizuno and members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Health & Human Services. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a statewide not-for-profit trade organization committed to supporting the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii **OPPOSES** SB 2498 SD2 Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers. Retailers continue to be concerned about our aina and have supported many initiatives that preserve and protect our environment.

We need to maintain a fair balance regarding the food service containers. Businesses respond to the wants of the customers that patronize their establishments. We have seen businesses voluntarily changing over to alternative types of food containers because that is the wants of that particular business's customers.

Bans are not the simple answer. This government mandate would place an undue burden on grocers, restaurants, mom & pop establishments, non-profits organizations and others as their cost of business would increase. Almost every day you hear about the high cost of living here in paradise called Hawaii. Yes we are aware that the cost of the containers has decreased, however often they are still more expensive than the polystyrene containers. And the effective date would NOT allow for many businesses to use up the inventory that they already purchased.

Many businesses are already operating on a very thin profit margin. They look for cost effective food containers that ensure that products are durable enough to protect people from spills and burns as well as keep food protected and fresh longer by sustaining appropriate temperature. This is one more additional cost to the bottom line that many businesses may not be able to afford or where many customers may not be willing to pay for.

We should be looking at a coordinated comprehensive litter reduction programs. Government, business and the community should work together on the wise management of our resources by reducing, reusing and recycling principles. We should be looking at litter control programs and education and not a ban.

We urge you to hold this measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:57:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jordan T Nagasako | HI FOCUSED | Support | No |

Comments:

I am in full support of the Statewide ban of Polystyrene

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:17:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John & Rita Shockley | FREE ACCESS COALITION | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Sen. Gabbard and Committee!

We have a unique chance to turn the tide on the horrible pollution of our land and ocean from styro-foam food containers. We stand with the O'ahu Chapter of Surfrider Foundation and others to finally protect the aina that we have been made stuards.

We humans lived for hundreds of years on these islands WITHOUT polluting our world with plastic waste until just a matter of four decades. Look at the result! Let's step back from the brink and give the next generations a chance at a clean environment.

The "convenience" and "low-cost" of plastics are NOT WORTH the true cost to all of us. There are examples of restaurants switching to paper and still remain profitable. Congratulations to Rainbow Drive-ins.

Let's do the right thing for Hawaii and the world--No more Plastic Garbage.

Mahalo for your time!

John & Rita Shockley www.freeaccesscoalition.weebly.com

672-6535

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:58:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thomas Fasulo | OrthoSport Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee and Chair Mizuno and members of the committee,

I am writing on behalf of the medical gym at OrthoSport Hawaii. As a maner of this local company I adamantly supoport this bill. We strive to have an environmental ethic within our company that can help sustain this beautiful state and the ocean surrounding it. I urge you to pass this bill as not only poiliticians, but also residents of this state. Having a place where your children, and your childrens children can grow and play in a safe, healthy, and beautiful environemnt will hopefully be enough of a motivation to put things in perspective for you to make the right choice.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday and hopefully celebrating a step in the right direction.

Thomas

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:04:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emily Kunz | Choice Health Bar | Support | No |

Comments:

As a restaurant owner I fully support the ban of the use of polystyrene state-wide for Hawaii out of recognition that these products create litter that lasts forever and our environment is our greatest asset for the future success of my business. The reason our tourist industry, our largest industry on Maui, is so prosperous is due to the unique environment that exists here. I recognize that while using biodegradable disposables in my business may be slightly more expensive, without a clean, trash-free environment my business would not be able to continue. Living in one of the most naturally beautiful places in the world means we should have the most powerful laws to protect the environment and to minimize litter. Also in recognition that we cannot just ship our waste to foreign countries anymore, we should be concerned that our waste is biodegrade. Single use containers are one of the biggest waste groups, the least we can do is eliminate polystyrene as it never degrades, every piece that is brought here, used here, exists on our islands FOREVER.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:20:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Heather McCarthy | 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 undoubtably bring in more customers. Thank you!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:42:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| shannon | EOLA | Support | No |

Comments:

Styrofoam will be one of those chemical based item that will leave a dirty past and. A future with out it will be a cleaner brighter one! Ban the foam!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:42:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dominique | University of Hawaii at Manoa | Support | No |

Comments:

Hello,

I am an international Civil and Environmental engineer student at UH Manoa, surfer, diver and an everyday witness of plastic pollution. I write to you out of deep concern for 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 I have witnessed how your actions from a political standpoint can echo around the world. Last year Costa Rica implemented a national strategic plan to fade out single use plastics. In the narrative on the origin of this strategy, the document refers to political action taken in Hawaii by the City and Council of Honolulu on the ban of plastic bags as an aspiring example to follow. Now, at a state level, your actions not only take part in the most effective way of regulating our over-exaggerated plastic consumption but also result as a solid example for developing countries.

Hawaii's actions along with all the other countries of the world carry equal responsibility of stewardship of the oceans that we all share. Let it be back in in my country, the state where I am studying or any other country I visit, the action taken towards plastic pollution is a journey we are all taking together. Hawaii can refuse to contribute to the increasing amount of daily polystyrene foam that enters our oceans globally. It certainly signifies changes and adjustments for all stakeholders, private businesses (local or corporate), individual practices, and political priorities; but as a growing global awareness thats taking place, the collective change is inevitable, and its happening NOW. Therefore, I urge you to take this matter with serious care and importance.

With aloha,

Dominique Peña

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:43:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Spencer Reemelin | Surfrider | Support | No |

Comments:

please do the right thing and protect our future. We can all afford the cost of compost friendly

containers. We cannot afford to contaminate with styrofoam. Please ban styrofoam now!!!!



SB 2498
In Strong Support
Hearing Date: March 16th 2018
Committee on EEP/HHS

Aloha Chairs Lee and Mizuno & Members of the House EEP/HHS Committees

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. Due to long term travel plans, I am unable to give testimony in person, but have asked one of our leading waste reduction experts, Nicole Chatterson, to speak on behalf of Surfrider 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 coral ecosystems in which 90% of them that have plastic pollution on them are diseased. 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 or even better, a system where consumers bring their own reusable containers for take-out, drinks, and leftovers.

As the leading non-profit in Hawaii's Ocean Friendly Restaurants Program, Surfrider and its partners have certified over 150 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 and a half 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 decades long 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

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

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

- 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 dioxide⁴ (a potent greenhouse gas) annually. Although touted as a “clean energy solution” for Hawaii, H-POWER only generates about 3% of Oahu's energy needs⁵ while still emitting greenhouse gases through burning plastic.
- Further, for each ton of polystyrene not produced, 2.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions are avoided. This directly supports Hawaii's greenhouse gas reduction goals as stated in the Aloha + Challenge and as mandated by the US EPA.⁶
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Reduction Model (WARM) report shows that burning polystyrene emits more carbon dioxide equivalent than other plastics. For each ton of polystyrene incinerated, 1.64 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent are emitted.
- If burned at HPower, one compostable clamshell burns 1.76 times greater energy compared to one EPS Foam clamshell of the same size. And burning compostable products comes without the toxic ash or smoke that EPS foam creates in the burning process.
- Fiber clamshells are also less than half the volume of EPS, so a restaurant could fit about twice as many clamshells on the same amount of shelf space or have more space for other things.

³ www.unep.org/pdf/ValuingPlastic/

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

⁵ www.islandpulse.org

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

- 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).

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

Mahalo,

Rafael Bergstrom
Oahu Chapter Coordinator, The Surfrider Foundation

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



1035 University Ave. #105, Honolulu, HI 96833. Ph. 808-942-2222

SB 2498

3/14/18

Aloha Chair Lee and the EEP Committee,

My name is Hailey Berkey and I am a small business co-owner at a restaurant called *The Nook Neighborhood Bistro*. I am writing in full support of SB 2498.

Because I strive to run a socially and environmentally responsible business in my community, it was not difficult to make the decision to use of non-foam products in our restaurant. To date, over 150 restaurants in Hawaii have committed to doing the same. While there is currently a cost difference between polystyrene and environmentally-friendly alternatives, I found that it was simple to embed that difference in the pricing of our items. All restaurants have the flexibility to do the same and adjust their pricing accordingly.

The price point of using non-foam containers has not hurt our business. In fact, we get positive feedback from our customers who appreciate our dedication to eliminating single-use plastic products, particularly polystyrene, and who enjoy the unique look of our plastic-free to-go packing. Further, as more restaurants begin using non-foam packaging, the price point of the alternatives will drop.

From a competition perspective, implementing a foam ban would even the playing field when it comes to product purchase. Currently, small businesses like *The Nook* that choose respond to consumer demand for ethical products must price our products higher than businesses that ignore their civic duty to offer socially and environmentally responsible products. In an industry that already struggles with waste and excess, it's our duty to find ways to reduce our impact.

In closing, please accept this testimony in strong support of Sb2498. I appreciate your time and attention to this important matter.

Mahalo,

Hailey Berkey
Owner, *The Nook Neighborhood Bistro*

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 11:54:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chris Chaney | The Nook Neighborhood Bistro | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Committee on EEP and HHS,

Mahalo for hearing this bill. I am writing in support for SB2498. As the Buying Manager of *the nook Neighborhood Bidtro* in Manoa, I have watched the positive response to our no Styrofoam policy.

It is not difficult for restuarants to make the switch, and it is tremendously important for our natural world. We know animals and humans are ingesting plastic. Why keep putting more of it into the world? Polystyrene is particularly insidious, breaking down into pieces that are really challengeing to clean up. I have several colleagues and friends who particpate in beach cleanups--the've seen this mess first hand. I also see it myself when I go to the beach, hoping to relax, but instead being inundated with plastic rubbish.

Since there are so many alternatives, why wouldn't we make the switch?

Thank you,

Chris Chaney

Buying Manger, the nook



1035 University Ave. #105, Honolulu, HI 96833. Ph. 808-942-2222

SB 2498

3/14/18

Aloha Chair Lee and the EEP Committee,

My name is Anicea Campanale and I am co-owner and Head Chef at *the nook: Neighborhood Bistro* in Manoa. I am writing in strong support of SB 2498.

From the very beginning my business partner Hailey and I wanted to create a business that was environmentally conscious. There is no reason to start a business that doesn't consider environmental and human health. Outside of an ethical standpoint, consumers are demanding it.

As a chef, my food is my art. I don't want to serve it to my valued customers in a material that is harmful to both their health and their environment. As such, we have chosen to nix polystyrene. We only serve off of dishes in the restaurant. When customers need to take food home, we encourage them to first bring their own, and (if they can't) we provide compostable containers.

Please ban polystyrene to protect the preciousness of Hawaii, and, also to even the playing field for those of us who are already doing the right thing by avoiding foam. Once we all start purchasing alternative, the price *will* drop.

Again, I am in strong support of SB 2498.

Mahalo,

Anicea Campanale
Co-Owner and Head Chef, *the nook: Neighborhood Bistro*

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

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:50:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Noel K Akbar | Surfrider | Support | No |

Comments:

TESTIMONY OF NOEL AKBAR

Relating to Polystyrene Containers

BILL: SB2498 SD2

3/15/2018

Aloha Senate committee members in charge of this bill. I am Noel Akbar and I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and I am in support of this bill.

I was born and raised on this beautiful island of Oahu and I have noticed the increase in polystyrene waste in many of our public parks and beaches first hand. As a struggling student who has spent many hours in restaurants, I understand the need for take out containers in an island where everyone is constantly on the move. I believe that if this ban is implemented, our state can come up with better solutions to help improve the way we package and sell our goods. I understand the increase in price for alternative products, but in order to sustain a longer and healthier life for our islands ecosystems, we need to make the change.

If we think about it tourism is our states largest source of income and it brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue every year. I work in the service industry in waikiki fairly close to the beach and I get customers who come in and complain that the beaches are littered with plastics and styrofoam, and that their children's feet got caught in bags that were floating in the water. If we don't make a change quickly, we could see incidents like this become a normal thing at our beaches which would slowly but surely scare tourists away from our polluted islands. Cleaning up our beaches and waters would only help boost the

popularity of our island to our visitors, which would create an economic boost for our economy.

I think we should look back at our past and how the hawaiian people respected the land that they lived on and took care of the earth that would give them food and water. If we continue to pollute our lands then their may not be any land to live on in the near future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Aloha,

Noel Akbar

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:40:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Matt Hong | Banãjn | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Matt Hong, an owner of Banán, a locally owned food establishment with 50 employees. We have been foam free since we opened in December of 2014 and have not found any financial hardship from this choice. We turn locally grown bananas into a dairy-free, frozen soft-serve, and have no issues with quality of insulating our cold products using eco-friendly bowls for our products. Our customers are happy with our decision to stick to eco-friendly containers. We use compostable spoons and are looking into bamboo disposable soon at the moment. We also offer our customers the option to get their soft-serve swirled in a half slice papaya – a papaya boat! We are a low price point, high volume business and have never felt hurt by the pricing of our packaging. We use custom branded paper cups lined with plant based plastics. If businesses opted for generic versions of our bowls without custom printing it'd be even cheaper! This is possible for ALL businesses today. Let's think about the future costs of our oceans and natural resources – styrofoam makes absolutely not sense when thinking about the big picture.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:40:01 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hans Schippers | Nekton Surfwear | Support | No |

Comments:

The way in which our environment is continually being discriminated against needs to stop! It is time that we look at the bigger picture and allow a sustainable future to take place. This starts with removing the environments worst enemies, polystyrene being one. Our carless consumer culture is impacting local communities eco systems needed for everyday life. Polystyrene is making it's way futher and further into our local environments and the impacts are right in front of our face. Lets take a step in the right direction and remove this harmful product from society.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:48:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lars Olsen | Olsen Pacific Consulting | Support | No |

Comments:

This is an opportunity for Hawaii to lead the rest of the US and Pacific to show that we don't actually need polystyrene foam. It was a miracle product when invented, but we know better now. There are easy alternatives that won't pollute our beautiful environment and harm our ocean life...the two things that draw a lot of people (and their tourism dollars) to Hawaii. Please let common sense prevail and let's lead on this.

Hearing Date: March 16, 2018

Hearing: 9:30am, Room 329

Committees: Energy & Environmental Protection; Health & Human Services

Aloha,

My name is Doorae Shin, and I am the Program Manager for Plastic Free Hawaii testifying in wholehearted support of SB2498. My testimony is on behalf of the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation, a non-profit founded in 2003 by Kim & Jack Johnson to provide environmental education to Hawaii. My day-to-day work is in talking to students and community members about the impacts of single-use plastics and plastic pollution.

When I moved here 7 years ago to go to UH Mānoa, I was completely awestruck by the incredible beauty found in nature all around us here in Hawai'i. But this newfound connection to nature was contrasted with the trash and plastic flying around and littered in the places I love, and Styrofoam was a big offender. At the same time, I began to learn about the immense environmental crisis we face locally and globally with climate change, and I learned even more about plastic pollution and marine debris that we, in our islands, see and feel on a daily basis.

University of Hawai'i Banned Foam 5 Years Ago



From our love for Hawai'i and our ocean, my friends and I started a campaign to make UH Mānoa a foam-free campus. Four months after the launch of our campaign, in April of 2013, UH Manoa passed an official policy banning campus food vendors from using EPS foam. There was never a single complaint from food vendors of economic hardship or dissatisfaction about the policy. All of UH's food establishments, including small businesses and food trucks, made a smooth transition, and the campus has been foam-free ever since. These food establishments were able to use any of the myriad alternatives available to food establishments. A copy of the policy can be found here:

<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/pdfs/SustainableFoodServiceProducts.pdf>

It's Unnecessary and Alternatives Are Abundant

Above all, the use of styrofoam in foodservice is simply unnecessary to use (as so many affordable alternatives to foam are readily available) and harmful (to wildlife and the ocean ecosystem). If something is unnecessary and harmful, then it is a simple solution to end that practice. Single-use plastics, like the foam containers, cups, & plates used at local restaurants, are made from petroleum and are designed for one time use. To design a product to be used for just minutes that we know will last hundreds of years in the environment is irresponsible and irrational.

There are ever-increasing alternatives to these products that offer the same shapes, sizes, function & quality that foam does without any of the consequences. Restaurants buy their to-go materials from distributors and wholesale stores, and ALL of them offer not only foam, but also a wide variety of foam-free alternatives that are both abundant and affordable.

Health Hazards of Polystyrene Foam

And though KYD (local foam producer & distributor) will argue that they will lose all of their jobs, only a fraction of their business model/jobs is based in foam production, and they offer hundreds of other products not made from foam. Similarly, we should be aware that these jobs producing polystyrene products are hazardous jobs. In producing polystyrene foam products, KYD exposes their employees to harmful chemicals. A National Institute of Health study found "An excess of spontaneous abortions ... in women whose work included the processing of polystyrene."¹ These are just some of the warnings heeded by scientists that have studied these and many more health effects from exposure the chemicals found in polystyrene foodware.

The small number of jobs that would be lost from slowing down foam production will in fact be a blessing to the health and safety of those employees, and with an economic shift towards eco-friendly products, we can easily replace those jobs with ones of a non-toxic nature. KYD, the only company producing foam in Hawai'i, can instead produce and distribute disposable foodware made from other materials.

Knowing that the use of EPS foam in restaurants is simply unnecessary and that alternatives are abundant, and knowing that Maui County & Hawai'i County both passed polystyrene foam reduction bills last year, I urge you to support SB2498 so Hawai'i's restaurants can use products that do not pose a threat to our environment, to wildlife, to our food chain, or to the health of our local workers and consumers. The convenience of EPS foam does not outweigh the consequence, and we can now find the same conveniences in more sustainable alternatives. Mahalo nui loa for your time & consideration.

Doora Shin,
Plastic Free Hawaii Program Manager
Kokua Hawaii Foundation

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8070863>



March 15, 2018

The Honorable Chris Lee
House District 51
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 436
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable John Mizuno
House District 28
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 439
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via email: EEPtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov and HHStestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

SUBJECT: SB 2498 (Chang) – Relating to Polystyrene Containers – 3/15/2018 Oppose

Dear Representative Lee and Representative Mizuno:

I am writing to respectfully inform you of our opposition to SB 2498, legislation that prohibits the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide. The Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) remains committed to the recycling of plastic products, collaborating with organizations including The Recycling Partnership, Keep America Beautiful, and the Sustainable Packaging Coalition to fight pollution and make recycling easier and more available. Marine debris is a serious issue, however the discriminatory approach of selecting and eliminating a given type of food service product has proven an ineffective method to address the issue.

Product bans, such as that contemplated in SB 2498, have not been shown to be successful in reducing litter. Comprehensive efforts should be aimed at reducing ALL compositions of litter, not solely individual products. This will reduce the overall volume of material reaching the marine environment. When litter reduction occurs on the streets within our communities, the amount of material that flows through storm drains, rivers, and ultimately to the ocean is also reduced. A report by Environmental Resources Planning entitled "Litter Abatement Opportunities in Honolulu" found the top two sources of litter to be overfilled trash receptacles and public trash receptacles without lids. Tackling these two sources of litter would yield a much greater impact than banning specific items. According to the Final Staff Report for Trash Amendments - April 7, 2015, the California Water Boards found that *"types of product bans enacted by an ordinance, such as take-out items, may involve a substitution of the banned item. Mere substitution would not result in reduced trash generation if such product substitution would be discarded in the same manner as the banned item."*

Polystyrene foam containers serve an incredibly important purpose. They are among the most efficient for keeping foods fresh, free of leaks and spills, and most importantly keeping the food hot or cold. That is why it is standard practice for ice cream, frozen yogurt and smoothie shops, amongst others, to use the foam packaging. Schools, hospitals, nursing homes, non-profit food programs, delis, and family-owned restaurants are among the many institutions that rely upon polystyrene foam for its excellent insulation at an economical price. Alternative packaging materials are often as high as 2-3 times more expensive and do not perform as efficiently. Polystyrene also satisfies many health and safety considerations in the food

service industry. Improper storage of food can cause food to spoil due to an increase or decrease in temperature, which highly increases the chances of foodborne illnesses. This makes polystyrene a desirable option for consumers because of its practical applications when dining to-go.

The plastics industry very much supports reasonable and effective recycling and composting of food packaging materials and advocates for such a policy statewide. We urge you to take a more effective approach and review current litter practices within the State to promote more litter education and recycling programs, prevention and clean-up activities, as well as create stricter enforcement and liability on the people who litter.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose SB 2498.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon V. Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Shannon V. Crawford

Director, State Government Affairs

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:47:04 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Matthew Rose | Sanikleen Corp. USA | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Mizuno, and committee members.

I am writing this letter on behalf of my employer, Sanikleen Corporation USA, who relies heavily on the food service industry for the majority of our business, as well as for the Hawaii Restaurant Association, for which I am a sitting board member and committee chair member.

This bill and other bills similar to it that call for banning of items primarily used in the foodservice industry will surely produce a more negative than positive impact on our local economy and business environment for our hardworking business owners, managers, and all suppliers and vendors that rely on a thriving local food service industry.

I view the introduction and support of passage of these types of bills as nothing more than a 'feel good' measure to try and please constituents, most of whom do not have a good understanding of the negative impacts, including further increases in food and menu item prices, as well as to take the easy way supposedly addressing our litter problem by forcing an already struggling and challenged industry to make up for the general irresponsibility of those consumers who can't properly dispose of used items, or don't care about how much trash and litter they propogate.

How about tackling the REAL issues, like our homelessness crisis? Where is the outcry and strength of will being applied to one of the most outrageously trash producing communities, costing the state millions every year to clean up the mess? Or how about doing more to educate the public on proper disposal and containment of rubbish, and more effective enforcement of our existing littering laws?

Our societal values need to change, adding more bills that act as a measure to correct the irresponsible, reckless, and self centered behavior of general consumers is not the answer. Please table this bill.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rose

Sanikleen Corporation USA - *“Cleanliness is our Middle Name”*

810 Gulick Avenue, Suite 202

Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Ph: 808-843-0888 | Cel: 808-726-6769 | www.sanikleen-hawaii.com



O'ahu
Chapter

Aloha Chairs Lee and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Lowen and Kobayashi, and members of the committees,

My name is June Chee and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation [Ocean Friendly Restaurants program](#) in **strong support** of SB2498, SD2.

To become an Ocean Friendly Restaurant, restaurants have to meet 6 mandatory criteria, one of which being No Polystyrene takeout containers. The Ocean Friendly Restaurants (OFR) program was launched in April 2016 and in less than 2 years have registered over 140 restaurants here in Hawaii (full list included). This OFR program and local restaurants have set the precedent for this movement, leading to the launch of the national OFR program earlier this year.

The OFR program has successfully helped restaurants become polystyrene-free with owners who want to do good and operate on a sustainable business model. None of these restaurants have reported financial burden from going foam-free and there is a community of volunteers who help make the transition easy and cost effective for the restaurants.

The economic benefit of the polystyrene ban also extends beyond restaurant owners, as many of Hawaii's main suppliers of compostable food-grade products are Hawaiian-based businesses, such as Sustainable Island Products, Triple FFF and Diamond Head Distributors.

Companies like these, as well as the 140 Ocean Friendly Restaurants across the state, are local businesses providing quality service to residents and visitors by being conscious of the food they serve as well as the containers they come in. Supporting these purveyors supports local business owners and can create job opportunities in this sector in Hawaii.

Furthermore, SB2498, SD2 is a step in the right direction to protect the environment, support Hawaii's resiliency goals, and ensure the longevity and continued success of our local economy.

Hawaii is ready for this ban.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of this testimony and important issue.

June Chee
Volunteer, Ocean Friendly Restaurant

Full List of Ocean Friendly Restaurants by Island

O`ahu

12th Avenue Grill
'Ai Love Nalo
Alan Wong's
Banzai Sushi Bar
Banan
Barefoot Beach Cafe
Beet Box Cafe
Bevy
Blue Tree Cafe
Brick Fire Tavern
Brew'd
Buzz's Steakhouse
Cactus
Chef Chai
Cholo's Homestyle Mexican
Coffee Gallery
Cre8 Cafe–Celestial Natural Foods
Downbeat Diner & Bar
Encore Saloon
Fete
Garden Bistro at Waiahole Nursery
Grace in Growlers
Green Garden by Plant-Based Heaven
Greens & Vines Raw Vegan Restaurant
Guava Smoked
Hau Tree Lanai
Hiking Hawaii Cafe
Honolulu Museum of Art Cafe & Coffee Bar
Honolulu Museum of Art Spalding House Cafe
Island Brew Coffeehouse Kaimuki
Jawaiian Irie Jerk
Juicy Brew
Kahumana Organic Farm & Cafe
Kaimana Farm Cafe
Kaimukī Superette
Kalapawai Cafe
Ke Nui Kitchen
Koko Head Cafe
Kokua Market
Kona Brewing Co. Pub
Leahi Health (Kailua)
Leahi Health (Kaimukī)

Leahi Health ('Āina Haina)
Mahina and Sun's
Maui Brewing Co.
Moku Kitchen
Morning Glass
Mud Hen Water
Paradise Fresh Food
Peace Cafe
Pipeline Bakery and Creamery
Pounders
REAL Gastropub
Sprout Sandwich Shop Haleiwa
Sprout Sandwich Shop Kaimuki
Sunny Days
Square Barrels
The Counter Kahala
The Nook, Neighborhood Bistro
Town Kaimukī
Turtle Bay Resort, Kula Grille
Turtle Bay Resort, Lei Lei's
Turtle Bay Resort, Lobby Lounge
Turtle Bay Resort, Pa'akai
Turtle Bay Resort, Roy's Beach House
Turtle Bay Resort, The Point
Turtle Bay Resort, Surfer The Bar
Umeke Market
Vegan Hills
Wahoo's Fish Tacos
Whole Foods, (Kailua) Windward Bar
Whole Foods, (Kahala) Puka's
Wow Wow Lemonade, (Haleiwa)
Wow Wow Lemonade, (Wahiawa)
Yauatcha

Big Island

Big Island Brewhaus
Big Island Juice Co.
Conscious Culture Cafe
Daylight Mind Coffee Co.
Evolution Bakery and Cafe
Fudge'n'Good Coffee Cafe
Green Flash Coffee
Huggos on the Rocks
Island Naturals Deli

Island Lava Java Cafe
Kona Brewing Co.
Lava Lava Beach Club
Le Magic Pan
Naung Mai Thai Kitchen
One Aloha Shave Ice Co.
Paul's Place
Pineapple's Island Fresh Cuisine
Privateer's Cove
Sea Dandelion Cafe
Shark's Coffee Shop
Sweet Cane Cafe
The Fish and the Hog
The Oasis Cafe
Tina's Garden Gourmet Cafe
Village Burger
WikiFresh Hilo

Kaua`i

Aloha Aina Juice Cafe
Beach House Restaurant
Imua Coffee Roasters
Kalaheo Cafe & Coffee Company
Kalalea Juice Hale
Kauai Beer Company
Kauai Juice Company
Lava Lava Beach Club
Little Fish Coffee
Merriman's Gourmet Pizza & Burgers
Papayas Kitchen
Rainbeau Jo's
Small Town Coffee
Street Burger
The Fresh Shave
The Greenery Cafe
The Local Kauai Kitchen & Bar
Trees Lounge
Tiki Tacos

Maui

Bailey's Cafe Food Truck
Bamboo Fresh
Cafe des Amis
Charley's

Choice Health Bar
Flatbread Company
Farmacy Health Bar
Farmacy Upcountry
Hana Ranch Food Truck
Honolua Farms Kitchen
Kihei Cafe
Local Boyz Shave Ice Kihei
Market Fresh Bistro
Maui Brewing Company Brewpub
Maui Fresh Streatery
Milagros
Mulligan's on the Blue
Nick's Fishmarket
Rock and Brews
Sarento's on the Beach
Seascape Restaurant
Sip Me
Thai Spice
Tiki Tacos
Tin Roof
Tommy Bahama Wailea
Veg-Out

Criteria to be an Ocean Friendly Restaurant

Mandatory Criteria:

1. No Polystyrene.
2. Proper recycling practices are followed.
3. Only reusable tableware is used for onsite dining.
4. No plastic bags offered

Optional Criteria (meet a minimum of three):

1. Plastic straws are provided only upon request
2. No beverages are sold in plastic bottles
3. Discount offered to customers with reusable cup, mug, bag, etc
4. Vegetarian/vegan food options are offered on a regular basis
5. Water conservation efforts such as low-flow faucets and toilets.
6. Energy efficiency efforts such as LED lighting and energy star appliances

HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION

**To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Chris Lee, Chair
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair**

**House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

Re: SB 2498, SD 2 re Polystyrene Foam Containers

Hearing: Friday, March 16, 2018, 9:00 a.m., Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – was formed last year by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawai'i's coral reefs and ocean. We are currently asking the Legislature to pass a handful of very important bills to save our coral reefs – they are bills relating to sunscreens – this bill; plus bills on cesspools; oxybenzone; plastic straws, bottles and other marine debris; and sea level rise.

We are informed that Hawai'i uses more polystyrene per capital than any other state. As a Hawai'i residents, we strongly support a ban on polystyrene foam containers for four main reasons: human health, marine life, environment, and costs.

HUMAN HEALTH - Polystyrene leaches carcinogens and when burned emits toxic chemicals that can endanger human health.

MARINE LIFE - This light and brittle material blows into waterways and breaks down easily, endangering all kinds of marine life that think it is food. The reefs and ocean are in crisis and need protection from this pollution!

ENVIRONMENT - Polystyrene litter despoils the beautiful pristine environment on which our recreational economy depends.

COSTS - the costs of removal of polystyrene from storm sewers and waste streams is enormous. Our county governments are spending millions of dollars every year in cleaning up plastic, much of which is polystyrene (Styrofoam). Polystyrene is very difficult to collect and properly dispose of; it is the most common litter found in Hawai'i's parks, beaches, and waterways.

There are ample inexpensive alternatives that food vendors can purchase in bulk and use, such as compostable plastics, recycled paper, bamboo, and hemp. The additional cost of sustainable substitutes are insignificant compared to the above benefits. In many cases, food vendors have already made the switch without any detriment to their business. We must encourage such practices.

We thank the Committees for this opportunity to testify on this very important bill. We seriously need to get it passed THIS YEAR!

Alan B. Burdick, for HIROC
Burdick808@gmail.com/486-1018

kōkua hawai'i foundation



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2498 SD2, RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair; Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair; Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

March 16, 2018 at 9:00 am, Conference Room 329

Aloha Committee Chairs Lee, Mizuno, and committee members.

Mahalo for your consideration of SB2498 SD2. My name is Natalie McKinney, Executive Director of the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. Our mission is to provide students with experiences that will enhance their appreciation for and understanding of their environment so they will be lifelong stewards of the earth. One of our many programs is the Plastic Free Hawai'i program. Plastic Free Hawai'i provides resources, tools, and trainings to educate schools, business partners, and community members about the environmental and health benefits of going plastic free to minimize single-use plastics in our islands.

Since the beginning of this program, it has been our goal to inspire the keiki of Hawai'i to make changes in their own lives to eliminate single-use plastics like EPS foam and ask the same change from their friends, parents, neighbors, and community. Working with these youth in beach cleanups, panel discussions, environmental fairs, we hear the same question repeated: "why?" They ask why a product like foam, that we know to be toxic to people, animals, and the entire ecosystem, should still be available. These youth are moved to make change, and we ask the same of our legislators.

The urgency of the plastic pollution crisis calls for us to take bold steps toward removing the "low hanging foam fruit" of single use plastics from distribution. Cutting off the flow is the only true way to ensure that these toxic materials never enter our watersheds. Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation will continue working tirelessly to encourage behavior change, but we are just one determined group. We need government and state agencies to take an active role in protecting this place that we love and which provides for us.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie McKinney".

Natalie McKinney,
Executive Director

www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

P.O. Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI 96712 • Tel: (808) 638-5145 • Fax: (808) 638-0757 • info@kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i.





March 15, 2018

To: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
Members, House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
Members, House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

RE: SB 2498 (SD2) – OPPOSE

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose SB 2498 (SD2), 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 (SD2) 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 products¹.
- 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 products².

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 Canada³. 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 enacted⁴. Bans result in litter substitution, not elimination.

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

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

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

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



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 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 to⁵.

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.marinedebrissolutions.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

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



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 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. 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

[For more information on styrene:](#) 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.



House EEP/HHS Hearing
SB 2498sd2, Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers
Friday, March 16, 2018 – 9:00am
Position: Oppose

Chairs Lee and Mizuno and Members of House EEP/HHS Joint 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 SB2498sd2, 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. Critics of polystyrene foam food containers are quick to point to a reduction of EPS litter following adoption of the ban, but they fail to address the rise in the amount of litter of alternative products (i.e. paper).
(Source: "The City of San Francisco Streets Litter Re-Audit 2008," prepared for the City of San Francisco Environment Department, July 4, 2008.)





- A closer look at the Hawaii State Department of Transportation [Trash-Reduction-Plan_FINAL-10-18-16.pdf](#) shows that Polystyrene Foam trash represents 10.91 annual volume compared to Paper trash annual volume of 131.76.

See page 30 of the PDF link provided, C. Trash Characterization

| SITE # | PLASTIC BAGS AND PACKAGING | POLYSTYRENE FOAM | CIGARETTE BUTTS | METAL | PAPER | RECYCLABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS | MISCELLANEOUS |
|--------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|-------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | 0.19 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 31.15 | 0.90 | 0.55 | 0.39 | 5.98 | 0.99 | 12.92 |
| 3 | 63.28 | 4.64 | 0.01 | 10.53 | 39.32 | 7.86 | 30.33 |
| 4 | 29.97 | 1.37 | 1.66 | 0.47 | 7.23 | 1.27 | 0.29 |
| 5 | 43.67 | 1.17 | 0.03 | 2.72 | 37.06 | 1.87 | 85.04 |
| 6 | 0.23 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.30 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7 | 43.68 | 0.81 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.39 | 2.50 | 12.75 |
| 8 | 4.80 | 1.40 | 0.00 | 0.41 | 1.69 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9 | 18.01 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 1.35 | 3.27 | 8.81 | 8.00 |
| 10 | 146.99 | 0.48 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 34.82 | 25.26 | 7.20 |

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.

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, as well as a fiscal and non-fiscal impact study of a polystyrene foam food container ban, and a land-based marine-debris management bill. 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-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:36:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Danielle Kuck | Merriman's Restaurant Group | Support | No |

Comments:

We have never used polystyrene foam in our restaurant in the 10 years that we have been operating on Maui. There has been zero issue from employees or guests. The difference in price is minimal compared to the great impact on our island. Running a sustainable business is important to us as a company and as individuals. We must have these bans in place to protect our island. Recently, we have stopped using all plastic and the feedback from our guests is very positive. They have mentioned that they appreciate our efforts.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:18:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marylee SAKas | Merriman's Restaruant & Napili Canoe Club (non-profit org) | Support | No |

Comments:

SB2498,SD2

Hearing Date: Friday, March 16, 2018

Committee: EEP/HHS

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Mizuno and member of the committees.

I am writing to testify in support of this bill. My name is Marylee Sakas, I am a manager for Merriman's Hawaii and also a board member of Napili Canoe Club in Maui.

Being an active member of the community, restaurant group manager and avid ocean lover I have seen and picked up countless Styrofoam rubbish on the beach as well as in the water. Being a local for over 15 years now I was so proud of the company I work for in being completely on board with becoming one of the first foam free restaurants in Maui so long ago. It is in fact doing the right thing for our community, our future, the ocean and our islands.

Our experience switching to non-foam products:

- Why did we decide to become foam free? -Our motto is Do the right thing and this is definitely the RIGHT THING to do!
- Was it as difficult as you thought? - Changes take time to implement but It's been worth it no question.
- Were there equivalent products available to you? Yes, there are options.
- Have the products met your needs for durability and usefulness? Yes.
- Has there been positive feedback from customers? Yes, especially the local community.
- Have the products cost more or less?
 - More, however it's been a manageable amount that hasn't harmed our business.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Marylee Sakas

Marketing Designer

Marylee@merrimanshawaii.com

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:22:19 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Janelle Chong | SEEQS | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Names: Kalamakahi Crabbe, Chloe Woytenko, Abby Bustamante, Lucy Fagan.
Representative of: SEEQS Testimony for Bill SB2498 We in STRONG SUPPORT for bill SB 2498. We want to support bill SB 2498 because styrofoam causes health and environmental issues. Such as polystyrene foam is non- biodegradable, 50% of turtles have polystyrene foam inside of them, turtles cannot digest the polystyrene so it stays inside of their bellies FOREVER so they starve thinking there full even though they are not, and 100% of Americans have polystyrene foam inside of them that includes YOU! We have taken time as a students to learn these facts when I went to a event called "Civics is Sexy" I learned how polystyrene is dangerous to our environment and how we can use these facts to support our testimony. According to Dangers of Polystyrene "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. Polystyrene food containers leach the toxin Styrene when they come into contact with warm food or drink, alcohol, oils and acidic foods causing human contamination and pose a health risk to people. Avoid drinking tea with lemon, coffee with dairy cream, fruit juices, alcoholic beverages and wine from Styrofoam cups. Red wine will instantly dissolve the Styrene monomer. Do not eat oily foods from Styrofoam containers."



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Friday, March 16, 2018 9:00AM Conference Room 329

In SUPPORT of SB 2498 SD2 Relating to polystyrene foam containers

Aloha Chairs Lee and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Lowen and Kobayashi and members of the Committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **strongly supports SB 2498 SD2**, 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 SD2**.



March 15, 2018

Support for SB 2498 SD1: Relating to Polystyrene Food Containers

Committee: Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP), Health & Human Services (HHS)

Hearing: March 16, 2018, 9:00am, Rm. 329

Dear Chairs Lee & Mizuno, Vice Chairs Lowen & Kobayashi & Members of the EEP & HHS Committees,

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 (HIROC), a group 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. 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 15 months! Here's a partial list of all the restaurants in Hawaii: www.oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org.

During our monthly beach cleanups around the state, EPS foam products are among the top items we find every single 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. 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.

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 (HDOT) 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.

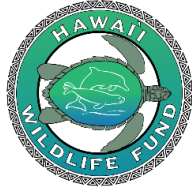
Finally, with the bans in Maui and the Big Island, the states needs a consistent policy of eliminating these products. Protecting our land and people should be our top priority, not allowing a few companies to profit from outmoded products that harm the environment and our wildlife. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue.

Aloha,

Stuart Coleman



Stuart H. Coleman, Hawaii Manager



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

Post Office Box 70, Volcano HI 96785 and
Post Office Box 790637, Paia HI 96779

Re: Senate Bill 2498 SD2

15 March 2018

Aloha Representatives,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, **as we are in strong support of Senate Bill 2498**, to prohibit the sale of and serving of foods in polystyrene foam containers statewide.

In May 2017, I was asked by Maui County to present scientific information supporting their proposed Bill 127 on polystyrene food containers. At that time, I provided clear examples of scientific studies and technical reports outlining the 3 main reasons to support this foam reduction policy. After a special two-day hearing, Maui Council Members voted unanimously in support of this bill. Subsequently, on Hawai'i Island, a similar bill (Bill 13) was passed by the Hawai'i County Council in September 2017.

County by county we are recognizing the issues with polystyrene foam containers, and we are opting to make our island communities (and native ecosystems) better by voting them out of our solid waste management dilemmas. *The line of thought shared in May is relevant and related to this current senate bill proposal, and included the following 3 reasons:*

- Negative impact to our marine environment
- Island economy / solid waste management
- Common sense

Numerous scientific journal articles have reported on studies that found negative interactions between marine wildlife and plastic marine debris. In Maui, I shared examples of where polystyrene "PS" microplastic pieces (5mm and smaller) affected the development and behavior of fish in a laboratory study (perch). Another study conducted locally found **evidence of polystyrene microscopic plastic particles in beach sand and water samples from Hawai'i Island and O'ahu.**

I noted the recent report by the Hawai'i Department of Transportation - Highways Division in O'ahu that included recommendations to support ordinances that reduced plastic bags and foam containers to prevent litter along the highways. I also provided information from a California study prepared by the Natural Resource Defense Council (2013) that estimated the **true cost of litter removal along highways and waterways in cities across that coastal state astronomical.** Comparing a California city with a population similar to that of Hawai'i Island alone (population range: 75,000 – 249,000), they **estimate an annual cost of debris management at \$1,131,156.00 per year.**

www.wildhawaii.org

In addition, our current statewide recycling system will only consistently take #1 and #2 plastics. Polystyrene foam is a #6 plastic and exceedingly difficult to recycle, despite what the opposition may tell you. Even large municipalities in states like California and New York are unable to recycle PS foam, and it becomes even harder to deal with for containers that are food-contaminated. Living on an island in the remote Pacific, we must be cognizant about what we bring in (or produce) and ensure that there are proper disposal mechanisms.

Several years ago, our State legislature passed a plastic bag ban here and that program has been increasingly successful, decreasing bag litter and environmental hazard for a native wildlife alike. We feel that The passing of Senate Bill 2498 is the next logical step in this direction towards counties goal for zero waste. It is simply the right thing to do.

A vote against this bill is a choice by representatives towards prioritizing corporations, pocketbooks, and businesses that refuse to change instead of prioritizing our children, our island communities, and our native wildlife. On Hawai'i Island alone, we have identified nearly 150 restaurants and vendors on island who have already committed to using foam alternatives (prior to the county ban). **There are viable options available, and there should be no more excuses.**

Please let me know if you would like any of the references to any of the facts I've provided within this testimony. As a scientist by training, I like to support my statements with documentation.

Last but not least, I think you should consider the scale of the marine debris problem throughout our state. In 2017 alone, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and volunteers have removed over 70,000 pounds of marine debris from our shores. Debris that is full of plastic and debris that includes polystyrene foam. **Foam may be a small percentage of the litter we are collecting along our shorelines (estimated at ~5% for Hawai'i and ~9-10% for Maui), but it is something that we can do here locally to reduce our input and contribution to this global marine debris problem.** Foam plastics will quickly photodegrade and break up into smaller pieces so the 5-10% estimation may not be a true reflection of how much polystyrene is truly in our ecosystems.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to follow up should you have any further questions or concerns. In addition, I invite each you to join us in the future cleanup event, so you can see for yourself what improper waste management looks like at the end of the line.



Me ka mahalo,

Megan R. Lamson, M.S.

HWF Vice President

megan@wildhawaii.org



*Please vote to PASS Senate Bill 2498, and
opt to hold the foam for our island communities!*

www.wildhawaii.org



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection
and Health and Human Services
Friday, March 16, 2018 at 9:00am.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol**

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

Chairs Lee and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Lowen and Kobayashi, 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.

This measure will raise the cost for both business and consumers as well as 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.



SB2498,SD2

Hearing Date: Friday, March 16, 2018

Hearing Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 329

Committee: EEP/HHS

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Mizuno and member of the committees.

I am here to testify in support of this bill. My name is Jennifer Hee, I am one of the head chefs at Juicy Brew--located in Kaimuki, Impact HUB Ward, and the Hale Pawa Medical Building. We also produce food for Whole Foods, and will be opening a kiosk at the new Whole Foods on Queen in April.

I was born and raised in Hawaii, leaving the islands to attend Harvard and volunteer with Peace Corps Bulgaria. I returned home in 2009, having shifted career trajectories from social services into the culinary world. I immersed myself in sustainable agriculture practices once back on Oahu, and became committed to sourcing local, organically grown ingredients.

We have never used foam, as it always been effortless and affordable to purchase eco-friendly, compostable to go containers from our distributor (Triple F), as well as places such as Chef Zone. Since we are committed to 'āina friendly practices in terms of ingredient sourcing, it would absolutely contradict that mission to use foam products. We certainly have a long way to go in terms of being a completely green business at Juicy Brew, but we absolutely avoid foam products, and don't see any reason why restaurants continue to use these products. Eco containers have come a long way in the past ten years in terms of affordability, durability, and availability. Our individual customers tend to be very environmentally conscious, as well as the larger businesses that purchase from us, such as Whole Foods and Patagonia. We thrive because of our commitment to local sourcing and packing food for large events without using foam, and also using eco friendly utensils, compostable plates, and napkins. Our business would certainly be harmed if we started using foam.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Hee

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:21:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mattie Mae Larson | Upcycle Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha! I am writing in strict support of SB2498 and the ban of polystyrene foam containers.

As a local resident and business owner I understand holding both consumers and business accountable for minimizing single use materials in our fragile ecosystem. We cannot do this without the help of legislation to help push business into making "pono" decisions that the consumer can support.

Additionally, we face an even larger issue of landfill space (or lack thereof) and it would make sense to further support landfill reduction by passing of SB2498 and therefore promoting more sustainable food packaging.

In additon, I would argue that a pristine landcape is of great importance in Hawaii as we rely mainly on the tourism industry for financial and economic support and polstyrene containers are often found on our shorelines and other environments where they take away from the aesthetic appeal that people visit these islands for.

This testimony doesn't bring to light the issue of wildlife endangerment as it is a known fact that marine life often die due to stomachs filled with polystyrene.

I thank you for your time and hope that you take this testimony and future generations of local residents into account.

Mattie Mae Larson

Owner & Designer, Upcycle Hawaii

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:51:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Piâ€™ilani Farm | Piâ€™ilani Farm | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:53:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mahealani Hookano | Kalalea Anahola Farm Hui | Support | No |

Comments:

I would like to see styrofoam banned from the state of Hawai'i as a measure of pure sustainable logic. It speckles the shoreline, makes dirty rubbish on the streets and may be cheaper to buy for businesses, but hurts our environemnt in the long run. I was a part of banning styrofoam in the city of Newport Beach and it is only a small "sacrifice" to make for a large impact.

Mahalo,

Mahealani N. Ho'okano

Kalalea Anahola Farm hui, VP

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:22:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Arika Murphy | Frida's Mexican Beach House | Support | No |

Comments:

SB2498,SD2

Hearing Date: Friday, March 16, 2018

Hearing Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 329

Committee: EEP/HHS

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Mizuno and member of the committees.

I am here to testify in support of this bill. My name is _____Arika__Rains____, I am the manager of Frida's Mexican Beach House located in Lāhaina. I have lived in Hawaii over 30 years and have seen the impact of our ways of living directly impact the ocean around us. Adding to that the billion dollar industry that adds to the eating out and convince of foam/Togo containers at every plate lunch counter around Hawaii. It has been challenging and more expensive for us to switch over to compostable Togo containers and paper straws but it is so worth it to Malama our ocean and land. We were worried at first about the containers and what they could hold because of all the sauces and hot food that we serve would go right through the new container but they work well even with very saucy dishes. Even our customers love that we care enough to make the changes needed to be pono. They are so happy to be spending their money wisely to a company who cares about our footprint in our small island chain. Millions of people come here from all over the world and we are the pioneers of environmental welfare and we continually need to holomua and inspire them to keep up. Mahalo for letting me have a say in our legislative process.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:21:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christy | UH Manoa | Support | No |

Comments:

Conservation of the environment for future generations is of utmost importance in todays society. As a society, we take advantage of the luxuries we are offered and due to our actious we condemn the health of the environment. This land does not deserve our contempt.

LATE

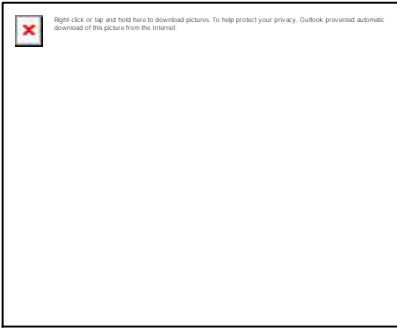
lowen2 - Heather

From: The Beat <thecarbondalebeat@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 3:50 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

Please consider banning styrofoam. Our oceans are more important than our convenience.

Thanks

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LATE

February 26, 2018

To: The Honorable Chair Chris Lee
The Honorable Vice Chair Nicole Lowen
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

The Honorable Chair John Mizuno
The Honorable Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
House Committee on Health & Human Services

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

RE: SB2498 SD2; Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers; **In Support**
March 16, 2018; Conference Room 329

Kona Brewing Company offers our **support** of SB2498 SD2, 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 started 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 and sustainability.

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

Sincerely,
Mary Rait

Kona Brewing Company



LATE

March 16, 2018

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services

Friday, March 16, 2018, 9am

Hawaii State Capitol Conference Room 329

Re: Support of SB 2498 - Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers

Dear Chairman Lee, Vice Chairwoman Lowen, Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and Chairman Mizuno, Vice Chairman Kobayashi and Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services:

Dolphin Quest strongly supports SB 2498 which prohibits the use and sale of polystyrene foam food and drink containers in the State of Hawaii. Polystyrene debris is one of the most common forms of litter found in Hawaii, and we have seen this first-hand during Dolphin Quest's decades of participation in the International Coastal Cleanup efforts and highway cleanups.

These containers have a devastating effect on Hawaii's beaches and marine life. They are deadly for both terrestrial and marine animals who mistake it for food and succumb to intestinal and airway blockages. Fish, sea turtles and birds are just a few of the animals that are found dead due to ingesting polystyrene products.

Polystyrene is also consumed by corals and fishes once it breaks down in the ocean. Its chemical toxins can affect the fish ingesting the debris as well as humans and other animals on the top of the food chain, including dolphins, who consume the fish. The plastic monomer used in manufacturing expanded polystyrene has been classified by the US National Institutes of Health and the International Agency for Research on Cancer as a possible human carcinogen.

Polystyrene foam containers are essentially non-biodegradable, taking hundreds, perhaps thousands of years to decompose. Its lightweight, buoyant property allows it to be easily distributed by wind and water which creates widespread land and ocean areas affected by this toxic debris.



Many environmentally conscious restaurants have already discontinued using polystyrene containers for take-out service, proving that alternative biodegradable products are readily available, and that the removal of foam containers will not unnecessarily disadvantage responsible business owners.

Dolphin Quest is an organization of marine mammal specialists, animal advocates and ocean stewards with two business locations in Hawaii. We've championed public education, conservation and scientific study in Hawaii related to marine mammals and our ocean for almost thirty years. This issue is critically important to us and we respectfully ask that you support SB 2488 and end the use and sale of polystyrene foam food and drink containers in the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Rae Stone, DVM." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

L. Rae Stone, DVM
Dolphin Quest

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 4:49:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mahie Wilhelm | Wild Kids Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Mahiemaikalani Wilhelm and I am a senior at Le Jardin Academy. I am submitting a testimony on behalf of myself as well as Wild Kids Hawaii which is a multi-faceted organization centered around environmental justice, activism, community outreach, and most importantly: fostering a new generation of leaders that will positively impact their communities. We support this bill as we see the positive impact it will have on our environment and communities. The health and vitality of our natural resources depend upon the ways in which we decide to go forward with human waste regulations. This bill is a step towards positive change. Thank you for your consideration regarding this issue.

Mahalo nui!

Mahiemaikalani Wilhelm

kōkua hawai'i foundation



LATE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2498 SD2, RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair; Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair; Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

March 16, 2018 at 9:00 am, Conference Room 329

Aloha Representatives,

Thank you for hearing this important bill. I am writing in strong support of SB2498 SD2.

In our own Hawaiian waters, as well as coastlines around the world, I've seen the negative and lasting impacts of single use plastics, including foam containers. These items litter our beaches and are eaten by wildlife that mistake the plastic for food. How do we explain to the next generation that our convenience is more important than their future?

When my wife Kim and I decided to found Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation in 2003, we had a vision of the keiki and their communities coming together in a shared mission to protect this amazing place, moved by education and passion for conservation. We are so proud of the tens of thousands of our members, volunteers, and supporters who have worked so hard to create behavior changes that help reduce plastic pollution here in Hawai'i. I am honored to be able to share our message about environmental protection and stewardship with fans around the world as we tour; our zero waste events highlight plastic free actions that we hope people will adopt into their own lives. We will continue to work for the elimination of plastic pollution, including EPS foam. But, we know that to create real, sustained impact, we need our legislators to take bold action and turn off the tap of foam products entering our ecosystems.

Let's make Hawai'i an example to the world of what is possible.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Johnson".

Jack Johnson
Co-Founder, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

P.O. Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI 96712 • Tel: (808) 638-5145 • Fax: (808) 638-0757 • info@kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i.



kōkua hawai'i foundation



LATE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2498 SD2, RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair; Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health & Human Services

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair; Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

March 16, 2018 at 9:00 am, Conference Room 329

Aloha Committee Chairs Lee, Mizuno, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for your consideration of SB2498 SD2. My name is Kim Johnson. Together with my husband, Jack, we founded the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation, a 501(c)3 non profit organization in 2003 to support environmental education in Hawai'i schools and communities. The Foundation's mission is to provide students with experiences that will enhance their appreciation for and understanding of their environment so they will be lifelong stewards of the earth. One of Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation's programs is Plastic Free Hawai'i, which provides resources, tools, and trainings to educate schools, business partners, and community members about the environmental and health benefits of going plastic free to minimize single-use plastics in our islands.

There are numerous environmental and public health arguments to be made for prohibiting EPS foam products from distribution, but I would like to speak to my personal experience organizing 6 years of the Kōkua Festivals and over 18 years of concerts and world tours in which we work diligently to be single-use plastic and foam free. The argument is made that eliminating the option to use foam containers will be too much strain on vendors and be an economic hardship. I can say, unequivocally, that not only is it possible, but we had vendors for our concerts eager to be a part of the foam free event. They were happy to be a part of the movement and demonstrate that being foam free doesn't mean a loss to profits. For two nights in August 2017, 17,000 attendees streamed through the Waikīkī Shell for a Jack Johnson concert, while simultaneously learning about the impacts of plastic pollution and the changes they could make. Any additional costs or efforts for the tour being foam and plastic free were offset by the enormous impact of removing that much plastic from disposal and potential littering if improperly disposed of.

Not only is the large-scale transition away from foam possible, it is demonstrated by the many citizens, businesses, and events leading the movement and modeling the transition. Please be bold and support this measure to make Hawai'i a leader in the fight against EPS foam and all plastic pollution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Johnson'.

Kim Johnson
Co-Founder, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

P.O. Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI 96712 • Tel: (808) 638-5145 • Fax: (808) 638-0757 • info@kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i.



LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 4:44:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Malialani Kanaiaupuni | Wild Kids Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

SB 2498 Testimony

Aloha,

My name is Malialani Kana'iaupuni. I am 17 years old, and I am a resident of Kailua. I am speaking today in full support of SB 2498 to prohibit the use of polystyrene foam containers by food vendors.

I am in twelfth grade, currently attending Le Jardin Academy, and this issue is incredibly important to me. Plastic is costing cities, counties, states, & countries millions of dollars and our global economy billions every year. By burdening our stormwater management systems with the need for expensive best management practices and the price of cleanups, styrofoam has become a costly encumbrance on Hawaii taxpayers. Not only this, but styrofoam is hurting our natural ecosystems, and increasing Hawaii's carbon footprint every day. The incineration of polystyrene foam emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, advancing the climate change crisis we are actively trying to avoid. The health and safety of Hawaii's environment should be our top priority, and my hope is that by banning the use of polystyrene foam containers by food vendors, we as a state will become more sustainable.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to the changes this bill will invoke.

Thank you,

Malialani Kana'iaupuni

LATE



March 15, 2018

Expanded polystyrene foam testimony: I support SB2498!

My name is Cheryl King and I'm the Hawai'i Program Director for Turtle Island Restoration Network plus I run the SHARKastics Project, which is based here on Maui, but I conduct marine debris cleanups wherever I go. Since 2003, I've been documenting the debris that has bite marks (left from animals that are likely ingesting our litter). As an educational technique, I created the word "SHARKastics" by combining the words "shark" and "plastic". This issue fascinates people when they see this firsthand and learn that it's not just sharks who are mistaking our litter for their food; it's many other species of animals too: from the tiniest microplankton to the great whales. It becomes even more of a wake-up-call to seafood lovers who make the connection that they could be eating animals that have toxins in their bodies from the marine litter they've consumed (since plastics, including polystyrene, act as sponges that absorb toxic compounds in the ocean)...

Expanded polystyrene foam, a form of plastic, is a significant contributor to the serious problem of marine litter worldwide. We find it during our coastal cleanups far too often. It's not always immediately recognizable as a plate lunch container, coffee cup or other single use product. Polystyrene doesn't biodegrade, but many

of the pieces are tiny since they're easily broken apart by the ocean conditions. They don't go away though. And their smaller size doesn't make them any less lethal to marine animals that confuse them for food.

We spearhead marine debris cleanups on the 4th Sunday of every month at Ka'ehu, in Waiehu on Maui. This helps restore this important habitat for the marine and terrestrial resources that utilize this special place. We remove marine debris from a ~100-yard stretch of this rocky/sandy coast. The effort varies depending on the participants, not due to the shortage of marine debris- it's always washing ashore! It comes from all over the Pacific Ocean and from Hawai'i-based sources. To bring this global issue into context with this bill, here are some numbers to quantify this pollution problem we're dealing with:

- We conducted monthly Ka'ehu Cleanups from July 22, 2012 through February 25, 2018
- Removing and sorting/counting (which is very time consuming) from 50 of these cleanups yielded these results:
 - **30,191** total pieces of expanded polystyrene foam
 - **603.8** pieces of polystyrene on average per cleanup
 - **245,841** pieces of marine debris total
 - **4,916.98** pieces of marine debris on average per cleanup
 - This equates to a depressing reality that expanded polystyrene foam pieces have been **~12%** of the total marine debris items we've removed from Ka'ehu.
 - By comparison, I've personally only found one polystyrene alternative container in all of the coastal cleanups I've done in 17 years... It was an "Earth Choice" product, which isn't an ideal solution either, but it's better than polystyrene.

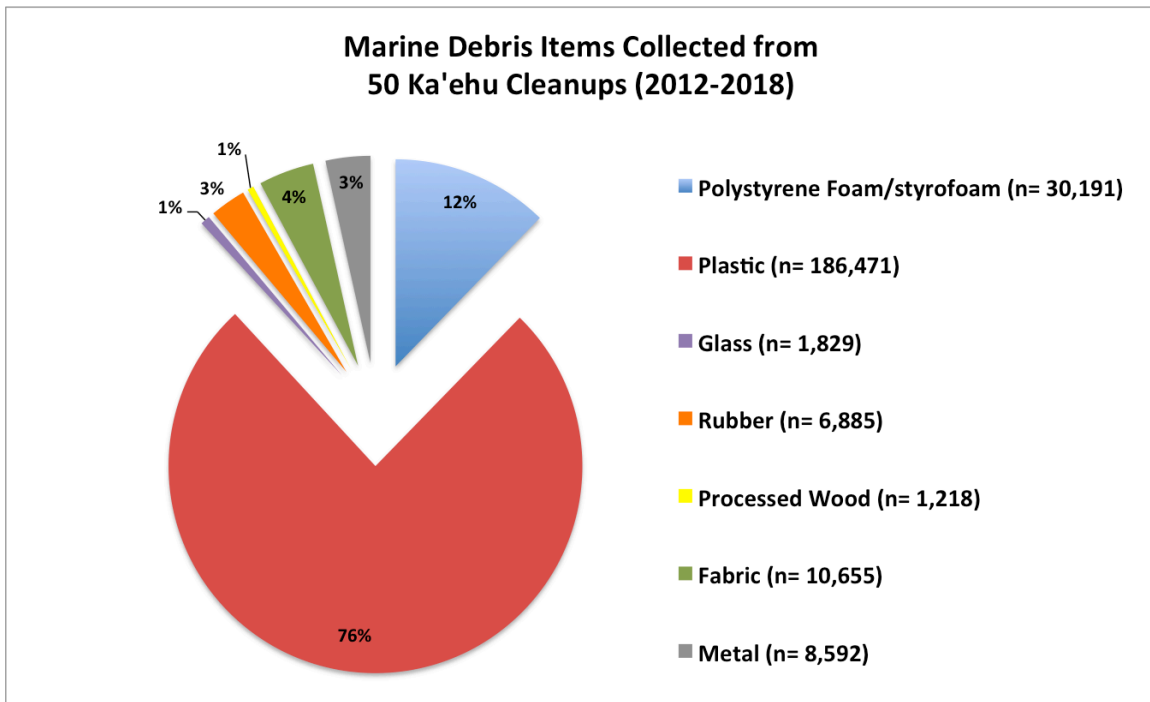
I presented these cleanup findings at our Maui County hearings back in 2016 and at the Sixth International Marine Debris Conference, from where I'm writing this letter now. People from all over the world are battling ocean litter. Since this is a global issue, passing this bill will help them too; so all eyes are on us now.

It's past time for Hawai'i to move away from products made from non-renewable fossil fuels and synthetic chemicals, and switch to healthier single use alternatives that are readily available within the price points of polystyrene. Litter will still be a problem, but this bill will help reduce the wasteful, persistent polystyrene products that are harming our environment and filling our landfills. Multiple large cities have done this successfully: Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Miami, Washington DC, Manhattan, etc. The impressive list is growing, so please add the whole state of Hawai'i to it!

Sincerely,

~Cheryl S. King

Cheryl S. King, MSc.
www.SHARKastics.org
www.SeaTurtles.org



LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 4:50:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Arianna Lunow-Luke | Wild Kids Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Arianna and I am a senior in high school at Le Jardin Academy in Kailua. I am in support of Bill SB2498 because I want to protect our oceans for future generations. Styrofoam containers take around 500 years to decompose, with no methods for recycling. The styrofoam that we use once and then dispose of lingers in our landfills and ends up in our oceans, damaging some of the most beautiful ecosystems on Earth. When I grow up, I want to be able to come back to Hawaii and have a family. I want to be able to show my kids the beautiful coral reefs and marine organisms that also call this island "home." Switching from styrofoam to paper is a small action that could make a big impact on our planet. Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:02:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM



| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emmanuel Bouvet | Maui Water Lily Farm | Support | No |

Comments:

As a farmer, ocean lover and father of 2 I strongly support the bill which to be honest is way overdue, for Hawaii more than anywhere else. The damage cause by polystyrene foam containers is outrageous on our environment, especially on our oceans. Even though the most efficient sollution would be for people to refuse polysterene foam containers, our community and our island need a strong legislation now because there is no time to loose. Our oceans are sick , our fish are sick and we are getting sick. There are plenty alternatives to polysterene and no excuse is valid anymore.

Aloha,

Emmanuel Bouvet

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:43:13 PM
Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wil McClaren | Ban Toxic Sunscreens | Support | No |

Comments:

Styrofoam ban is overdue. We should be cutting out single use plastics and styrofoam items that don't biodegrade. Most eco-conscious restaurants already made the switch. Surfrider's Ocean-Friendly Restaurant campaign has been successful; proving that every restaurant in Hawaii CAN make the switch. Thanks for supporting this bill.

LATE

3/14/2018

Dear Representative John M. Mizuno and Representative Chris Lee,

I'm a marine science teacher at Radford High School. Throughout the past decade I've been studying how harmful plastic is to us, our wildlife and our economy. We must pay extra to ship it out or bury it. Tourists don't like to see paradise littered with plastic or oceans devoid of wildlife due to declining populations. Nor do fisheries appreciate their fish ingesting plastics. Humans also are, for the most part, unaware of how chemicals in plastics are toxic to them. I only became aware of all of these issues through the hard work of the B.E.A.C.H. organization's founders about 10 years ago when I invited them to my school to teach my students about marine debris.

I'm writing in to support HB2498 SD2 and also attaching the testimony of several of my students in support of this bill. Throughout human history the land and ocean have been our dumping grounds. However, it wasn't until recently that synthetic debris have persisted to linger in our ecosystems making their way back into our food webs and blood streams. POPs, or toxic waste from industries, are absorbed by plastics that later become part of the tissues of animals as small as plankton and as large as whales due to the fact that plastics and their additives are oil-based and become part of animal fat tissue as it is ingested by animals.

Synthetic chemicals from POPs or even the chemicals in plastics such as styrene in polystyrene foam containers are known carcinogens and can alter animal DNA, disrupting their normal functions.

As a citizen I've always looked towards the government to protect us with its laws, even when we do not have the common sense to want to protect ourselves such as requiring seat belts to protect people from injury although many people do not like wearing seat belts. There needs to

be laws to protect the common citizens from the products from industry. Many citizens do not want cancer or plastic in their seafood, beaches, wildlife or dumps, yet these are the very places plastics end up since they do not biodegrade and are too toxic to recycle. Burning them, burying them, or sending them to a dump here, or elsewhere are all toxic solutions that harms the public, our fishing and tourism industry, and our wildlife.

Like the problem with smoking or climate change, should we wait for more disastrous consequences before we decide to make the shift from toxic polystyrene foam containers to nontoxic, biodegradable forms? After all, Hawaii is the plastic center of the Pacific Rim. If we, as a state do not stand up against industries that only care about short-term profits, how can we ever keep Hawaii beautiful for its citizens and visitors for many generations to come?

Thank you for your careful consideration. Please also kindly read the testimony I've attached from my marine science students. They worked hard to research what they wanted to express in their testimony after their microplastic clean up at Sherwoods Beach with Sustainable Coastlines on 2/9/2018.

Sincerely,
Suzie Wallace
217 Prospect St. Apt 101
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 383-8830

3/14/2018

Dear Representative John M. Mizuno and Representative Chris Lee,

I support bill SB2498 SD2 because as high school students we need to take action about our future to save our sea-life from being completely contaminated .When the topic of plastic

comes up many people think that it is the greatest invention ever and the most useful item created. Although plastic has many uses that help in our everyday lives, the reality is that plastic creates many problems, such as Human Health Issues, Bioaccumulation and how it affects us humans, Entanglement, Choking, & Starvation of Sea Life. The last point that will be covered is how we should refuse plastic product all around over recycling the products.

To start off, Human Health issues plastics do more harm than good. First of all we are affected by marine debris through the food chain. The fish and animals on the lower food chain eat plastics which they mistake as plankton that contain harmful toxins that start off small but as it moves up the food chain it starts to bioaccumulate which when it gets to the top of the food chain where humans exist, the concentration of toxins is at a dangerous level for humans. Plastic is dangerous by itself but it is the compound called POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) that makes it even deadlier(How Plastic In The Ocean Is Contaminating Your Seafood, 2013).What makes this plastic so dangerous is the abundance of plastic Within a square mile of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, scientists collected nearly 1.9 million bits of plastic which nearly accounts for 60-80% of marine debris in the ocean. These POPs are also referred to as endocrine disruptors which affect us humans by: developmental malformations, interference with reproduction, increased cancer risk; and disturbances in the immune and nervous system function (Great Pacific Garbage Patch - National Geographic Society, 2014).

The main way we are affected by the presence of plastic is through bioaccumulation which means when toxins build up in a food chain. At each stage (trophic level) of the food chain, harmless substances are excreted but the toxins remain in the tissues of the organisms - so the concentration of toxin becomes most concentrated in the body tissues of the animals at the top of the food chain.

Sea life is affected through our use of plastic all throughout the ocean, low and high, far and wide. One animal that is affected heavily is the green sea turtle, they are impacted by marine debris by indigestion and habitat destruction. Turtles mistake plastic bags for jellyfish. According to the US EPA, Americans use more than 380 billion plastic bags and wraps each year. With this being said another animal that is affected by plastic is the Laysan Albatross they eat plastic and it doesn't digest so when they eat the plastic they feel full but in reality it slowly starves the bird to death (EPA Blog, 2016).

Due to plastics being such prominent disposable items within our everyday lives, and the fact that plastics are not recycled as much as we are led to believe, as only 5% of plastic is recycled worldwide (Eco Watch, 2014), it would be easier to just refuse to use completely all plastics and switch to a more biodegradable substance such as paper or metal. Although plastics are such an important part of our lives we need to find an earth healthy solution to this problem before it is too late.

The data table presented below are the statistics of plastic that we picked up in about an hour. The main colors of the plastic that we collected included, blue, white, and green with a couple of pieces of plastic of red and black. Types of plastic that we found include: bottle caps, foam, nets, parts of wrappers, paper, cigarette butts, tape, and oyster shells. This shows how we are affected here in Hawaii by ruining our beaches and cluttering it up with plastic and it is affecting where we go such as leaving some beaches alone because they are too cluttered .

| Size | Size in cm (avg) | Count |
|--------|------------------|-------|
| Large | 20.5 | 7 |
| Medium | 6 | 56 |
| Small | 3.5 | 264 |
| Micro | 1 | 573 |

| | | |
|------|----|----|
| Nets | 54 | 16 |
|------|----|----|

Sincerely,
Noah Forster
4703 Naio Ln Honolulu, HI 96818
noafor92@radford.k12.hi.us

Charles Johnson
4825 Samoa Pl. Honolulu, HI 96818
chajoh18@radford.k12.hi.us

3-13-2018

Dear Representative John M. Mizuno and Representative Chris Lee,

I support SB2498 SD2 to ban polystyrene foam containers and all toxic plastics. We use 500 million straws PER DAY and then we throw them right away - not only that but we litter straws, especially in the ocean. The plastic gets bioaccumulated with toxins and gets broken into little pieces by the sun, this leads to animals eating the toxic plastic which then starts affecting humans because we eat these animals (Plastic straws are small, but they do a lot of harm, 2016). Eating animals with toxin in them can make us sick. Plastic is harmful to both humans and animals, 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles die when they **entangle** themselves in, or ingest plastic pollution (**Plastic Entanglements Increase 40% for Marine Animals, 2013**).

Pollution of plastic can start off from the beginning of the food chain “bioaccumulation” can keep persisting all the way up to the top of the food chain because fish eat other fish - spreading these toxins to everyone! In 2008, our global plastic consumption worldwide has been estimated at 260 million tons, and, according to a 2012 report by Global Industry Analysts, plastic consumption is to reach 297.5 million tons by the end of 2015 (**Bioaccumulation and Biomagnification: Increasingly Concentrated Problems!, 2017**).

Recycling 50 percent of the solid waste stream by the year 2000. For example, would still leave 95 million tons of garbage to be disposed of annually. We are told that recycling will help protect the environment because the alternatives - landfilling our garbage or burning it in waste-to-energy facilities - represent severe environmental threats. How can we reduce this? By simply stop purchasing plastic. Now, we can't eliminate all plastic but we can sure make a difference by using hydroflasks instead of purchasing plastic cups. (**Resources, no publisher/date**). (**Recycling is not the answer, 1992**)



Sincerely,
Aspen Pagano
385 Skyview Loop, Honolulu HI 96818
askingaspen@hotmail.com

3/14/2018

Dear Representative John M. Mizuno and Representative Chris Lee,

I support the SB2498 SD2 polystyrene foam container ban. In today's society, it's not new that our oceans are full of garbage. There is approximately 5.25 trillion or 269,000 tons of trash in our oceans. While there are no currents of exactly how much garbage is in the ocean, the National Academy of Sciences estimated in 1975 that around 14 billion pounds of garbage are added each year. Aside from just looking disgusting, all of this garbage poses a serious threat to wildlife who either confuse it as food or ingest it accidentally. Earlier this year, a study was published in Marine Pollution Bulletin about the impacts of plastics entering whale's diets. In the Netherlands in July a 13.5 meter (44.3 feet) long sperm whale was discovered beached, but still clinging to life. Unsuccessful attempts were made to rescue it. Plastic was also found in its stomach, according to initial reports from conservation officials. A 2012 study showed that turtles do not eat ocean garbage indiscriminately and prefer buoyant plastics over other forms of ocean litter, including balloons and translucent materials that could resemble jellyfish. Much of this gets lodged in the turtle's throat, causing it to die from suffocation. It is hard to estimate exactly how many animals are affected by plastic in the oceans each year, though some have put the number as high as 100,000 (IFL Science, 2016).

A sea change in building technology arrived in the 1950s with the "Age of Plastic." Industrial development of fossil fuels into a wide array of plastics changed formulations in everything from insulation to mechanicals to paint, and plastic is still a present component of every building assembly. Unfortunately, the impacts of plastic production in its many forms are heavy in every phase of its life cycle. While there is a common general understanding that plastics have negative outcomes, it's a closer understanding of what types of plastics create what types of impacts will empower us to improve the toxic footprint of our buildings. Examples of plastics contaminating food have been reported with most plastic types, including Styrene from polystyrene, plasticizers from PVC, antioxidants from polyethylene, and Acetaldehyde from PET. Plastic can cause cancer, birth defects, genetic changes, chronic bronchitis, ulcers, skin diseases, deafness, vision failure, indigestion, and liver dysfunction. Scientists have found out that it's linked to very low doses of bisphenol A exposure to cancers, impaired immune function, early onset of puberty, obesity, diabetes, and hyperactivity, among other problems (Racusin & McArleton, 2012).

Bioaccumulation is the accumulation of substances, such as pesticides, or other chemicals in an organism. Bioaccumulation occurs when an organism absorbs a substance at a rate faster than that at which the substance is lost by the animal's excretion. When we cleaned the beach on February 9, 2018 at Sherwoods Beach in Waimanalo. We found tons of plastics including rope, razor blades, toys, just to name a few and all of those could be broken down into microplastics and contaminated the ocean and find its way into the digestive system of the marine life and that could affect the people who eat marine life because those same chemicals that the marine animals eat the people who eat them are digesting the same chemicals and those chemicals could potentially harm everyone (Wikipedia, 2018).

Plastics are inexpensive, lightweight and durable materials, which can readily be molded into a variety of products that find use in a wide range of applications. As a consequence, the production of plastics has increased markedly over the last 60 years. However, current levels of their usage and disposal generate several environmental problems. Around 4 percent of world oil and gas production, a non-renewable resource, is used as feedstock for plastics and a further 3–4 percent is expended to provide energy for their manufacture. A major portion of plastic produced each year is used to make disposable items of packaging or other short-lived products that are discarded within a year of manufacture. These two observations alone indicate that our current use of plastics is not sustainable. In addition, because of the durability of the polymers involved, substantial quantities of discarded end-of-life plastics are accumulating as debris in landfills and in natural habitats worldwide. One way to get rid of recycling is Reducing the amount of packaging used per item will reduce waste amounts (Hopewell, 2009).

In the data table below shows how much plastic we received from just the sand. We found different types of plastic such as bottle caps, forks, a razor, wires, and zip ties a well. But what mostly stood out was the blue plastic water bottle caps. There was many bottle caps found in the sand alone and we were at the beach cleaning for just an hour. We also found all those plastics just scooping in a diameter of 3 feet. We stood in one place and we was able to obtain all this plastic. Approximately 70% of the world is made out of water and we don't have enough land. Imagine how much plastic is inside the sand in the ocean and what the poor fishes have to suffer from our selfish

mistakes. If we keep hunting the animals and we eventually run out of animals to eat, we will look towards the ocean for food and if all the fishes have died from plastic, we can only either survive on plants and crops. But for meat, we would have to eat each other. Thank you for taking time to read this testimony!

Sincerely, Iovani Alatini Jr.
94-111 Pupunohe St. Apt.303
(808-457-2057)

(Andrew, Elise. "For Ocean Animals, 'Death By Plastic' Could Be Occurring More Frequently." *IFLScience*, IFLScience, 15 Aug. 2016, www.iflscience.com/environment/ocean-animals-%E2%80%98death-plastic%E2%80%99-could-be-occurring-more-frequently/ Date Accessed March 14, 2018)

(Jacob Deva Racusin, & Ace McArleton. Ogden Publications, Inc. "The Harmful Effects of Plastic on Human Health and the Environment - Green Homes - Natural Home & Garden." *Mother Earth Living*, www.motherearthliving.com/health-and-wellness/harmful-effects-of-plastic-ze0z1205zsch.

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("Bioaccumulation." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 2 Mar. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bioaccumulation. Date Accessed March 14, 2018)

(Hopewell, Jefferson, et al. "Plastic Recycling: Challenges and Opportunities." *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, The Royal Society, 27 July 2009, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2873020/. Date Accessed March 14, 2018)

3/14/2018

Dear Representative John M. Mizuno and Representative Chris Lee,

I've been to a few places and has seen a lot, I constantly travel because my dad is in the military. We've been to Florida, Arkansas, Mississippi, Ocean City Maryland, California, and Hawaii. Neither one of these places got me excited as Hawaii. The minute that my dad told me that "we're going to Hawaii." I rushed with excitement. I told myself "It's Hawaii, It's going to be so beautiful!". The day I hopped into the plane, my family and I immediately started looking all over the island. It was beautiful, of course, however, something that wasn't right. As we drove around to look at the amazing island I noticed that there are tons of plastic, polystyrene foam containers, and trash all over the place. I was disappointed because this was not the hawaii I was always hearing about. Even when I went to the beach, plastics were floating above the water's surface, and trash is buried in the sand. I'm someone who loves going to the beach, but this was kind of ruining it for me. I look around and see that we've relied on polystyrene, but have ignored what it is doing to this earth. It is damaging it! I support SB2498 SD2, for these reasons.

The damages are more than just what we see on Earth. After learning more about this topic, I've learned that it actually affects everything that's alive, even more than we normally think. According to Ocean Crusaders, 100,000 marine creatures, and around 1 million seabirds a year die from plastic entanglement. (2010) Also that a plastic bag can kill numerous animals because they take so long to disintegrate. An animal that dies from the bag will decompose and the bag will be released, another animal could be harm and once again another dead victim to that same bag. Also, there is bioaccumulation of the plastic, as toxins magnify up a food chain. The animals at the top of the food chain are affected most severely. For example, when small fish eat plastic, then a predator eats that fish, the predator will digest the same chemical/s that was in the plastic, then whatever eats that predator, will consume the same chemical that the small fish has consumed in the first place. Of course the predator could eat more than one of the same fish, so this could happen often. Eventually, it affects us too, because when we eat the predators that have already digested these chemicals, we will get them in our bloodstream as well. These chemicals get in the plastic from the pollution that comes from factories, and the plastics absorb the chemicals. According to Earth Eclipse (2018) that the chemicals consume from food can cause cancer, liver and kidney failure, respiratory disorders, birth defects in pregnant women, brain damage, and heart disease as a result of mercury, cadmium, lead, cobalt, chromium and other chemical poisoning. For instance, diseases like hepatitis and cancer have been attributed to consuming seafood that has been poisoned by mercury and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

| Types | Amount | 0-3 cm | 4-7 cm | 8-10 cm |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Red | 16 | 13 | 3 | 0 |
| Blue | 142 | 100+ | 6 | 0 |
| White | 140 | 100+ | 33 | 0 |
| Black | 58 | 100+ | 5 | 7 |
| Grey | 31 | 19 | 8 | 4 |
| Green | 83 | 100+ | 5 | 0 |
| Yellow | 14 | 11 | 2 | 1 |
| Pink | 16 | 100+ | 3 | 0 |

I am an 18 year old student at Radford High School, and we went out to the beach to collect plastics. I had no idea how bad the pollution was until that day. The data table you see is how much plastic I found in a few minutes, not to mention that all the other students found just as much if not more than me. As you can see I found over 500 microplastics, without even breaking a sweat.

To get rid of these problems we need to take action. Recycling however, can contribute to this cause, however, it will not eliminate the problem. Instead we should ban all of the polystyrene foam containers, and plastic straws. National Geographic in 2017 states that 91% of plastic isn't even recyclable, so that's not going to help, we need to ban the items and clean up the mess we made. I want to see Hawaii and other beautiful places at their best, without plastic waste all over the place. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gage Strahl
kamarrej@yahoo.com

References:

National Geographic, A Whopping 91% of Plastic Isn't Recycled, July 20, 2017

Ocean Crusaders, Plastic Statistics, February 15, 2018

BBC, GCSE Bitesize Science - Ecosystems : Revision, Page 6, March 10, 2018

3/14/2018

Dear Representative John M. Mizuno and Representative Chris Lee,

My name is Blaise, and I currently attend Radford High School. I'm in a course for Marine Science, and we have recently studied the effects of plastic on the environment. After seeing the horrendous pictures of debilitated animals and researching how it affects humans and our world, I would like to take part in voicing my concerns. I have been introduced to the case of SB2498 SD2 for polystyrene foam containers, and I would like to show my support for this action to help eliminate these polluting products, at least on a statewide level.

Recently, my class attended a beach cleanup while being partnered with Sustainable Coastlines. We sifted through the sand for an hour and collected a horrific load of mostly indistinguishable bits of plastic and debris. We hauled them back and eventually sorted through the piles. The results were shocking, and really opened my eyes as to how our lovely islands - and the entire world - is being hit by this epidemic. I have included a table to show the quantity and sizes of only a few pounds collected on that day. I encourage you to reference it and take in to account the fact that: 1) this was only a few pounds collected; 2) my group stayed in a very small radius on the beach; 3) these numbers are not 100% accurate, but stem from counting the majority within the bag and then forming a reasonable estimation of what was left in the bag; 4) this was only one beach and does not reflect the worse conditions elsewhere; 5) this was after only ONE hour; and 6) these numbers would exponentially grow elsewhere and shows the massive amount of waste we produce and just how much work it'd take to remedy it.

As mentioned, the effects on human health surprised me. After consumption of POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) from the ocean and through bioaccumulation (I'll touch on this later), can lead, among others, to increased cancer risk, reproductive disorders, alteration of the immune system, neurobehavioral impairment, endocrine disruption, genotoxicity and increased birth defects. Persistent organic pollutants are toxic chemicals that adversely affect human health

and the environment around the world. Because they can be transported by wind and water, most POPs generated in one country can and do affect people and wildlife far from where they are used and released. The fact that the world lets this continue on is appalling. Corporate defiance of finding a new, safe material is only hurting us as endless piles of garbage expand and the plastic contaminants our living space. I urge this bill to be passed to help in the ongoing struggle of ending plastic production in the effort of protecting our future generations and environment.

We are indirectly hurting other countries through sending our garbage to them and having them be surrounded by plastic emission and ruining their standards of living. This is a socially unjust matter as our waste cripples others. The end of plastic production could help in this matter. Just think about all of the other people suffering by our ignorance and greediness. We should refuse plastic products (and limit them on the market!) as to try to assist in helping these people. There are alternatives - we don't have to rely on plastic.

As stated, the animals are being hurt, too. They suffer from entanglement, ingestion, and other horrible things from our "one use" lifestyle. I have studied whales, turtles, humans, albatross birds, and more. They and many others are dying by the hundreds everyday, but we can stop that. 78% of the humpback whales have been entangled recently. 80 species of whale, dolphin, and porpoises have been sickened or killed by marine litter. Litter concentrates in convergence zones where whales feed. Turtles have downward facing spines in their throats that prohibit regurgitation of plastic, and they usually consume fishing lines and bags which affect their ability to float. Plastic ingestion can be lethal, causing blockages, internal injuries, and lacerations. Adverse sublethal effects can also take place, such as dietary dilution in which the stomach is filled with non-food items that can lead to starvation, malnutrition, and impaired immunity. Plastic is found in 97.6% of albatross chicks. These facts show the detrimental turn

today's wildlife is taking from plastic. Banning polystyrene foam containers may not seem like much, but it is a small step in ensuring a clean Earth at some point.

Bioaccumulation occurs when small organisms consume something, in this case plastic, and it travels up the food chain as larger organisms feed off of one another. The concentration of plastic is magnified as it goes, and since we're at the top of our food-chain, we are contaminated the most when we eat seafood. This wouldn't happen, of course, and cause those aforementioned health effects, if there wasn't any plastic at all. I hope this letter convinces people to rethink plastic manufacturing, and that the bill will be passed! Thank you! Please consider and them this come to fruition!

| Type/Color | Amount* | Size: 0-3cm~ | Size: 4-7cm~ | Size: 8-10+~ |
|------------|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Red | 100+ | 70+ | 30+ | 10+ |
| Blue | 300+ | 200+ | 100+ | 10+ |
| Black | 150+ | 100+ | 50+ | 20+ |
| White | 300+ | 200+ | 100+ | 10+ |
| Yellow | 60+ | 40+ | 20+ | 15+ |
| Green | 200+ | 150+ | 50+ | 10+ |
| Grey | 100+ | 70+ | 50+ | 15+ |

*this was from one bag, and the whole bag was not sorted; these are educated guesses that only reflect the one bag - there is much, much more

Sincerely,

Blaise Carter

Honolulu, Hawaii

blacar123@radford.k12.hi.us

A Few Sources

- US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
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oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/marinedebris/.
- “Persistent Organic Pollutants: A Global Issue, A Global Response.” *EPA*,
Environmental Protection Agency, 26 Oct. 2017, www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/persistent-organic-pollutants-global-issue-global-response.
- “Persistent organic pollutants (POPs).” *WHO*, World Health Organization,
www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/pops/en/.

3/14/2018

Representative John M. Mizuno and Representative Chris Lee,

I support the ban of Polystyrene which is SB2498 SD2 because polystyrene is toxic to the brain and affects red blood cells , liver, kidneys and stomach in animal study. Polystyrene is a known carcinogenic which causes many forms of cancer such as esophagus, pancreas, lungs, kidneys, bladder cancer (Science News, 2017). Plastic is made from a chemical called benzene and it's proven to cause cancer as well. Things that cause the releasing chemicals is heating plastic in the microwave, leaving plastic outside the sun, and putting hot food in it. Oily and acidic foods

causes the styrene to activate and release harmful chemicals. It also harms the marine wildlife. Polystyrene does not biodegrade, however it photodegrades. Which means that the sun breaks the polystyrene down into smaller pieces, it never really gets recycled. It ends up in the ocean and the marine wildlife is vulnerable because of so much exposure to the harmful chemicals in polystyrene (Pacific Standard, 2018). The ingestion of polystyrene in animals is transferred to us humans because we consume a lot of the marine wildlife. Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are built up through the food chain because when marine wildlife consumes polystyrene, and we consume them, we are also consuming polystyrene. It may not be direct consuming of the chemical but it's still through the food we eat (Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2017). To refuse polystyrene foam containers, you can bring a container of your own, or dine at restaurants that don't provide polystyrene foam containers (Green Dining Alliance, 2016).

Sincerely,
Eva Irizarry
111 4th Street
(832)-405-4291

14 March 2018

Dear Rep. John M. Mizuno and Rep. Chris Lee,

I support SB2498 to be ban Polystyrene foam container because of how much damage it causes and we need to stop it. Not only we arent banning it because of how it harms marine life, we are being blinded by this fact and not doing anything about it. My classmates and i went to the beach to clean it up and found tons of plastic people just left. We already concluded that people cause this problem but that isnt doing anything so lets please ban it. According to my data table bellow, Those are things that were found. We really need to put a stop to this before it messes up not only our future but possibly our kids kids future.

During this 3rd Quarter, my classmates and I got an opportunity to participate in a beach clean up at Waimanalo beach on the east side where its said all the trash comes the most. Looking at the sand it looked so nice and beautiful but once we used the Sand Sifters, you can see all the hidden micro plastic in the sand. I believe that this is a deep matter and a very sad topic because of how much this could not only affect our future, but our kids future and

more generations to come. That is why we have come to conclusion on what we should do. We should definitely refuse to use plastic so that is why I support SB2498 SD2 to ban polystyrene foam containers. Replace it with some substitutes to make it very better and to keep the environment safe.

| Type | Amount | Size |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|
| White Plastic | 21 Pieces | 2 cm-5 cm |
| Utensils | 53 Pieces | 5-7 inches |
| Pen Caps/ ETC. | 13 Pieces | 3-4 inches |
| ToothBrushes/Hygiene Categ. | 21 | 5-7 inches |
| MicroPieces (Diff. Colors) | EST. 100+ pieces | 1cm-2cm |
| Styro | 5 Pieces | 5in-7in |
| Trash | 20 pieces | 1cm-6 in |

These plastics that WE use end up in the ocean because of carelessness and not being aware of what we are doing. Not only these affects the animals but did you know this affects us too? You may be wondering how but you see, the fish eat the little plastics which causes cancer and we eat the fish and it goes up the food chain. Mostly we all tried something from the sea so most likely you have the chemicals from plastic from your body which makes it very unhealthy for us. Not only hurts us but it hurts the sea creatures in the water because they mistaken the plastic in the water for food so not only hurts us but hurts them because they mistaken it for food and it leads to starvation.

Thank you, Sincerely.

Tristan Barnet

830 Rogers st.Honolulu,

Hawaii

Tbarnett1028@gmail.com

3/14/2018

Dear Rep. John M. Mizuno and Rep. Chris Lee

I support SB2498 to ban polystyrene foam containers.

90% of all seabirds have been consuming plastic and that number is rapidly increasing. Study estimated that around 8 million tons of our plastic waste enter the oceans from land each year. The type of plastic laysan albatross are harm by glass, metal, paper, cloth,rubber, and wood. It harms the laysan by cutting their stomach and kills them by leading poison. A way we can stop the sea birds from getting hurt is by throwing away your trash where it should go and reduce the plastic we use (National Geographic 2015).

Plastic containers like plastic cups and plastic in general can cause major problems in the human body. Like eating out of a plastic container or drinking out of the plastic water bottle when in reality you're actually drinking a chemical called BPA. BPA can lead to many health illness such as Cancer.

There's two different types of bioaccumulations: Biodegradable and non-Biodegradable
Biodegradable things include compost,etc
Non-biodegradable things include plastic which means the environment doesn't break it down and it becomes lethal to toxic and humans and turn into little needlez.
You should never eat large fish due to the high amounts of plastic in the stomach, try to eat small fish

Insert data table and discuss.

Let's say you want to go to restaurant and they serve you a plastic cup. Try to refuse it and bring your own like a hydro flask or glass. Also DON'T eat out of plastic containers or water bottles try to use things like stainless steel,glass,etc.

Sincerely,
Xavier Wilmore
4062 Noonam st
Xavwil73@radford.k12.hi.us

- URL <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/09/15092-plastic-seabirds-albatross-australia/>
- Website Title National Geographic
- Article Title Nearly Every Seabird on Earth Is Eating Plastic
- Date Published September 02, 2015
- Date Accessed March 14, 2018

Different Types Of Plastics Impact On The Environment

By Jasmine Campollo

| Different types of plastics | Size of the plastics | Quantities of the plastics | Description of the plastics |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Blue Plastics | Varies from 1-7 cm | 102+ | There are different kind of blue unknown plastics that I have found. Some of them I found were small like nurdles to the size about my hands. |
| Red plastics | Varies from 1-8 cm | 33 | There are variety of red plastics that I have found. There were small like pebbles to big as half of my hands. |
| Yellow plastics | Varies from 4-5 cm | 54 | Most of the yellow plastics are the size of my wrist. And others will the size in peebles or nurdles form. |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----|--|
| Pink plastics | Varies from 6-9 cm | 13 | The pink plastics come from small to big in size. |
| Plastic caps | 3 cm | 6 | Plastic caps comes from plastic bottle from our everyday used. |
| Oysters spacers | Varies from 3-5 cm | 5 | Oyster spacers are cylinder like tubes that are both small and large in size. |
| Aluminium can | 12 cm | 1 | The aluminium can was an aloha maid juice can. |
| Ropes/Nets | 4 cm | 3 | The ropes and nets were all on each other and were formed into the ball like form. |
| Black plastics | Varies from 2-6 dm | 20 | Most of the black plastics were big and tall like sharp in form. |
| Forks | 4 cm | 4 | Most of the forks were broken into pieces. |
| Cigarette Buds | 8 cm | 4 | Some of the cigarette buds contain plastic in them and have dangerous chemicals in them. |
| Green plastics | Varies from 1-3 cm | 98 | The green plastics were small and in medium size like the half the size of my name tag. |

“We won’t have a society if we destroy the environment.” (Margaret Mead) Marine debris is a serious problem for the world. Six million tons of the marine debris finds its way into our oceans

every year. About 18,000 pieces of plastics float through every square of kilometer of our ocean waters. Marine debris such as the plastic bags doesn't break down but some marine debris take years to break down like fishing line (takes 600 years), plastic bottles (takes 450 years), aluminium cans (take 200 years), and disposable diapers (take 450 years). Plastic production has increased over the past few decades. There are different types of plastics such as polyester (found in fabrics or textiles), polyethylene terephthalate (found in drinking bottles, plastic jars, plastic films or microwavable packaging), polyethylene (found in single use plastic bags), high density polyethylene (found in detergent bottles, milk jugs, or molded plastic cases), polyvinyl chloride (found in plumbing pipes and flooring), polyvinylidene chloride (found in food packaging), polypropylene (found in bottle caps, drinking straws, yogurt containers), polystyrene (found in packing foam or disposable cups, styrofoam) , and polycarbonate (found in eyeglasses or CDs). These plastic are made from a wide range of a mixture of natural and synthetic substances compounds that molded into solid objects. Marine debris has impacted on our human species and the marine organisms especially the environment of our world.

Marine debris such as plastics can harm the marine organisms and their environment that have marine debris around them. Marine species often gets tangled in the marine debris, from fishing nets to the six pack rings. If they get caught into the marine debris that are not like, they can get injured by it or even can lead to death. Other marine organisms that don't get tangled by the marine debris end up digesting the marine debris instead. As they ingestion the marine debris, the more they eat the more their stomach gets full. Sea turtles are getting entangled in marine debris that run the risk of drowning if they are prevented from reaching the surface to breathe. Scientist have found that 50 percent of the sea turtles are ingesting plastics , and this number is only increasing as the plastic pollution continuing going. Most sea turtles mistakes the plastic bags as jellyfishes, which can lead to blockage inside of the turtles and also can lead to death in the process. Some marine animals such as the Green sea turtles get tangled by the nets which been broken down into small nets that is state in the data I had collected. Marine organism such as the Laysan albatrosses ingests plastics that think it is as their food source.

There are different ways that these sea birds were killed, which are: 1.) about 17,000 Laysan Albatross were killed by high sea drift nets which ae hang vertically in the water column without being anchored to the bottom, 2.) about 20,000 Laysan Albatross were killed from commercial fishing, an activity of fish and other seafoods just for commercial profit, and 3.)

plastic is another problem that cause their death which have an percentage of 97.6 plastic making them full. There are negative effects of sharp kind of plastic from their stomach lining and later on leading to poisoning from the paint. These paint sources comes from plastics or buildings. According to the ICCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), they say Laysan Albatross were on the vulnerable list in 2008, and now to status of Near threatened. There are two groups that these seabirds consume and ingests, which is user-friendly plastics and raw pellets. The user-friendly plastics contains little pieces and substances of buckets, bottles, caps, and lighters. And in the raw pellets contains little pieces of bags, toys, and squeeze bottles. Large and small plastic items can harm the Laysan Albatrosses in different ways but also these harmful effect can lead to death. Large plastic items inside them can cause ulcerations (Development of an ulcer which is due to irritation and may be infected as it grow), infections and obstructions (Block something inside the body) when they ingests these kind of marine debris. The small plastic items can also harm them by reduce meal size and dehydration, but these kind of plastic will also kill them in the process. Many of the organisms that are near the ocean waters get harmed by different kind of marine debris. Some marine debris that I have collected had also been harmed either by ingesting them or getting tangled by it.

Not only the marine animals get harmed by the marine debris that are around them but also the humans can get harmed from it. 20% of the marine debris comes from ships and platforms that are offshore. The rest of the marine debris are being blown into the sea which are picked up from the tides on the beach or garbage dumping. Chemicals in the plastics are getting released into the water as well as the earth atmosphere and fish can easily get contaminated from the chemicals in the water. There are different kind of plastics spread throughout the ocean waters. As styrofoam breaks down into smaller forms of plastics, the chemical polystyrene compounds is sink in the lowest part of the ocean so that the chemicals in that plastics get spread out throughout the ocean waters. There are other chemicals that are toxic to the environment such as DDT, PCBs which are taken up by the organisms because of the food they consume or the toxic environment. The harmful substances gets build up inside the organisms cell. When organisms in the higher food chain consume the marine organism that contains toxic substance below their trophic levels then the toxins gets concentrated more in higher food chain including the humans that gets affected by it. The higher organisms will get with most toxins inside them. The concentration of these toxic chemicals and pollutants seem to be very low when released in

different environments, it eventually accumulates and gets absorbed by lower organisms in the food chains such as fish, earthworms, and plants. There are different kind of ways that causes bioaccumulation areas such as agricultural, organic contaminants, industrial manufacturing activities and pollution, and mining activities in the ocean. There are different ways on how the marine debris are getting impacted by such as human health, effects on reproduction and development of the marine animals, destruction of the marine coral reefs, and disruption in the food chain.

Humans are likely to have cancers, liver and kidney failure, respiratory disorders, birth defects in pregnant women, brain damage, heart diseases are from mercury and other chemical poisoning Diseases like Hepatitis and cancer have been lead to consuming seafood that has been poisoned by mercury and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAHs). A very small amount of total plastic production (less than 10%) is effectively recycled; the remaining plastic is sent to landfills, where it is destined to remain entombed in limbo for hundreds of thousands of years, or to incinerators, where its toxic compounds are spewed throughout the atmosphere to be accumulated in biotic forms throughout the surrounding ecosystems. According to the website of <http://sustainableplastics.org/problems/plastics-impact-human-health>, the three polymers to avoid are:

| Polymers | Common Items | Health Issues |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Polycarbonate (PC) | Baby bottles, sports water bottles | Can leach out bisphenol A, a hormone disruptor |
| Polystyrene (PS) | Foam insulation, packaging peanuts, plastic utensils, meat trays, egg cartons, take-out containers, single-use disposable cups | Uses benzene, styrene and 1,3-butadiene. Styrene is a neurotoxin and is known to be toxic to the reproductive system. PS releases toxic chemicals when burned. |
| Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC or vinyl) | Building pipes, siding, membrane roofing, flooring, and window frame; shower curtains, beach balls, credit cards, cooking oil bottles | Uses benzene, styrene and 1,3-butadiene. Styrene is a neurotoxin and is known to be toxic to the reproductive system. PS releases toxic chemicals when burned. |

There are different chemicals that can affect the humans and especially the marine animals. The various toxic chemicals and elements accumulate in the vital organs of the various aquatic creatures affecting their reproduction and development. Like seabird eggs are laid with thinner shells than normal, and can result in the birds crushing their eggs instead of incubating them. Selenium and heavy metals such as mercury also affect the reproduction of aquatic creatures such as fish as it destroys their reproductive organs. Besides, PCBs also biomagnifies and impairs reproduction and is high in aquatic systems. The worst incident of human exposures is in 1968, which had 1,200 people in Japan that consumed rice oil heavily of PCBs for 20-190 days. The Japanese people had reproductive dysfunction, eye discharges, headaches, fever, vomiting, and respiratory problems. POPs can enter the food chain by getting ingested, absorbed through skin or inhaled, and plants take in the toxic from the soil. So there are different ways that these chemicals can go into the lakes, rivers, wind, and rain run off. The chemicals get sink to the bottom of the lake or ocean water, where they settle in sediments. Small marine organism ingested them sediments of chemicals by digging it up and mistake it as their food source. Then they get eaten by other organism such as medium sized fish , and the fish gets eaten by larger fish so each time they get eaten by each other there will be collect of the chemicals that got absorb into the marine debris. This is why larger fish or other large marine organism are likely to have more chemicals in their bodies than smaller marine organisms. These chemicals that absorb into the plastic will stick into the animal's oil body fats and becoming more concreting inside them as they move to one another. The bioaccumulators are stored in fat so they are released into the bloodstream when an animal uses body fat for energy, which harm their vital organs and systems.

The plastic materials and other non-degradable materials should be replaced with materials that can break down unlike plastic materials. According to the Australian Academy of Science, the genetic material from these granules can be combined with the genetic material in corn. The result is a special variety of crop that can be easily converted into the bioplastic materials used in a container or food package. PHA products are easily broken down or degraded in landfills and compost settings, like PLA plastics. These kind can be broken down because it is made with organic products such as corn, wheat and potatoes. Also another way we should replace the plastic with metal, wood, or glass. So instead of throwing it away we can use reuse that kind of materials. Eco-friendly bagasse is great for replacing

plastic when you need disposable plates, cups, or take-out boxes. Bagasse – the pulp left over when juice is extracted from sugarcane or beets – is used for a variety of purposes including as a biofuel. It can also be pressed into a cardboard-like material used to make waterproof food containers, which is a great use for manufacturing waste that would otherwise be thrown away. And because it's made from plants it will biodegrade easily in a home or industrial compost pile.

Resources

- A. awbf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Plastic-Police-flyer.pdf.
- B. Hubert. "Some More Facts About Marine Debris." *Active Outside*, 4 Feb. 2018, blog.active-outside.com/water/some-more-facts-about-marine-debris.
- C. "Plastics & Waste Lifecycle." *Debris Free Oceans*, www.debrisfreeoceans.org/waste-lifecycle.
- D. "Causes, Effects and Process of Biomagnification." *Earth Eclipse*, 1 July 2016, www.earthclipse.com/ecosystem/causes-effects-process-of-biomagnification.html.
- E. Publications, Inc. Ogden. "The Harmful Effects of Plastic on Human Health and the Environment - Green Homes - Natural Home & Garden." *Mother Earth Living*, www.motherearthliving.com/health-and-wellness/harmful-effects-of-plastic-ze0z1205zsch.
- F. "Biodegradable Items That Can Replace Plastic." *Home Guides / SF Gate*, homeguides.sfgate.com/biodegradable-items-can-replace-plastic-78506.html.
- G. "Alternatives to Plastic." *Alternatives to Plastic / Green Home Library*, www.greenhome.com/blog/alternatives-to-plastic/.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:34:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ed Kenney | Town Hospitality Group | Support | No |

Comments:

As chef/owner of Town Hospitality Group which operates four Honolulu restaurants, Town, Kaimuki Superette, Mud Hen Water, and Mahina & Sun's, and a catering company, UPtown Events, I provide testimony in favor of banning styrofoam in the State of Hawaii. In our restaurants we only use biocompostable take out containers that have not adversely affected our business in any way. Mahalo, Ed Kenney

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:48:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Henry McNamara | nekton sustainable surfwear | Support | Yes |

Comments:

We as a community have a duty to take care of our environment. As a student of the community and an ocean enthusiast we must comply with bill sb2498 to make Hawaii the first foam free state. Polystyrene is destroying marine ecosystems and will not biodegrade, our local community and our ecosystems depend on sustainable development in the future. Mahalo.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 4:17:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Latasha Chui | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Latasha Chui and I am a resident of Texas. 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-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 4:59:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support banning styrofoam. Our oceans and planet desperately need your help and need to be cleaned up. We all need to reduce and limit or eliminate the single use harmful products. There are many better alternatives for the environment and we need to mandate their use NOW. I pick up trash along my backyard beach every single time I walk. I always carry a bag with me and sadly it is always filled. You need to help be part of the solution for our islands and the greater world we live in. These silly arguments that it costs more are just that. Silly. The more we use better eco friendly alternatives the cheaper they will be. People ARE willing to pay a few more cents for products that will not harm the planet. We all need to care for this world and you can use your Power and good sense to help lessen the horrible effects these styrofoam products have on the environment. Thanks for listening. I hope you will do the right thing.

Testimony of
ELENA ZUCCHINI
Hawai'i resident

Before the House Committees on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Friday, March 16, 2018
09:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2498 SD2
RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

Aloha Chairs Chris Lee and John M. Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nicole E. Lowen and Bertrand Kobayashi and Members of the House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Health & Humans Services.

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 SD2 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 SD2.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 5:27:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Circe Carr | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

TO: Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and Chair Mizuno of the Committee on Health and Human Services

NAME: Dean Otsuki

RE: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2498 SD2**
Relating to polystyrene foam containers
Committee hearing on Friday 16th March, 2018 at 9AM.

Aloha Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and Chair Mizuno of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am writing in strong support of SB2498 SD2 which would prohibit 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 SD2 as is 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-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 6:39:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 6:47:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Giavana Behnamian | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support SB2498 because it will make Hawaii's land, oceans, and people healthier. Styrofoam is clearly making its way to Hawaii's land and ocean. Every time I have done park or beach cleanups, a significant amount of the trash collected is styrofoam. Styrofoam, unlike plant-based food packaging, does not biodegrade.

The environmental impact on nature aside, styrofoam containers should be banned for their health risks to humans. The National Toxicology Program has said that styrene is "reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen," and the International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified styrene as a "possible human carcinogen."

Thank you for voting in support of this bill.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:27:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shelby Fillinger | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of Bill 4, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Food containers on the island of Oahu. Polystyrene Foam Food containers damage our environment and add no benefits to our economy. Foam food containers litter our beaches and beautiful environment, they make their way into the ocean where they further endanger our wildlife. Citizens spend hours each week on cleanups to get litter off of our beaches.

Foam food containers can be easily replaced with alternatives that have less adverse impacts on our environment, with a little additional cost to our businesses.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 10:28:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ronny German | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony!

My name is Ronny German and I reside in Waipahu. I love the ocean, love to surf, and I try to give back by volunteering at beach cleanups around the island. The photo I attached is from a recent beach cleanup I participated in with my teenage daughter in Kahuku. I was appalled by the amount of debris we found on the beach. We found all different kinds of debris including fishing nets, plastics, wood pattets, dumped household items (furniture, appliances, water heaters and car parts) and styrofoam. Styrofoam and varios other types of foam are always present during these beach cleanups and it is my hope that this bill gets passed so that this easily replacable yet toxic not decomposing product no longer enters Hawaii's marine enviornment. These foam products cause damage to marine life, marine vessels and marine habitats and shorelines. I would gladly frequent an ocean friendly resteraunt that does not use such products instead of supporting these no longer needed products.

If you realy care about Hawaii's enviornment, you will vote in favor of this bill which would ban foam products.

Mahalo,

Ronny German

94-1009 Haalau Street

Waipahu, Hi. 96797

To whom it may concern,

My name is Karen Abe and I am a senior at 'Iolani School and a resident of the Kahala community. 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 polystyrene 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

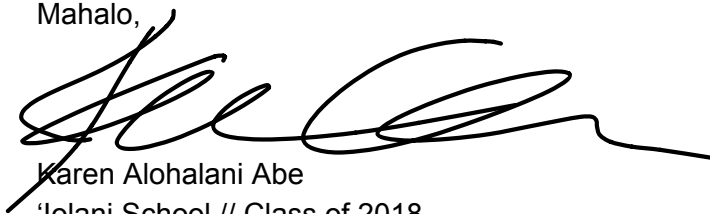
switch to foam-free alternatives will not only better the community but would aid businesses to flourish.

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. The passing of this bill will also connect to the preservation of this unique Hawaiian culture. 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. On the internet or in whatever resource provided, it is hard or nearly impossible to find a piece that argues that plastic is beneficial for the environment, still yet businesses and our community is stubbornly addicted using this dangerous product. It is our responsibility to create a better environment for future generations-- for our children and grandchildren, 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 Alohalani Abe', written over a horizontal line.

Karen Alohalani Abe

'Iolani School // Class of 2018

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 5:18:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 6:12:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Having done many beach clean-ups as well as working with a hon rescue and education interest, the amount of styrofoam on the beaches and in the water is obscene. It does NOT degrade, it is a blight on the landscape, the animals try and eat it, and are choked and malnourished. Why do we have this nasty looking, nasty feeling and nasty sounding material in our environment? Choose an option that is biodegradable!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:17:36 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Megan Rhoden | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Let us be an example for the rest of the U.S. and the world- polystyrene is doing more harm than good - we need to decrease the amount of harmful waste that is ending up in the ocean, waste that fish and sea life are mistaking for food. I fully support this bill because this type of waste will never disappear -I t will only break into smaller pieces. The restaurant industry argues it can be used at the H Power plant - but we have way more than enough waste to burn. Just because something is easy and cheap to do does not make it right if it has harmful effects on our environment, our aina. We should be helping the restaurant industry and encouraging them to use alternative containers- let's use recycled paper / cardboard - offer tax incentives - find ways to make it affordable.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:11:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jenna F Kuklinski | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Styrofoam is unnecessary and extremely detrimental to Hawaii (and the globe's) ecosystem. It does not biodegrade, it causes issue in environmental systems both on land and in water (accidental animal consumption etc), and there are many equally affordable and functional alternatives to styrofoam that don't have these same major ecological impacts (i.e. paper, biodegradable plastic). It should be banned and never used in the state of Hawaii again.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:55:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sean Freas | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill because we do not recycle polystyrene and it takes up too much space in or landfills - we have enough trash to burn for H-power. Too many chemicals are released into the air for the production of this product. We need to look into oher options and help make it more affordable.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:13:19 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elisabeth Dickinson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

This is groundbreaking and necessary for everyone and everythings well being. This won't solve the problem but it is a big step in the right direction.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:15:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jasmine Campollo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear representatives John M. Mizuno & Chris Lee,

I am supporting the SB2498 SD2. I am supporting this ban because these polystyrene can harm the environment and especially the marine animals. The polystyrene will accumulate into the marine animal food chain and eventually up our food chain. POPs are chemicals that are persistent that get absorb by the POPs which can be harmful. I don't want to see innocent marine animals suffering by ingesting and getting harm by the marine debris such as this polystyrene because I really care about the animals that are getting affected by them and the environment that are also getting affected. The polystyrene will eventually affect the humans health also. These polystyrene can destroy the environment which I don't want.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Campollo

4303 keaka dr

Honolulu, HI 96818

Jcampollo6@gmail.com

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:22:25 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| june chee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in support of 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-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:44:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| jean chee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Honolulu County Council Members,

I am writing to you today on personal views, research and as a citizen of the Hawaiian community, in **strong support of Bill 2498**, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam 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 increasing around the globe and in our oceans. Additionally, the world's markets are closing in places where we have traditionally displaced our waste. As an island we should be the leaders for the world in reducing these detrimental plastics like polystyrene foam.

Recent studies have shown 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.

Cleanup costs, environmental impact and human health are the most significant issues in which continuous Polysyrene and single use plastics bring to our planet.

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.

Please hear SB 2498 to invest in the best possible future for Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jean Chee

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:59:08 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joachim Schneider | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Hawaii should be the first foam free state to lead with example.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:30:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Kirsten Moy | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Kirsten Moy, and I am an employee of the University of Hawaii at the Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative, a graduate student in the Geography Department at Manoa, and I work for the nonprofit Oikonos - Ecosystem Knowledge. I also previously worked for the state as the Marine Debris Coordinator at DLNR. During my time in this position, we completed a series of aerial photos taken from a fixed wing aircraft and then counted every single piece of marine debris on state coastlines at that time. Our results documented some of the most polluted coves and beaches in our beautiful state.

I would encourage you to look at this imagery and take some time at the DLNR resource we created: [Mapping Marine Debris in the Main Hawaiian Islands \(arcg.is/29tjSgk\)](http://arcg.is/29tjSgk). If you visit any tab after the home page, you can zoom in on any stretch of coastline and see high resolution imagery like this:



Given the many testimonies you will undoubtedly receive, I do not feel the need to remind you of the environmental impacts of polystyrene. Instead I implore you to consider the state of our shores, and our oceans. Mālama Honua starts with our communities, and our government should be a reflection of this belief. We are closer to our ocean than any other state in the US, and it is our leadership and respect for our island Earth that will inspire other communities, landlocked communities, to adopt similar measures that must ultimately reduce the amount of plastic circulating in our societies.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony, and I hope you will explore our project. Please contact me with any questions.

Mahalo nui loa,

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- Kirsten V. Moy

Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative

Social Science Research Institute

University of Hawaii at Manoa

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SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:39:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Devin Thomas Moody | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

A 10 minute lunch creates 100 years of trash. I think we all know this is not sustainable, especially on an island. The only reason to oppose is either short sightedness, greed or incompetence. I'm going to keep it that simple because it is that simple.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:57:26 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jade Delevaux | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As environmental scientist, surfer and scuba diver, I believe Styrofoam should be ban from all food vendors. Nowadays, it is really hard to find a place on land or underneath the sea, which is not tainted by plastic and foam (or other trash). Being islanders, we have less land to accommodate more trash, yet population keeps growing. Today alternative and more sustainable material are available to replace foam and plastic. Often vendors use cost as an excuse/barrier to prevent shifting to compostable materials. But the cost of cleaning up is just as high if not higher and often born by a small group of the society. So it is time to change the way things have been done. It is time to care more for our tomorrows and the legacy we will leave to our children.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:59:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 12:04:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alexa Rofoli | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill because I want to do what's right to save this planet and the everything living on it and off of it!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 12:23:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Layla Kilolu | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As an environmentally-conscious Hawaii resident, I am in support of this bill to ban styrofoam from our state.

Respectfully,
Layla M. Kilolu, MBA; East West Center Fellow

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 12:22:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alexandra Mangan | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Working in a public school, and as someone who takes home extra food when I eat out, I see styrofoam containers every day. At the school I work at, I believe all students get free lunch. This is a pre k-year 12 school. Everyday, all students who eat throw out styrofoam containers for breakfast AND for lunch. Five days a week, ten months a year. The toxic chemicals in these trays certainly aren't helping cognition and health. With the education budget constantly being reworked, schools aim to save as much as they can. Lunch trays are apparently one area in which the cheapest option has been obtained. It is also the least healthy for our environment. If this option is taken away, individuals, companies, and organizations will simply switch to another option and no one will think twice about the change several months down the line. However, if continued to be allowed to purchase these types of unhealthy products, due to low cost, consumers will. It is the right of our future generations to have a world in which they are able to live healthy lives, and in which the environment is able to support and sustain them. We must make this change. Alternative environmentally friendly products (paper, mushroom, hemp, etc) can then be expanded upon right here, creating jobs. Continuing to use these products that take so long to decompose, and continuing to put these issues on the back burner, will turn into a point of no return. When it does, I'd like to say that at least I tried to support the elimination of foam here. Hawaii has the opportunity to lead the US on this front. Much money enters Hawaii through the tourist industry. What will happen when the beaches fill up with foam and more plastic? I wouldn't want to vacation in non-decompositional rubbish.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter, and best of luck in making Hawaii a leader in sustainability.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 12:53:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tulia Ferguson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the ban of single use polystyrene foam containers. These containers can easily be replaced with environment friendly container options. Our oceans are suffocating from single use plastics. Please ban these items in hopes that we can stop the damage to our environment. Thank you.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 12:55:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Styrofoam is not the pivot point or tipping point for the success of our trash to energy efforts. Over time the trash to energy program must change anyway. Banning styrofoam is the only long-term solution to eliminating its contributions to ocean and air pollution, global warming, marine animal death, litter and other detrimental effects of continually adding polystyrene to the environment. I support a complete ban on all polystyrene products.

pint

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 1:09:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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.

1. Polystyrene leaches carcinogens and when burned emits toxic chemicals that can endanger human health.
2. This light and brittle material blows into waterways and breaks down easily, endangering all kinds of marine life that think it is food. The coral reefs and oceans are being destroyed and need our help now!
3. Polystyrene litter despoils the beautiful pristine environment on which our recreational economy depends.
4. 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-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 1:14:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaylyn McCoy | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I work in the marine field and see first hand how much POLYSTYRENE FOAM ends up in the ocean. Not just that but it takes forever to break down in a landfill. There are many other ways to store food, and many restaurants have already moved to more biodegradable options.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 1:15:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michelle Benedict | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

It is beyond time for Hawaii to step up and ban styrofoam as have many other places including the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Litter is not litter. Styrofoam is a toxic material to produce and remains toxic when it enters the environment as trash. There are many suitable alternatives to styrofoam and in the interest of the environment, and our own health, we should be using them.

Please pass this bill and ban the presence of styrofoam in our beautiful state.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 1:15:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erika Smith | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill because we should be doing what we can to help the environment that provides resources for our survival.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 1:27:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Courtney Yanovitch | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I have lived here on the island for over 16 years. I am devastated everytime I go to our beaches and see the amount of microplastics, single use plastics and styrofoam desacrating our shores. We need to start and take accountability for our Aina and walk the talk. There are so much talk about loving the land but NO ACTION. Our state lives in HYPOCRICY!!!!!! It is EMBARASSING to live here and see the lack of sustainability awareness in restaruants, hotels and other businesses. We need to pass this ban and other bans that support sustainability for Hawaii especially because we thrive on Tourism. We should be ashamed of the lack of concern for the land and sea!!!! These type of materials are toxic and deadly to nature and our own survival but yet we still use them because it is convenient. We need to stop doing business as usual and spend a little more green to save the green!!!!!! We only get one planet and one Hawaii!!! There are many other alternatives out there for take away containers that are not deadly for our oceans or land. Please consider passing this ban and jump on board with other cities and states across the country that take pride in being the positive example for good change in the world we all share!!!!

Oral/Poster,

256th ACS Environ. 19-23rd Aug. 2018 , Boston

Plastic chemical in coastal water and beach areas surround Japan

What happens to plastic debris once it reach our oceans? From the year 2000 to 2015, 2,000 coastal water and beach sand samples were taken from coastlines of Japan to measure plastic chemical contamination, especially focusing on basic plastic material called Styrene Oligomer (SO) used to make Polystyrenes. The research was conducted out on the fields as well as in the laboratory to reveal its source, its chemical make-ups and quantities of chemicals produced from samples collected. Researchers had found that average SO contamination level on coastlines of Japan are 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ in sand and 3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ in coastal water. That is 8,000-12,000 tons of Poly-Styrene, equals to 320 tons of SO, washed up on the beaches of Japan. It is quite evident that, not only does PS debris breaks up into millions of macro/micro plastic pieces and showing up on our beaches but also it degrades into SO under natural condition and keep disseminating SO into our oceans for a very long time. Bisphenol A (BPA: derived from polycarbonate (PC) or epoxy resin (EPX)) were also present in samples collected along with Phthalic Acid Esters (PAE: derived from Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)). Without no 'End-of-Life' solutions, these chemicals are accumulating and spreading fast in our oceans all of us depend upon.

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Key words: Debris Plastic, Decomposition, Contamination
Styrene oligomer, bisphenol-A, Diffusion

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3) Koshiro Koizumi,³⁾

4)Kohei Takatama⁴⁾,

5)Yoichi Koderas⁵⁾,

6)S-Y,Chung⁶⁾

2)Katsuhiko Saido

2)Toshihiko Hiaki

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To: Rep. Chris Lee, Committee Chair and the Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Committee Chair and the Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Lacy Matsumoto Urban Pacific Communications LLC. Senior Executive Partner

Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 at 9 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329

Re: SB2498
Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill. As a concerned mother, small business owner, and an active volunteer with the non-profit organization, Sustainable Coastlines, I had the opportunity to see the impact of polystyrene use from the perspectives of retailers, consumers and environmentalists. The comments below are a personal account and do not reflect the views of clients or any specific organization.

I am in full support of prohibiting the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers. Litter reduction of single use plastics and polystyrene foam containers is a sustainable practice and I believe once implemented, all parties (consumers, retailers), will adapt quickly. For instance, our client Wahoo's Hawaii made a switch to reusable containers in 2008 and within 10 years grew their profitability by 28%. It is apparent that there is no real correlation to a profit loss by selecting a different vendor option for containers. Any minor inconvenience that a consumer may experience with a compostable container should weighed against the long term detriment effect to the environment. As our leaders, sometimes difficult decisions must be made for the betterment of our society as a whole. Perhaps, this macro thought process of our leadership should trickle down to consumers.

As a citizen, our family began a personal ban on polystyrene and single plastic use in 2011. This change in behavior was inspired by a beach clean up on the island of Hawaii, where we discovered entire beaches with layers of micro-plastics amongst the sand. After hours of cleaning, it became disheartening to see that we didn't make much of an impact on the beach. Over the years, this became a reoccurring experience on several other beach clean up initiatives.

Personally, we've limited our take-out options because of the lack of "green" options and rely on Surfrider's Ocean Friendly Restaurant guide for dining options. We regularly bring our own reusable containers to restaurants. But due to Department of Health regulations Hawaii Administrative Rules 11-50-32(p)(1), many restaurants will not allow you to "take-out" food in your personal container, but will actually plate the food so that you "bag-it-yourself". It's these types of inefficiencies, flaws and lack of forward thinking that cause excess waste of resources and an increase to non-biodegradable garbage. In April 2015, I was quoted by the StarAdvertiser featuring a BYOC (bring your own container) article. Since the article, dozens of friends and colleagues have committed to their own waste reduction. The ability and willingness to adapt is there.

Choosing to be mindful of your environmental impact should be a necessity in every day life. We no longer have the luxury of putting convenience first if doing so is at the detriment of our environmental future.

As a millennial, I believe that our generation is compelled to think about the future. We are raised in the age of technology, information, social media, smart phones and will have to face the impact of what the generations before us have done to the environment. There are no excuses or turning a blind eye when it is quite obvious that this ban needs to be enforced and an emphasis on waste reduction as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Mahalo nui loa,

Lacy Matsumoto
Urban Pacific Communications LLC.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 2:15:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Beth Mathias | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please do the right thing for Hawaii's environment by supporting SB2498 SD2 to prohibit the sale of polystyrene foam containers and the serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide.

Beth Mathias, Haiku, Maui

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 2:18:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anissa Gunther | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB 2498. Single use polystyrene foam containers should be banned from sale and use in Hawaii in order to reduce Hawaii's waste stream of materials that are hazardous to our aina and to our health. Banning polystyrene foam will significantly reduce the amount of non-degradable products sitting in our local landfills as well as the amount hazardous chemicals released into our air when they are burned at H-power.

At my place of employment, Kailua Beach Adventures, some of our activities include a lunch from our neighboring local bbq. Kailua Beach Adventures supplies the bbq with degradable clam shells to serve the guest's lunches. It is so important for us to be a part of the solution of Hawaii's waste stream issues, and we sincerely hope that SB2498 is passed.

I also participate in numerous beach cleanups. Styrofoam is one type of trash that has been collected in large quantities. Given that it floats and does not degrade, it can be digested by fish, birds, turtles and other sea life causing sickness and death.

I appreciate your time and attention to this important matter.

Thank you,

Anissa Gunther

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 2:37:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Harvey Arkin | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Honolulu Bill 4

In Strong Support

Hearing Date: January 31st 2018

Full Council

Aloha Honolulu County Council Members,

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. 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).

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

Mahalo,

Harvey Arkin

Manoa

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

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

[3] www.unep.org/pdf/ValuingPlastic/

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

[5] www.islandpulse.org

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

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

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 2:39:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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 banning foam will not hurt small businesses. Please support this important bill and the will of the people of Hawaii. Mahalo

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 2:41:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have worked in marine resources management, and the amount of plastic waste that ends up in the ocean is astounding and heartbreaking. Banning polystyrene will be one of many steps to stop adding to this problem. I learned of the problems with polystyrene in the 80's, so getting rid of them is long overdue. Please act to preserve our 'aina and kai. Mahola.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 2:41:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Severine Busquet | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Hi:

Hawaii beaches are now a pile of trash mostly plastic including foam plastic. It is time for all to learn how to reduce our trash. For these reasons I strongly support this bill SB2498.

Thanks for your attention

Severine

Bill# SB2498

Hearing Date: 03/16/2018

Hearing Time: 9:00am

Place: 329

Committee: EEP/HHS

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.

Snorkeling or diving in the waters around Hawaii, I have frequently encountered styrofoam containers or parts of them. I decided to become foam free, because I feel this is, where I can start contributing to live more sustainably and protect the beautiful environment we live in in Hawaii. Studying the detrimental consequences of plastic litter on marine ecosystems, I strongly hope that we can reduce plastic waste on a local level with appropriate regulated. In my opinion, it is largely unnecessary to eat from styrofoam containers as there is more sustainable alternatives available. I generally avoid restaurants that use Styrofoam containers.

EPS Foam 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.

"Malama Ka Aina" means to care for and nurture the land so it can give back all we need to sustain life for ourselves and our future generations. Ever since I moved to Hawaii, I have been touched by the strong bond native Hawaiians feel with the environment. Aina is the foundation of Hawaiian cultural and spiritual identity and includes the harmonization of human health with the health of the land, through protection and care of the natural resources that sustain it. Through all of our history, human kind has taken from the environment and that has fostered and fueled our prosperity. But somewhere along the lines we have lost that understanding of a

reciprocal relationship, that sense of care and responsibility for aina that is so inherent to Hawaii. Supporting this bill presents a step towards reestablishing this appreciation for our environment and that reciprocal and responsible relationship with the aina.

For these reasons, I strongly support bill #SB2498. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely, Paula Moehlenkamp

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 2:56:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kimo Zachariah | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 3:01:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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 more green, healthful, and modern alternatives.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 3:03:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Madeline McKenna | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Single-use polystyrene foam containers pollute the environment, from city streets to our waterways and beaches. These lightweight containers are made of non-renewable resources can be blown away easily, having highly negative impacts despite their short "lifetime." The external costs associated with polystyrene debris by far negatively outweigh the positive benefits of banning polystyrene containers. These costs include the cleanup of our waterways, beaches, streets, and public spaces. Additionally, polystyrene is harmful to the diverse marine life of Hawai'i. Especially for such a state that benefits economically from tourism and water activities, I believe it is best to ban single-use polystyrene containers.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 3:05:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| napua camarillo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I think this bill is a long time coming. We need to be more responsible islanders, business owners, visitors, leaders, and act in regard for our beautiful aina. Nothing bums me out more than surfing and pulling up right next to a floating piece of garbage. Things need to change and this is another step towards perserving, respecting, and being conscious of our earth.

Thanks for reading,

Napua Camarillo

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 3:51:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caleigh Dillon | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Polystyrene foam is made of fossil fuels and toxic chemicals. It does not biodegrade and it is not recyclable. It ends up, at best, in our landfills, at worst (and often) in our oceans. Our oceans are important--if not as an ecosystem whose health and existence are inherently valuable, then at least for Hawaii's tourism and economy. There are so many better alternatives to this material. Please help us ban it in Hawaii.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 3:23:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Randy Ching | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 3:59:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Torey Jenkins | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Hello,

I strongly support a ban on the unbridled use of foam containers. As a State of Hawaii resident and taxpayer, I am tired of subsidizing the clean up of such a contaminating material.

For the budget, and the beauty of the Hawaiian Islands, please consider holding Hawaii businesses to a higher standard, for all of our benefit!

Thank You Sincerely,

Torey Jenkins

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 3:59:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lucia You | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Disposable, petroleum based products are wrecking havoc on our biosphere. Please vote in favor of SB 2498 and ban unsustainable foam containers.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:02:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Blaire Langston | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a Manoa resident and graduate student at UH Manoa. I strongly support this bill to ban polystyrene on Oahu. Polystyrene is not a sustainable product to use as its life cycle damages the environment at all stages-from extraction of fossil fuels, potentially harmful to our health, and harming wildlife as it becomes marine debris. Please help Oahu ban styrofoam and support the longevity of our natural resources by showing them the respect they deserve, instead of putting big business before the future of our children.

Mahalo,

Blaire

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:02:50 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

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-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:13:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Styrofoam is a curse on this island. We live in a small island ecosystem and so our waste is amplified compared to other places. There are so many sustainable and biodegradable alternatives so ask yourself, why haven't I switched already?

The only way that we can see change is if we're at the forefront of it. Come on! Let's get some commitment.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:19:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sitara Palecanda | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As a marine biologist I have seen how polystyrene is polluting our oceans and causing harm to local wildlife. There are easy alternatives to using polystyrene many of which are also disposable (such as paper). Banning polystyrene containers will help to ensure that our shores stay beautiful and our animals do not suffer.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:22:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wailea Collins | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I want to be able to support my favorite local food drive-ins without having to feel guilty about creating so much rubbish. If this bill passes my favorite food will instead be served in compostable containers. Instead of the waste being burned and turned into pollutants that we all have to breathe, or buried in our precious 'aina, I can compost my containers and feed the soil to my plants. Total win for everyone! Plus way less gabage on the beaches and in our oceans. Even the tourist industry can support that.

Enough talking, let's pass this great bill already!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:27:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nicole Schlaack | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As an Island Hawaii has a responsibility to deal with the amount of trash produced. Styrofoam containers have been prohibited in most European countries and it is unfortunate that they are still being used in the US. Banning the containers is the right step into a change of a one-way and single use container practice so common here. Hawaii is a state that can set an example in sustainability and environmental conservation.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:35:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James McCay | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lee & Mizuno, Vice Chairs Lowen & Kobayashi, and esteemed Representatives:

Thank you so much for your service and I am stoked to urged your **STRONG SUPPORT** for this historical and important step forwards to Hawai'i with SB2498 SD2.

I would have loved to testify in person but I will still be on Maui after the Maui Energy Conference. It was awesome to see Chair Lee there continuing his strong and visionary leadership which is so critical to Hawai'i's future.

While I am on the Board of Diamond Head Ambassador, in the district of HHS Vice Chair Kobayashi, I testify as a private and proud resident of Hawai'i who works towards a cleaner and more healthy future for all. As you're all so aware, there is so much to do, and it's only achieved through **GOOD** actions and **GOOD** bills passing. There should be no concern that this bill is a **GOOD** and positive step forwards. Let's get past status quo and remove this horrid, toxic and polluting product and eye sore from our beautiful islands!

Malama Pono & Mahalo,
James McCay

2957 Kalakaua Ave Honolulu HI 96815

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:40:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thackeray Taylor | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha to whom it may concern,

My name is Thackeray Shane Taylor and I am a Navy veteran since 2015. Hawaii has the highest per capita consumption of polystyrene products in the nation. I have seen trash blowing out of trashcans at beach parks and even in the city too often. There are plenty of alternatives to styrofoam. To my mind, there should be a separation of business and state, and often times those in the world of civics need to listen to their people rather than an industry. Please listen to the input you are receiving from your constituents. A new market niche will INEVITABLY emerge for more environmentally responsible business owners if and when this bill is passed.

Thank you for your time,

Respectfully,

Thackeray.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:40:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erica Scott | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:47:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christine Kline | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of this bill because of the heinous affects of styrofoam on human health and the environment. In regards to the environment, styrofoam:

-Is non-biodegradable and lasts FOREVER.

-It floats, meaning large amount of it has accrued along coastlines and waterways around the world. It is a main component of marine debris.

-The National Bureau of Stands Center for Fire Research has found 57 chemical byproducts released during the creation of Styrofoam. It's byproducts pollute the air and create liquid and solid toxic waste.

In regards to human health:

-Styrofoam is made up of styrene, which causes irritation of the skin, eyes, and respiratory tract to those who work in styrene production.

-Chemicals can leach from styrofoam containers into the food we eat (as it is often used for take-out containers), which affects our health and reproductive systems.

For all these reasons and more, we should be banning the use of Styrofoam in our state!!! It is not only toxic for us but it is INCREDIBLY wasteful, expecially with so many cheap eco-friendly container options now on the market. As a state so connected to the ocean, we should be doing everything we can to preserve and not pollute it further. Please pass this bill!!!

Mahalo,

Christine Kline

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:54:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victoria Giuseffi | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 5:01:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laura Margulies | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

This foam ban is essential to maintaining Hawaii as a livable state. Without the ban we will sink deeper into a non-sustainable lifestyle and leave our keiki with an ever growing non-biodegradable landfill. There are alternatives to foam and people should adopt them, including restaurants. Please pass this important bill and start making Hawaii clean, safe and sustainable for the future.

Mahalo,

Laura Margulies

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:59:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lois Crozer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 5:06:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sabrina Allen | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Good afternoon Chair Lee, Chair Mizuno and member of the committees,

I am here to testify in support of bill SB2498 regarding the statewide ban of polystyrene food containers. My name is Sabrina Allen and I am a resident of Kailua.

I moved to Hawaii last July to specialize in psychiatry as a pharmacist. I lived in Ohio for many years, but half of my family live in Barbados. I was surprised when I moved to Hawaii how commercialized the island was compared to the Caribbean, and the amount of waste produced. I believe that this opinion is shared by many others, and this bill is a very simple step to help preserve the island's beauty.

Many times in my profession, patients want to know why they should take their medications. Every time this occurs, I explain a very simply concept, risk versus benefit, and I think this concept also applies here. Simply stated, the risk of styrofoam containers is so extreme that it doesn't even come close to touching the benefits. Risks include polluting our ocean, ingestion of carcinogens, and massive waste. What are the benefits?? With current technology, the only benefit that I see is cost. And this cost difference is not enough to even justify a cost benefit.

This is the first time that I have ever testified or worried myself with politics. I believe that shows how supported this bill is by the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sabrina M. Allen, PharmD, BCPS

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 5:06:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| kilani villiaros | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill because we should be doing everything we can to protect the environment, which provides all the resources necessary for our survival. Styrofoam is a toxin to humans and animals and a key factor to pollution of our planet. There are better, safer alternatives!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 5:39:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Noelani Puniwai | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I have just been notified that this Bill has been moving forward within our legislature. This makes me extremely satisfied and allows me to reflect on the values of our State. I KNOW we do not want to be a "throw away" state. My grandparents would be appalled to see how much waste and trash we currently create on a daily basis. To compile this, we throw away items that are hazardous to our aina both in production and in disposal.

There is a price tag on our aina and our future. It is worth more than the few cents businesses charge to consume these products. We must do what we can to protect our future and the economy and lifestyle of this State. Stand with us and ban the use of Styrofoam. It might be a difficult decision to do, but one that you will NOT regret in the future looking back.

It is the right thing to do.

Thank you. Support this measure.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 5:34:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelsey Amos | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please pass this bill to ban styrofoam containers. Hawai'i should be setting an example in caring for our oceans and not tolerating these harmful pollutant materials to enter the ecosystem.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 5:42:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gaye Chan | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Styrofoam waste is damaging for the environment - both land and sea. I fully support it being prohibited from use from here on. Thank you

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 6:00:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alyssa Mencil | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Having done numerous beach cleanups through a student organized club, I am only beginning to understand the issues caused by pollution and littering as well as what I can do to help. We can make a difference and protect our oceans one step at a time. These containers don't dissolve and are just one of many we see littered at the beach. But starting small can lead to great effects.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 6:53:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bill Quinlan | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please pass this bill.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:08:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cindy Staples | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Representatives,

I ask that you seriously consider the long-term effects of your vote today. As we are all aware, polystyrene is a hazard to our environment and takes decades to degrade. Your vote today will stand as a testament of your dedication to our marine life, the health of our air quality, and the environment our children and grandchildren inherit. Or, your vote will stand as evidence that saving a few cents and convenience are more important. Please make the use of polystyrene in the state of Hawaii a thing from the past. We can do better!

Thank you.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:08:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| andie Sausser | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Honolulu City and Council Members,

I am a 22 year old student attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa and I strongly believe that the reduction of styrofoam is one that will bring nothing but benefits to our health, aina, and future. Please hear our voices when we say WE DO NOT WANT IT. The Univeristy of Hawaii at Manoa has already taken the lead in banning styrofoam and now the state has the opportunity to do the same. The power is in your hands now, please consider our future.

Mahalo for your time,

Andie Sausser

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:12:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dolan Eversole | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the ban on styrofoam in Hawaii. It has no place in our environment especially now with all the alternative materials available.

- 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

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

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

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:22:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Randy Harrington | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Be the change you want to see in the world! Our beaches need this. Our ocean needs this. Our community needs this. We have a choice! Help Hawaii become the first foam free state!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:33:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Daria Cassese | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am in strong support to ban polystyrene. I relocated to Waikiki from Seattle and I was shocked to see the exorbitant amount of styrofoam that is used in the restaurants here. Also, styrofoam is used to serve food in the local hospital I work in. That is a lot of styrofoam! I see styrofoam on the beautiful beaches here and it makes me sad. I surf in the waters and see styrofoam floating by me and wildlife and it makes me sad. Coming from a large metropolitan city, I have seen this very issue addressed. I think Hawaii has an amazing opportunity, being an island, to lead the way in banning this unnecessary and harmful product from existence. For our beloved island, wildlife, and future generations.. Mahalo nui loa

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:33:50 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| maranda ferguson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I have only been here for a year and it didn't take long to see the devastation trash has caused the island of Oahu. It is everywhere, and while there are few options for recycling some plastics and glass, there is no where for foam to be properly disposed. We have known for many years the negative aspects of foam containers on the environment and our health, yet we continue to use them. Even when disposed of in a trash can, the lightweight material ends up in a landfill or easily blown by the coastal winds and ends up in our streets or in the ocean. To be Used once and left forever in an ecosystem.

I come from a state that unfortunately serves the "out of sight out of mind" mentality. But it will only be out of sight for so long. Here, it is never out of sight. It's everywhere. I can see this island is trying to make a stand for the environment but we have to try harder and be bolder. If we are so adamant about the proper treatment of this island, then we should be willing to make the changes. Let's be the first state to BAN POLYSTYRENE!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:40:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Forest Frizzell | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please for the love of our 'aina, of our planet, of our future generations ban polystyrene foam containers. There are so many low cost, environmentally friendly alternatives. The time to take a stand has long since passed.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:39:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Peter Kalawaia Moore | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Kalawai'a Moore and I am in support of this bill banning foam for use in take out containers and coolers and everything else. We live in a very fragile environment. We need to make the right decisions now to help protect our resopurces for the future. Our banning of foam will help clear our immediate environment of this hazaed, and wiull go toward affecting change on a larger scale, making these types of products less profitable and more likely to be replaced by more susatainable alternatives that are better for the health of our lands and oceans.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:41:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Yayoi Becker | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

I believe in the state of Hawaii to lead other states to ban the form statewise, and protect this beautiful earth.

PLEASE BAN FORMS IN HAWAII

Aloha,

Yayoi

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:53:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:50:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian Bilodeau | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a teacher in Waianae Hawaii at a charter school that provides free breakfast and lunch to a school of approximately 1,000 students pre-k through 12th grade. Every day there are potentially 2,000 styrofoam single use food trays. Although the school separates food waste from other waste. Sometimes trays are emptied, stacked in a box and shipped off. I am not sure where the box of used trays goes. I would like to see styrofoam banned from schools and food service businesses on the island of Oahu because I fear that hot food served on hot styrofoam plates emits harmful chemicals.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:58:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elizabeth McDermott | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a near lifelong Hawai`i resident currently living in Manoa. I write in 100% support of this bill to reduce the use of polystyrene foam.

I swim at beaches all over Oahu regularly and have been horrified to see how many of them are now covered with plastic waste. Some have more plastic waste than sand! This is not the Hawaii I knew as a girl just 50 years ago. And I've seen personally the harm this causes our marine life when they ingest this junk. We are consuming it now too in the fish we eat.

Nearly all the restaurants I frequent use alternative, non petroleum based biodegradable containers. There is absolutely no reason we need to use foam anymore. Other cities have banned it successfully. In fact Costa Rica is moving to ban all single use plastic entirely. Hawaii can be a leader here as well. Lets not end up last on the list again. Please support this bill.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:04:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jessica Graham | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support this bill. We don't need styrofoam, there are other safer options. We must protect our natural resources.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:13:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dyson Chee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a 16 yo homeschooler and am in strong support of SB2498. If I was not out of town on the day of the hearing, I would have testified in person to voice my strong support. Please pass this bill.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:15:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mio Chee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support this SB2498. Please pass this bill.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:19:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Micah Chee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am 12 years old. Please pass SB 2498. I am submitting this testimony while I am on my family trip to Japan, because this bill is so important to me. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:21:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Chee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2498.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:23:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cristin Priolo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As a current Middle School teacher, 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.

To Whom it May Concern,

Aloha. My name is Paul Balazs and I am a teacher and advisor at Henry J. Kaiser High School. I teach English-Language Arts, Leadership and Theory of Knowledge (a course in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program). I have been in my position for 5 years and consider my position one of the wildest and most unique blessings of my life. I have been able to watch students enter our classrooms wondering about their worlds, walk our hallways trying to find their place, sit in our lectures considering where it all fits in for



them and participate in school social groups overcoming all their own personal obstacles. They play sports, join band, take active roles in clubs and student organizations, enter student government and join rigorous academic programs. In the last few years, what I have seen in regards to environmentalism and conservation – particularly at our school – has been extraordinary. There is a changing of the guard, it's clear to see; and I am hoping that through this letter – and this increasingly active movement – the governing authority of the State of Hawaii will come to see it, too. As an active voter and proud community member of the Maunaloa area, I support any legislation and any legislator willing to acknowledge this issue of Polystyrene and helping to change our course.

I support **SB2498 SD2** because I am a believer in a healthy relationship between law and citizenship. I believe that people should do the right thing; but when they can't, the law must step in and do it for them. We must be able to acknowledge that there is a problem and work to fix it. We've notoriously been labeled a state behind the times, that refuses to change and see the writing on the wall. I am tired of this dialogue and tired of the constant circling of the drain that most of us in Hawaii feel. We need to pick a direction and attend to it. Hawaii must pass this bill and let it be known, through programs, policy and leadership – that this is the new Hawaii.



As a teacher, there is no prouder moment than seeing your students taking charge. Five years ago, I took on a club called the Wipeout Crew that focused on surfing and bringing about awareness of coastal issues. As we moved towards hosting beach clean-ups, and creating partnerships with non-profit organizations, working alongside NOAA and DLNR, and creating the school's first ever community-wide Earth Day Festival, we began to become aware of many of the deeper and complicated political, cultural and economic issues; but none more unsettling than the problem Polystyrene products pose to our fragile and already desperate ecosystem.

Let me share a story: I remember vividly a clean-up at Bellows beach on the Windward side in 2015. We had planned a beach clean-up with 30 students citing the big waves and influx of marine debris washing in. As we arrived that Saturday afternoon, we noticed the trash from the campers and the beach goers littering the beach. In total, we spent 3 hours on the beach that afternoon, cleaning up after the public. We picked up plastic bags, some fresh, while others broken into pieces floating away in the wind as we sifted through them; plastic utensils and straws everywhere; bottles and cans; abandoned beachwear from recent park users; and Styrofoam containers from plate lunches – some already deteriorated, while others in full-form – simply left behind. We filled 4 bags that day with not a single bag containing marine debris. As we sat together and reflected on our afternoon, it became painfully clear: we're doing this to ourselves. We must change. We need this change.



I'm writing this letter fresh off of a 4 hour event Kaiser High School's Wipeout Crew hosted at Kahulu Golf Course Beach. The event brought together the Science, Social Studies and English students of Pearl City High School, many of whom were there for a grade but who understood and appreciated the project's importance.



At the event, we picked up 2,881 lbs of debris. The reactions from students new to these issues has become pretty commonplace for us. They go through waves of shock, followed by anger, then disbelief, and finally, sadness. A typical beach clean-up of 10 people can average anywhere from 300 – 500 lbs of debris, much of it plastic and Styrofoam. It is during the reflection period that we ask students to share what they found or thought about, and then ask questions for the group or think of solutions that we should consider. The answers are always the same: we must stop using one-use plastic and ban the sale of Styrofoam. If hundreds of students that we host

every year, from ages 8 – 28, and community members (local and visiting) can see what has to happen, why can't we? Why can't we begin to right this sinking ship?

My father worked as a marine biologist for over 50 years. He worked in conservation pioneering the state's first marine sea turtle research program through the University of Hawaii at Manoa and soon thereafter, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. I was raised to think about the ocean and to consider myself an active part of its health and condition. I didn't go that route but became a teacher instead. Similar to his philosophy regarding the ocean, it translates into a life of service and education for me. I believe in our communities. I believe in the people. I believe we can change if given the opportunity. Human behavior just like the behavior of the seas must be used as a key for understanding. If we can observe an issue in any environment, we can find ways to solve it. You don't need to be a scientist to know that Polystyrene is bad for the environment. (Hell, you don't even have to clean a beach!) You



simply need to acknowledge that it produces harmful chemicals when burned or break down in the water or our landfills – it's common sense but not commonly thought about. And then, acknowledge that there are better alternatives – another sensible and reasonable idea but again, commonly forgotten. Many schools across the state have already acknowledged these and moved to compostable products. Schools – our own institutions of learning and sophisticated stages that set the table for our future – have already begun to turn the page. In 2016, a group of Kaiser students did its own research. In a week's time, the students counted 60 lbs of Styrofoam that is thrown away. It is absolutely ridiculous that its life from beginning to end is so pointless and yet so incredibly harmful. The students worked with the cafeteria; and with the school's support, now enjoy compostable paper products instead (with plastic still on our to-do list).

All I ask is that we listen to our children, acknowledge the science and work with the pioneers who are trying to give our planet a fighting chance. Let's not dismiss this because of “grandfathered” policies and economic challenges – there's simply too much to do. This is a good a start as any. Let's take a stand for something and create a *culture of caring* – one that is sustainable and pono.

Who could argue that?

Respectfully,

Paul Balazs
992 A-Awaawaanoa Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96825

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:54:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| DIANE E NUSHIDA-TOKUNO | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing in support of Bill 2498 to ban the use of polystyrene foam containers. In order to protect the natural environment and wildlife it's important to eliminate the foam containers which ultimately break down and release toxins into the environment. Often the containers end up in our oceans which harm seabirds and pollute our oceans. And it is possible for food served in foam containers absorb toxins from the polystyrene which then affect the health of humans.

As Hawaii moves towards being responsible stewards of the earth by passing this bill we will move forward towards this goal.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:01:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| yuko ishimura | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:56:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Megan Viernes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:04:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rachael Myhedyn | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been sent this link by a school mate of my son who is very supportive of this ban asking for help. How lovey to see his passion! I dont see any reason on this island why we should be using any non recyclable, or not biodegradable products. Where do people think they actually go ?

I recall a fundraiser from Zippies where I received cookie dough in a container labelled 5 for recycling, which isnt recyclable here. When I emailed them they said they encrouaged reusing the container. I dont think that is going to happen, lets be real.

We should only be using containers that can be recycled or will break down... this is an island, it is common sense. The rubbish pile up in the bins outside stores where they sell mostly take away is shocking. Hawaii is so proud of its natural assets and animals and an allignment with products that support this makes so much sense. I support banning all products that threaten our wild life and environment.

Mahalo

Rachael

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:09:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Miki Wallace | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Miki Wallace and I live at 2525 Date Street, 1804, Honolulu. Now is the time to stop suffocating the planet with styrofoam. We can change our legacy of stripping the planet for short term profits to one that cares enough to change our habits and nurture the planet so our kids, grandkids and their children can enjoy oceans, forests and wildlife.

Time to live pono and respect the aina- make Hawaii proud by setting the standard as a styrofoam free state!

Mahalo,

Miki

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:11:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stacey Gray | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha EEP and HHS Committee Members,

As an avid scuba diver and ocean user I cannot tell you how enthusiastic I am about the foam ban. Our beaches are one of our most valuable resources and when we use foam containers that frequently blow into the ocean it not only hurts wildlife, it hurts our island aesthetic. These foam containers can be easily replaced with compostable alternatives that do not last for 1,000 years, potentially choke wildlife, and pollute our ocean. This bill is a move towards a more akamai and sustainable future for our home and I appreciate your support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Kind Regards,

Stacey Gray

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:14:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Hilde Murphy | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:23:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alina Bwy | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support a statewide ban on styrofoam because it is such an easy move to make such a big difference to our oceans. I am among many who enjoy the ocean and hope to protect this environment and its residents. Having participated in many beach cleanups I know how much plastic is out there and it makes sense for our ocean state to lead the way in this. It is shaming to see places that do not have as much connection to, or as much of their economy even, resting on the the health of the ocean doing more to prevent this type of pollution. This is a great opportunity for Hawai'i to take its rightful place as the trailblazer for a plastic free ocean.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:28:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sharon Wong | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:34:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| kitty daniel | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Pass this bill, the food containers do not need to be in polystyrene. It's not necessary to keep using them, knowing this is not a good choice.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:31:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Blake Miller | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Honolulu City Council Members,

My name is Blake Miller. I am a teacher at a charter middle school in Kaimuki. I am writing in strong support of Bill SB2498 to ban the use and sale of polystyrene foam containers in Hawai'i.

Polystyrene food containers are single-use containers, which means that they are thrown away after only one use. Unfortunately "away" is not as simple as it sounds. The users of these containers, no matter how well-intentioned, throw the containers in the trash, but due to their lightweight characteristic, the containers can easily fly out of a trash can from the wind and into the environment. They are often blown into wildlife habitat or a stream or storm drain which lead to the ocean. Polystyrene foam does not biodegrade, at least not in our lifetime or our grandchildren's grandchildren's grandchildren's... lifetime. This means that it can break apart into pieces, but the amount does not reduce. The pieces of polystyrene can also look a lot like food to a sea creature, which is detrimental to our ecosystem.

Our actions as humans need to be less human-centered and more Earth-centered. The banning of polystyrene is one step closer to positively changing the way humans see and interact with the world around us. Not only will businesses have to use better biodegrading materials for food containers, this can also be a reminder to people to bring their own reusable containers for use at food establishments. We need to move toward a world where people are more aware of all actions regarding single-use products, and this bill can be the kindling for that.

Mahalo,

Blake Miller

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:44:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jimson Carr | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I would like to urge passage of SB2498. While the useful service life of a polystyrene foam food container is measured in mere minutes, as a waste product it becomes pervasive in our environment and is nearly impossible to recapture and remove. Polystyrene foam easily and readily fragments into smaller pieces, ends up in the ocean, and is ingested by marine organisms thereby entering our food chain.

A range of alternative products are readily available, though higher costs combined with lack of policy direction from government WILL produce the classic "tragedy of the commons" scenario where relatively few merchants are willing to incur the extra costs of a better alternative if their competition is not required to do the same.

This is the classic role of government; to enact laws to ensure the common good. SB2498 gives us the opportunity to curtail new discharges of polystyrene foam waste into our environment. The presence of readily available alternatives makes this low hanging fruit. Let's get it done. Inaction and the status quo are not good enough. Thank you.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:45:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natalie Bruso | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Aloha State of Hawaii House Representatives,

My name is Natalie Bruso and I am writing to you in strong support of SB2498, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam food containers in the Hawaiian Islands. This is an important bill because it will help to set Hawaii on a course in the direction that will determine the environmental and economical health of our state.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:45:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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 primarily 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. Two counties already have this ban in their rules; let's make it consistent across our State to keep our aina alive!

Aloha, Tom Eisen

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:52:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Benjamin Quintana | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha House Reps..

My name is Ben Quintana and I strongly support SB2498 relating to the ban of polystyrene foam food containers in the Hawaiian Islands. This bill shows respect for these islands and will help to protect the unique environment, which is critical in the lives of those of us who live here and the future of tourism here.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:16:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| K Elizabeth Matthews | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

Plastic accumulation in the ocean makes up a patch larger than Mexico. We need to make change for future generations. Our ocean is not a trash can and there is no magic word that will make our waste disappear. It is up to us to enforce process to allow future humans an opportunity to sustain life on this planet. Banning polystyrene can be done. Many states are moving away from this option in restaurants. While many argue the cost is too high to ban it, we need to realize the actual cost. The real price of not banning it will be much higher. Business owners have options. We just need to put the pressure on so people will seek them out. The City of Tacoma Park, Maryland provided a large table for compostable or recyclable food service ware alternatives and pricing: <https://documents-takomapark.s3.amazonaws.com/public-works/polystyrene-ban/PW-20150624-product-and-cost-list.pdf>. As the cost for alternatives will go down as the demand grows. We can do this.

Please help society on-the-whole create better habits and processes for future generations.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Matthews

96815

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:24:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marvin Heskett | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

Please help bat this bill home by showing your commitment to Hawaii's voting public and our environment. We've now demonstrated that the one argument against supporting this bill, the potential cost to restaraunts and consumers is de minimus at best. Consumers and voters can afford the few extra cents per meal to do the right thing by their aina and their own personal health. Although polystyrene is relatively non toxic in its soild foam form, scientific evidence has proven that hot oily foods, warm soups and other food stuffs generally help to liberate the very toxic styrene monomer into the unsuspecting consumer. Furthermore, ingenstion of the solid form we see in plate lunch containers and cups by marine organisms leads to eventual starvation and death.

Now is the time to get this right and vote for a bill that is a win-win, for your politics and for all of our health.

Mahalo,

Marvin Heskett

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:31:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lucille Morelli-Vine | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, I am a long time resident of over 30years. When I moved to Hawaii everyone got their plate lunch in a hand folded box, on a paper plate or piece of waxed paper. Within a year or so of moving here, California made 'Styrofoam'/ POLYSTYRENE foam illegal. Almost what seemed to be immediate, the foam food containers started showing up here on the islands. I remember saying to my boyfriend, "the styrofoam companies were really smart, they found a bunch of naive people to sell their styrofoam to since it's now illegal in California!, Were such suckers"

#1, We should take note of why Ca. Made it illegal. It's for health reasons! And that's the main reason I think it should be illegal here.

#2 just the sheer fact of the amount of trash it creates compared to modern paper containers that are recycleable! Rubbish cans are always overflowing right near the ocean because of these foam containers. Even the old style folded boxes are better then this environmental nightmare!!

We burn most of our trash here, do you realize what toxins we are sending into the world.

Welive on an island for God's sake, space is limited, foam floats, fish & birds die, we eat fish, we are being poisoned.

It's a no brainier, the islands are no home for foam.

Thank you for considering the voice of a mother of a 12 year old, & help to save our Aina, our future, & our Mother Earth.

Mahalo, Lucille Morelli-Vine

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:33:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Selena Pang | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As an avid snorkeler, diver, and waterman (woman) with a background in the natural sciences and a career in environmental health and planning, I strongly support SB2498. I encourage you, our representatives, to do the same and let the only island state set the precedent for statewide action on styrofoam containers.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:45:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| C. Kai Lucas | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Legislators-

The manufacture and use of styrofoam products is indefensible. There are now so many sustainable products comparably priced even by simple "blind" math. If one uses the more accurate calculations based on life cycle analysis and/or actual impacts and remediation costs of styrofoam use, available sustainable alternatives are significantly more economical.

It's time.

Malama honua,

Kai Lucasd

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 11:10:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lawrence Seward | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Stop being ignorant, or worse complacent. We can not keep filling our lives in with toxic waste. I try to avoid establishments that serve using plastic and styrofoam.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 11:16:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrea Nandoskar | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha. Please support SB2498 SD2 to ban polystyrene foam containers. It's time Hawaii stood up to do what's necessary to protect human and animal health and our environment. 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 - SD2
Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers
In Strong Support

Hearing Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 at 9:00 AM
Room: Conference Room 329
Committees: Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,
Committee on Health and Human Services

Dear Chair Chris Lee, Chair John Mizuno and member of the committees.

My name is Natalie Wohner and I strongly support SB2498-SD2, the statewide ban of polystyrene food containers. I am a resident of Manoa and a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in Materials Science and Engineering.

Being part of a committee that protects the environment 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 that polystyrene foam containers have 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 giving me the opportunity to testify and mahalo for your time.

Aloha nui loa,
Natalie Wohner

Contact: natalie.wohner@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair; Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair; Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Testimony from Weston Yap

Resident of Kaimuki, HI, formerly of Hilo, HI

Date of Hearing: March 15, 2018 at 2:30 PM

In support SB 2498 SD2, RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS.

My name is Weston Yap, of Kaimuki. I am testifying in support of SB 2498 SD2, which seeks to ban the sale and use of all polystyrene containers statewide.

From 2014 to 2017 I lived on the Big Island, where styrofoam and plastic bag bans are in effect. I managed a café and chocolate factory that served smoothies and taro burgers in biodegradable containers. Our tourists appreciated how locally grown food was complimented by environmentally friendly packaging. Our Big Island community accepts a slight cost increase in exchange for the confidence that fiber plate lunch containers will degrade. At restaurants when the food portions are too big we share the meal with friends and family, or transfer the leftovers to a Tupperware.

Cost and profit margins are major concerns in the food service industry. A price comparison:

- 1) Styrofoam clamshells, Sam's Club online, 125 count case, 9.5"L x 9"W x 3"H, at about \$0.09 each.
- 2) Amazon, sugar cane fiber clamshells, 250 count case, 7.2"L x 5.4"W x 2.6"H, at about \$0.16 each.

A \$0.07 increase is acceptable compared to the reduced waste, cleaner waters and positive impression on tourists.

Stalkmarket 100% Compostable Sugar Cane Fiber Hinged Container, Lunch Box, 250-Count Case

Stalkmarket

★★★★☆ 39 customer reviews | 7 answered questions



Price: **\$39.48** (\$0.16 / Count) & **FREE Shipping**. Details

prime | Try Fast, Free Shipping

In Stock. Ships from and sold by Amazon.com. Gift-wrap available.

7 Styles: Lunch Box



2 Sizes: 250 Count Case



Want it tomorrow, March 16? Order within **8 hrs 50 mins** and choose **Priority Shipping** at checkout. Details

Deliver to Weston - HONOLULU 96816

Qty: 1

Turn on 1-click ordering

Add to Cart

Add to List

Share

About the product

- 100% Tree and plastic free, made from sustainable resources
- This product meets ASTM D6400 or D6868, and is intended to be composted in a municipal or commercial facility operated in accordance with best composting management practices.
- Microwave-Safe, Freezable, Oil and Cut-resistant
- Size of container 20oz - 7.2 x 5.4 x 2.6"
- Product is 99% USDA certified biobased product

In Hilo, we sourced our compostable containers from Sustainable Island Products. Here is description of their containers:

- Made from Agricultural by-products
- Composts in 2-4 months in a commercial composting facility
- Microwave and freezer safe
- Oven safe up to 350°F for 20 minutes
- No wax or plastic lining



| Item Number | Description | Quantity/ Sleeve | Quantity/ Case |
|-------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| CL-B-15 | 15 oz Square Clam TAN (6x6x3) | 50 | 500 |
| CL-B-20-W | 20 oz Rectangular Clam (7.2 x 5.4 x 2.6) | 50 | 250 |
| CL-B-HG | Hoagie Box Tan (9 x 6 x 2.5') | 50 | 500 |
| CL-B-8 | 1-Comp. Medium TAN Clam (8.5 x 8 x 3) | 50 | 300 |
| CL-B-8-3 | 3-Comp. Medium TAN Clam (8.5 x 8 x 3) | 50 | 300 |
| CL-B-9 | 1-Comp. LARGE Clam TAN (9x9 x3) | 50 | 300 |
| CL-B-9-HW | 1-Comp. LARGE Heavy Weight Clam TAN (9x9 x3) | 50 | 300 |
| CL-B-9-3 | 3-Comp. LARGE Clam TAN (9x9 x3) | 50 | 300 |

Our food service industry finally has quality plate lunch container products that make a Styrofoam ban practical and cost effective. East Hawaii will soon run out of landfill space, so waste reduction is critical.

Honolulu's trash is also over flowing, especially now that China is not accepting our recyclable waste.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 12:08:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Edgar Espero | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

To Honorable Chairs Lee, Mizuno, Lowen, Kobayashi and committee members,

Today is a great day to join fellow citizens of the state of Hawaii and of our planet in the struggle to protect our health and environment. Specifically, I am in strong support of SB2498, prohibiting the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide. As a photographer and filmmaker in Hawaii, I have documented the work of numerous non-profits and their work with alleviating the problem of land based and marine based debris.

Part of the problem is the use of polystyrene foam containers which starts as land based debris and finds its way into our waterways, our oceans and onto our beaches. Not only is it a bane to our environment, but to the health of both wildlife and humans. In terms of consumer hazards, **"the biggest styrene concern is with food packaging, as studies have shown that this substance can [leech out of polystyrene takeout food and drink containers](#)."**

"If you drink coffee or soup or eat Chinese food from a polystyrene foam container you can potentially be exposed to this chemical, which government agencies consider reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen." Mike Schade-Safer
Chemicals

Alternative products are available that cause less detriment to both environmental and health issues. The growing number of Ocean Friendly Restaurants is an indication that environmental stewardship can be a profitable business model to implement. The counties of Hawaii Island and Maui have banned the use polystyrene foam food containers. I firmly believe that our island state in the middle of the Pacific Ocean can set the example for the rest of the world to follow.

Respectfully, please lead the way!

Edgar
Espero
Ewa Beach, HI

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 11:36:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaliko Amona | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 12:29:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| M Iolani Castro | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Honolulu County Council Members,

My name is Iolani C and I am testifying as an individual citizen who cares about our community and our planet. I support the SB2498 bill at the hearing at 9am on Friday March 16th. Styrofoam is bad for the environment since it is non-biodegradable. Styrofoam manufacture also use hydrofluorocarbons which negatively impact the ozone layer and climate change. Not only is it bad for the environment it also poses a health risk because the chemicals from the styrofoam can leach into the food that we eat. Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Iolani Castro

Aloha Members of the EEP and HHS Committees,

My name is John Katzeman. I am a permanent resident of Maui and senior honors student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa majoring in art history and completing a certificate in environmental studies. I am writing and testifying in strong support of SB2498 to ban the use and sale of polystyrene food containers within the state of Hawai'i. I urge you to pass this bill for the wellbeing of our 'āina, our islands, and our oceans.

I have worked part-time over the past four years at coffee shops on both Maui and O'ahu, and I have firsthand knowledge of just how much plastic and polystyrene is used and improperly disposed of on a daily basis. Additionally, I have volunteered in beach cleanups organized by Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i, Surfrider Foundation's O'ahu Chapter, and the Kōkua Foundation. During these cleanups—and even while just casually walking down the beach—it is not uncommon to come across mass amounts of industrial waste, including whole polystyrene food containers. These containers, if swept into the ocean, are disastrous; they never fully biodegrade but only break down into smaller, more easily ingestible sizes. It has been proven that sea life is intaking plastic and polystyrene remnants. Thus, if we eat this seafood, we are essentially feeding ourselves parts of our own trash. Surely, we should do all we can—for the health of ocean life and the human species—to minimize the potential of the toxins present in polystyrene being released into our own bloodstreams.

A few years ago while back on Maui during a break from school, I was shocked to find a large amount of ocean debris on Baldwin Beach, an otherwise rather pristine stretch of coast, gorgeous white sand, and turquoise blue waters. Later, I learned that the debris was mostly from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan which caused the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Although it was disheartening to think of the radiation and countless amounts of flotsam that had swept across the entire Pacific, it was enlightening to realize just how connected our local actions are to the rest of the globe. What we do here not only directly affects the islands but also the vast ocean and coastlines around the world. Since we are located in the middle of the Pacific, we play an important role in the cultural and political ecosystem of the entire world.

I further learned about the enormity of the issue of ocean waste while interning at the Honolulu Museum of Art two years ago during the opening of their extremely successful *Plastic Fantastic?* exhibition. This show included work by Chris Jordan, who takes photographs of dead albatrosses. However, it is not their death that is unsettling but rather what is left while their bodies naturally decay: vast amounts of plastic, polystyrene, and industrial materials which they accidentally intake while feeding, the mass accumulation of which eventually leads to their premature death. If this destruction and desecration of life is already so visible, what else is happening that is unseen? And how much worse is it going to get?

Although a main argument against this bill is the presumed additional cost for restaurants, I personally am always more willing and eager to visit businesses who are environmentally friendly, such as the many Ocean Friendly Restaurants designated by the Surfrider Foundation. If I know a restaurant is unsustainable or unwilling to change their ways, I simply choose to no longer visit that establishment. Therefore, these businesses are likely losing lots of money from potential customers. I am sure there are plenty of customers like myself who gladly take our money elsewhere to restaurants who do not leave us with a bad taste in our mouths.

We have a moral and ethical duty to do everything in our power to honor the earth and its inhabitants out of respect for our ancestors, ourselves, and our offspring. Both Maui County and Hawai'i County have already banned polystyrene containers, and it is only a matter of time before this bill will pass. There are plenty of suitable alternatives readily available, and it is only resistance to change and a disregard for the environment that are holding progress back. If I were in your position, I would want to be on the right side of history and be remembered as not just a resident but a guardian of our planet. Please take my mana'o to heart and support the passing of SB2498.

Mahalo,

John Katzeman

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 5:03:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elizabeth Lenz | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

We need to be responsible citizens who understand the lasting extent of our actions. Passing SB2498 would be an enormous step towards sustainable living and a sign of respect to future generations. Too long have people relied on convenience without regard to consequence. The negative effects of polystyrene on our environment, from oceans to air quality, that impact our own health severely outweigh the benefits. We need to be at the forefront of sustainability since as an island we experience the brunt of our actions more quickly than those on the US Mainland. We must prioritize the protection of our environment and in return our own well-being.

Nikos A. Leverenz
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Committee on Health & Human Services
16 March 2018 -- 9:00 AM
SB 2498, SD 2 -- SUPPORT

Rep. Lee, Rep. Lowen, & Members of the Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection:

Rep. Mizuno, Rep. Kobayashi, & Members of the Committee on
Health & Human Services:

I am writing in strong support of SB 2498, which would prohibit the sale of polystyrene foam containers and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide.

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. 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. The waste picked from the shoreline on any given day and over time is but a fraction of that present in the ocean and the digestive systems of its wildlife.

The proffered alternative of discrete economic actors who profit from the production and use of polystyrene foam and plastics is strengthening litter control programs. This strategy is insufficient as it does not reduce the quantity of waste produced or mitigate the environmental harms of polystyrene waste that has escaped the stream of disposal.

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 became more mindful of the ecological implications of the production, packaging, and disposal of products over time in Northern California, I appreciate the efforts of state and local policymakers who are vigilant about maximizing sustainability practices wherever possible. 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. Of particular note on this front are the [204,000 residents employed in the tourism industry that produced \\$16.78 billion in visitor spending and \\$1.96 billion in state tax revenues in 2017](#).

Sincerely,
Nikos A. Leverenz

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:32:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I'm a longtime resident of Hawaii -- recently moved from Chinatown, Oahu to Kihei, Maui. One constant in all parts of Hawaii is the amount of non-biodegradable waste in our streams, wetlands, and beaches. I have been a part of several beach and coastal wetland cleanups now, and they're disappointing and sometimes frankly disgusting. I don't want to keep doing them so reguarly.

One of the ways to move Hawaii to a more cleaner, more sustainable future is to eliminate the use of polystyrene foam. Please let's think about how much waste we create from the start and make some changes.

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. 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. We all deserve a cleaner future.

Rebecca Pang

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:32:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Yayoi Marshall | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:33:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kahi Pacarro | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Currently writing from the 6th International Marine Debris Conference and wishing I could be there to speak in person. Representing Hawaii here and highlighting the issues we are facing to this network makes me proud to submit testimony in support of SB2498 SD2. It's well beyond time to pass this legislation to reduce litter, marine debris, and minimize health risks.

As a beach cleaning organization, expanded polystyrene remains one of the major things we find on beaches across the state. Please make our jobs easier and ban th foam.

Aloha

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:37:06 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shane Albritton | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Shane Albritton, I'm a public school teacher and I'm writing to express strong support for banning styrofoam food containers.

Styrofoam takes 500 years to decompose. There are many alternative food containers that are much less damaging to your island.

Thank you in advance for taking action to address this issue.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:53:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Raelyn Reyno Yeomans | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2498 SD2 Relating To Polystyrene Foam Containers.

Thank You-

Raelyn Reyno Yeomans

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:06:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Katie Day | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I whole heartedly support the implementation of a statewide ban on expanded polystyrene. This is an example of a single use plastic product that is useful for minutes, but remains in our environment and frequently bioavailable to coastal and marine life for thousands of years. There are better ways to serve, carry, and store our food.

Thank you.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:07:33 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am adding my voice in support for SB2498 SD2.

I recently moved home after spending two years on the mainland, and I have been shocked to observe the increase in rubbish and pollution littering our island. And much of that rubbish is specifically foam based. I do my part to make a difference by picking up rubbish to dispose of it properly whenever possible. But it often feels like a vicious cycle, since I know that plastics and polystyrene foams will make their way right back into our living environment.

We have a responsibility to preserve the beauty and health of our 'aina. And I believe this can easily begin with making better choices with products that we use daily. There are many options that are so much better than polystyrene foam. Please vote in favor of SB2498 SD2.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:09:41 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nicole Buyukacar | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha-

I am an 8th grade public school student and I believe that polystyrene foam is detrimental to our environment, especially for our island community.

The use of this material is not required and alternatives are easily available.

Please leave us a world that you would want to live in.

Mahalo for your time and I look forward to your vote in prohibiting the use of polystyrene foam containers in Hawaii!

Nicole Buyukacar

808 371-2537

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:20:28 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Catherine Roberts | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My family and I absolutely support the statewide ban of polystyrene foam. This will be such a positive change for our children and our environment. It will also bring about more business to those take-out restaurants currently using "Styrofoam" plates and boxes, because so many of us are avoiding those places so that we don't contribute to the problem. We'll be happy to frequent those businesses when they switch to compostable packaging. Thank you!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:20:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Delaney Maher | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Eliminating the need will eliminate the production. Our administration needs to lead the way in order for behavioral changes to occur. While conscious consumers are opting for sustainable alternatives, the majority of the population is uninformed on the lasting implications of these single-use conveniences.

When there are safe, biodegradable, compostable, reusable, healthy, natural alternatives available, doesn't it seem silly to allow the production and retail of these toxic materials to continue infiltrating our land and waterways?

Please do not let our efforts be in vein when the alternatives are plentiful. Lead the way, Hawai'i!

Yours in the fight,

Delaney Maher
Surfrider Ocean Friendly Restaurants | Los Angeles

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:24:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carie Sarver | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As a resident of Honolulu I believe the State of Hawaii is poised to be a leader in the movement to clean up our waters. Eliminating foam that does not biodegrade and often blows into the oceans would be a major step forward.

I urge you to support SB2498.

Mahalo

Carie Sarver

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:24:52 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Malia Cahill | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony as an individual but I also am the Executive Director of Maui Huliau Foundation providing environmental education programs to maui youth. My students have been working with businesses to help the switch to reusable and compostable alternatives for four years now. We also help vendors at large events avoid EPS foam and single-use plastic through our Green Events program. We also helped compile a spreadsheet on Maui of pricing for compostable products from local suppliers. From my experience working on these projects with my students I can say that there are an ever growing number of compostable products with are equal in quality and comparable in price. Most importantly, if these items end of in our ocean they break down naturally and do not cause harm to marine life or contain harmful chemicals. While we could benefit from a commercial composting facility on each island, we have also had luck shredding compostable plates and using them for mulch and compost on a local farm. EPS foam containers are clearly not good for our island environment and studies have shown potential human health risks from eating heated liquid foods in these containers. It is time for Hawai'i to set an example as we did with the bag ban and restrict the use of EPS foodservice ware statewide. Mahalo.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:36:19 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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 the other day 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.

Mahalo,

Brady Thomas

Hawaii Kai Resident

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:37:23 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Debbie Millikan | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:37:31 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rebecca Scanlan | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill because going to the beach is a daily activity for me and, unfortunately, so is picking up styrofoam off the beach. Styrofoam is not only the top culprit at beach cleanups, but it is also detrimental to marine life (often found in their stomachs). And what about the impact on tourism when visitors see an island strewn in foam? In fact, styrofoam containers are only beneficial to one group of people - the restaurant owners who only have their best interests in mind. There's really not much of an argument they can put up either, given there are so many great and affordable alternatives.

We in Hawaii should be setting an example and leading the charge here for the rest of the country. Let's together say no to styrofoam on our beautiful island. I hope you will serve us and our best interests.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:39:52 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Patricia Blair | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

This needs to pass please.

TESTIMONY
TO THE COMMITTEES ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
AND
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
March 16, 2018

S.B. 2498, SD2

RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2498. My name is Cathy Pratt, I am a local resident, born and raised in Kaneohe. I am writing in support of SB2498. Our environment is in danger of over pollution. I have participated in many beach clean ups and the amount of plastic, foam, and other debris that ends up on our beaches is heart breaking.

There is movement in other areas of the world to protect their precious environment and we should do the same. Recently San Francisco approved a ban of polystyrene that took effect January 1, 2017. In addition, St. Maarten (an island located in the Caribbean) has moved to minimize the impact of non-biodegradable waste on the island during sailing regattas. I understand this article is concerned with just one event but the awareness for the harm that is done is apparent. We also live on a small island and should also be concerned with the waste we produce and strive to minimize it.

On Martin Luther King Day 500 volunteers cleaned 6,050 lbs of plastic and other debris off the beach at Kahuku's James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge. Please note another clean-up is scheduled for March 31 at Pounder's in Laie. If you want to see first-hand the seriousness of plastic and Styrofoam to our environment I encourage you to attend.

I understand your concerns about the price burden on businesses. However, I do not believe the expense would be excessive. I did a quick cost comparative on Styrofoam containers vs. biodegradable containers and the difference was negligible. Amazon sells 100 Styrofoam containers for \$26.99 whereas WebstaurantStore.com sells 200 for \$32.49. This is cheaper than Styrofoam.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important subject. Links to various articles/information I referred to is below.

Cathy

<http://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2017/02/08/environmental-impact-regattas/>

<http://www.webstaurantstore.com/ecochoice-9-x-9-x-3-biodegradable-compostable-sugarcane-bagasse-1-compartment-takeout-box-200-case/395TO991.html>

<http://time.com/4388034/san-francisco-polystyrene-ban-foam/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1297015950367601/>

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:53:07 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

So many environmental friendly alternatives exists. The cost difference is neglictible, especially compared to the cost of food. The legislature needs to protect the health of the people of Hawaii and its environment, not the one company that invested in producing these. They chose to invest in an obsolete "technology".

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:55:29 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jordan Moniuszko | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Scientists tell us that these containers are very bad for the marine environment. Safer alternatives exist and should be implemented.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:56:52 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support Hawaii being a foam free state.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:59:31 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I give my full support to this bill to ban the sale of polystyrene foam. It is polluting our beaches, our land, and our water sources. Polystyrene foam is dangerous to animals and litters our lands, especially in the urban areas. There are other options to provide containers to the public that are compostable and do not break up into thousands of tiny pieces, scattering around and suffocating our environment.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:00:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| mark o koller jr | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support a ban on the use of foam containers in the State of Hawaii.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:00:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kay Sturm | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I scoop a handful of warm sand into my hands and let the grains sift through my fingers back onto the beach... I'm amazed at the diversity and countless shapes and colors that make up the sand in front of my home in Makaha. I take another handful, and this time, I stop short before releasing the sand... that isn't all sand, I realize. Looking closely, I can tell that there are bits of white and blue styrofoam, broken into the tiniest micro-pieces, camouflaging itself as the beach...

This isn't news to anyone. We live on an island and therefore, we share a small amount of space that we call our island home. Much of that island is made up of beautiful shorelines, where people go every day to appreciate the ocean and be apart of something bigger than themselves. When I sit on my surfboard waiting for a wave, I no longer feel shock when I see the debris from last night's storm float up next to me, or feel curiosity when I mistook a styrofoam cup for a turtle bobbing it's head out of water for air... I feel frustration and anger at our lack of responsibility. This isn't an individual person's problem, as much as we can make a difference with our individual behaviors. This is about our responsibility as an island people, and our responsibility to protect our streams and oceans. We have come so far in making a deep and irreversible human footprint on this Earth, that we must make amends with the 'aina by banning styrofoam.

If Hawai'i makes this move, we will be leading our country and showing the world that we are responsible, that we have strong values, and that we enact them. Ban Foam today!!!!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:02:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jessica Mitchell | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please we can do better to malama our environment.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:11:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michelle K. | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Strong support. We must ban this cancer inducing material from contaminating our foods and the environment. Our health is more important than convenience. Please do the right thing for the people and the aina. Thank you!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:13:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:14:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christine Weger | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

This measure is long overdue in a state whose people value their aina. It is both a practical measure and one that puts the people first.

Please vote yea.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:17:07 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cara Lueders | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please help save our planet! Polystyrene containers pollute the ocean. We all know this, so do something!!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:20:22 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Samantha Skach | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:23:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sara Van Gent | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Syrofoam containers need to stop being distributed and used!! Polystyrene is really the worst possible material invented and is destroying our beaches and is poisoning us!!! I have participated in many beach cleanups around the state and after every beach cleanup, no matter how hard the hundreds of volunteers try...there is always those annoying, little pieces of foam in between the lava rocks and blowing away that is IMPOSSIBLE to pick up!!! But the thing is, styrofoam is not just polluting our beaches...it is everywhere! Go to any parking lot, school, or park and look on the ground and you will find pieces of foam in the gravel or even whole to-go containers blowing around or hiding under bushes from the wind. Furthermore, it is a known fact that top predator fish, which we eat, are eating the small pieces of toxic foam that wind up in the ocean and NEVER BIODEGRADE. Please ban polystyrene food containers to keep our beaches clean, our keiki healthy, and to protect our marine mammals, sea turtles, and birds from choking on this environmentally hazardous product.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:28:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nicole Chatterson | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Mizuno and EEP & HHS Committee Members,

My name is Nicole Chatterson and I am graduate student at UH Manoa studying local waste management. I am writing in **strong support of SB2498**.

As a public servant your job is to protect the well-being of your constituents and the state, banning styrofoam and thus upholding ethical business practice would send a strong message that the citizens of Hawaii are indeed the priority of the state.

The basis of my support is twofold:

1. There are currently **plenty of alternatives** to Polystyrene food containers that restaurants have access to. While some of the options are still marginally more expensive, if we expand the demand by requiring restaurants to switch to more sustainable alternatives, the **price will go down**. This is a basic tenant of capitalist economics, and recognizing this phenomenon removes any doubts that business will survive a mandated switch from styrofoam. Over **150 + Ocean Friendly Restaurants** in Hawaii have **already committed to not using polystyrene**. This demonstrates that it is economically feasible for restaurants to not use foam.
2. The scientific community and general public are clear about the **environmental and fiscal implications of continuing to use polystyrene**. For example, we now know that the lightweight nature of polystyrene makes it particularly susceptible to escaping into our waterways and oceans. Further, that when in the water **polystyrene (like other plastics) accumulates ambient pollutants**, which creates an especially toxic material that **marine creatures are ingesting**. Regarding the fiscal implications of polystyrene, the Hawaii State Department of Transportation produced a trash plan that showed **styrofoam and plastic bags as the top two contributors to the waste stream**.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and for keeping the well-being of humans and the environment at the forefront of your decision making.

Nicole Chatterson

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:29:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Olan Leimomi Morgan Fisher | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha no,

Let's lead as an example to other states and around that world that Hawai'i is not only a beautiful place, but also an environmentally conscious community where locals actually care about protecting this beautiful place that we all take so much from!

Just taking a walk outside and one is guaranteed to see many different forms of litter, even in planned communities with paid caretakers - plastic and foam waste is unavoidable. This litter gets into our stormwater system and goes straight to the ocean, into fish and other sea life, right back onto our dinner plates, and eventually back into our bodies! We are not only poisoning the land and sea, but also ourselves with this horribly irresponsible material. Let's take a stand together to stop pollution, use, and further production of these destructive materials one step at a time. Please support this bill for Hawai'i's future - the health of our environment and children depend on it. Mahalo nui.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:31:02 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laura Brewington | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I fully support this effort and the state in this groundbreaking and environmentally critical measure

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:33:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:35:23 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Faith Fay | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, As a filmmaker I am currently working on a documentary film "Let's Grow the Movement", about five Hawaii based non profits and how they deal with marine debris and plastic pollution. Our goal is to share this film around the globe and we would take pride in mentioning that Hawaii is the first state to ban polystyrene foam, setting an example for the rest of the world. The link below is to the trailer of our film that has had thousands of views thus far on social media:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fVloVzEMdw&t=57s>

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:37:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lauren Blickley | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Please support the bill to ban polystyrene.

I have worked on the plastic pollution issue on the island of Maui for close to a decade, both from a research perspective as well as a public education and outreach perspective.

Last summer Maui passed our local polystyrene bill, due to the evidence of how much polystyrene contributes to beach debris and litter, as well as to the overwhelming community support.

I have spent the last week sharing our stories from Hawaii with the International Marine debris community. They are impressed with our efforts and our leadership.

This is a straightforward bill that has far reaching, positive impacts.

Mahalo for your kokua, and thank you for supporting this important bill!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:40:12 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Tyler Buyukacar, I am a student at Kamalani Academy who supports the bill SB2498 realating to the polystyrene foam containers. Growing up in Oahu the beach has always been there for me to go to. But now our beaches have become so bad that most people think that trash on the beach is normal. Now, I don't like going to the beach because of the trash and pollution that fills our beaches. But the big reason I support this bill is because as my generation we have been placed with the task of fixing a problem that was allowed to pass up until today and now more than ever it's becoming clearer to the people of this earth that this is a real problem, but at what cost. Does it take a species (coral) driven to extinction for us to care or do something. I don't want to live in a world that's worse than how I first saw it as a child. As the people who's generation was warned and told of this problem I implore you to pass this bill and support other bills like this because you too can make a difference and help our generation save the world.

Thank you for your time,

Tyler Buyukacar

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:40:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Sarah Toole and my address is 1128 Ala Napunani St 96818. I am a political science student at UH Manoa.

I am in strong support of this bill.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:53:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Terez Amato Lindsey | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

For the sake of Hawaii's environment and for the health of the people please view yes on Sb2498 and help I make Hawai'i the first state to pass a ban on all polystyrene products! Thank you, Terez Amato Lindsey, Kihei

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:57:32 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Christine Johnson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Christine Johnson and I am a resident of Ala Moana. I work in public accounting and am aware of the argument that eco-friendly products cost too much for businesses, or customers aren't willing to pay. In my experience of working with various local companies, the cost is about \$.05 per customer to use eco-friendly products. Market research also shows that consumers won't notice a \$.05 increase. There is value in making this shift and price of this should be incidental. Further more, 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)^[1] suffer from severe asthma and when combusted, styrene produces benzaldehyde (US EPA classifies this as a hazardous substance), acetophenone (Group D carcinogen by US EPA, which causes chromosomal damage on hamsters when tested in a lab, but hasn't been tested in humans), styrene oxide (main metabolite of styrene, which is known as carcinogenic). It's time to end the use of this material.

As our elected officials who have the power and ability to end this toxic cycle, please think about your own families, please think about the safety and thirvability of our isolated and vulnerable island community. Ban this hazardous material. Thank you.

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

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:59:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hanako Anderson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

We as Kohala High School' s "Kohala Ocean Clean up Crews" have the following agendas to clean up and protect our beaches here in Big Island. We believe the State of Hawaii legislature should follow these agendas as well. Here is our testimony to county of Hawaii:

<https://youtu.be/zeyHlvJ4Ppg>

- 1.We need to focus our energies on the community outreach.
- 2.We need to have support from many experts and organizations.
- 3.We must talk to legislatures to make a change in the current recycle system.
- 4.We will educate the community about the proper way to recycle.
- 5.We must inform available biodegradable and compostable products to business community including plastics manufacturers, restaurants, stores and consumers themselves.
- 6.We will promote reducing single use plastics.
- 7.We must support beach clean-ups.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:05:33 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kari Benes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:01:32 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aria Juliet Castillo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:06:31 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

There are a number of testifiers and supporters of this measure that will speak eloquently to the dramatic and devastating impacts of single-use plastics like EPS foam in our natural environment; the horrible deaths of birds, turtles, whales, fish - poisoned by consumption of products that starve, choke, and poison. What I would like to use my testimony to highlight are the basic facts of practicality and precedence. While the movement of vendors who refuse to distribute foam products is growing, the sheer volume of the foam products still being sold make it so there will be no true change in the flow of foam into the environment until our agencies and government make bold moves to turn off the tap.

Much of the objection to these measures are speculation and fear that businesses will be harmed, but it is clear from the hundreds of other municipalities that have prohibited foam sales that there has been no great economic hardship reported. There are even reports on this very question being investigated, revealing no economic hardship. We have hundreds of large and small businesses right here in Hawaii that are foam free and thriving. The reality is that there are numerous foam-free alternatives widely available and accessible, costing negligibly more if not the same in some cases.

There are numerous examples of governments taking swift action to remove products when their devastating impacts were clear and endangering communities: CFSs, plastic microbeads, asbestos, BPA, lead. In all of these cases the alternatives were available and reasonable so it was a common sense step to removing the offending products from distribution. It's clear that there is precedence for eliminating products like EPS foam from our supply chains when their impacts create clear harm to communities. Mahalo for supporting this measure.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:10:57 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| marcus douglajs | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Does it save money to buy products that are bad for Hawaii's environment and tourism industry? Is it more convenient for the business or customers to use the foam instead of cardboard or other biodegradable materials? Is it in the best interests of the long-term economy of Hawaii to sell products that reduce our natural capital? .

I am a resident of Kapa`au, Hawai`i. I walk Pololu trail at least twice each week. I encourage tourist to pick up the garbage on the beach each day. I walk until my back pack is filled each day with garbage strewn on the beach by tides, tourists, and locals alike. Many items found on the beach are made from foam, products sold right her in our community. As well as , plastics form all over the world washing up daily on the rocky shorelines of the North Hawaii coast.

The food containers I often see at Pololu are foam containers from items purchased from stores right in my home town, or from Waikoloa. Tourists buy meals and take em to the beach to eat. With no waste receptacles at the beach site people leave their containers there, on the beach where they finished their meals. I put them old nasty, containers and cutlery into a plastic bag bag, then into my back pack and hike them up the 1/4 mile trail to the garbage can.

Please ban these containers. A cardboard container could simply rot or disintegrate in the rolling tide-wash with little long-term effect son our ecosystems. Foam containers fall apart and then spread all over the beach without rescuing themselves into organic matter that would be consumable by animals at no severe cost to their digestive success. However, when animals ingest the foam wastes, we then catch those animals to eat and the same wastes they ingested is found stuck in the bodies digestive tracks of the turtles and birds and often the animals die.

The cost to natural capital degradation at Pololu beach is very high and only mitigated by the actions of dedicated volunteers who clean the beach daily with no help form the state law makers that allow the styrofoam and plastic garbage to be deposited there in the first place. You are elected to protect our Aina and Malama Ka Aina for our Keiki and Kapuna. The State of Hawaii has everything to gain by creating adn maintaining clean and beautiful ecosystems.

Hawaii's ecosystems provide several ecosystem services worth preserving such as: ecotourism and agri-tourism, commercial fishing, commercial agriculture, scientific research, and sustainable water resources. We are an oasis for life on the planet earth should an ice age occur again or a natural disaster that devastate the North and south hemispheres.

Why are we not fulfilling our Kuleana by allowing environmentally unfit materials to be sold and or produced in our beautiful, life-sustaining, and magical lands?

Kind Regards,

Marcus H-J Douglas

Science Educator and Volcano Tour Guide

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:20:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Oahu Treasurer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm a local resident who was born and raised in Kahala, now residing in Palolo. I've gone to college on the mainland, traveled the world, and now am back at home trying to make Hawaii a better place. We have the distinct opportunity to set an example for the rest of the nation to stop our addiction to polystyrene. Polystyrene is horrible for the planet, for human health, and for the health of many other animals and plants who are defenseless to the manmade product. There are affordable alternatives to polystyrene, in which many businesses are utilizing and are proving that it does not hurt their bottom line. Moreover, many restaurants that are using biodegradable containers are drawing business because the market is already wanting the change.

I ask you, as a dedicated local, to please make Hawaii a better place with this simple bill. Hawaii can be forward thinking yet again.

Thank you,

Matt Moore

1255 9th Ave

Honolulu, HI 96816

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:24:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| kelsey adamson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for reading my testimony. I'm a resident in Makiki and I strongly support this bill. I purposefully choose not to go to restaurants that use foam because I know it is such a bad product and if enter a restaurant that uses it I refuse to eat there (this causes them to lose business!). Also, I pick up so much trash on our beaches and about half of it is foam - it's honestly apalling to see how much styrofoam has infiltrated our environment, and it's scary when I think about it's effect on marine life and our land, especially tourism (no tourists will want to visit a dirty place). Styrofoam may have served its purpose as a cheap and easy way to provide takeout containers and cups in the past, but it's time to move past it because it poses such a significant threat to our environment due to its inability to biodegrade and the amount that washes up in our oceans and shores. We have alternatives so it is not necessary to continue to use such a detrimental product and it would be horrible to watch Hawaii's beautiful shores continue to be littered with pieces of foam. There is such an untapped economy waiting to come to fruition and we could be the first state to set an example for every other to ditch foam! It's so important! Please do the right thing, it will be profitable and admirable.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:26:46 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vanessa Knoepfel | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

The planet can be helped this is a positive change in the right direction.

Passing bill SB 2498 is imperative to Hawaii's natural beauty and health. When Styrofoam enters the ocean it disperses into miniscule pieces; organisms like fish, sea turtles, sea birds and even whales come along, mistake it for food and eventually die from plastic poisoning. Not to mention, when we eat the fish that have eaten this plastic, we take in some of those particles and that is truly terrible for our digestive systems.

"The result is that turtles and whales consume plastic bags, perhaps thinking they are jellyfish. The plastic bags clog their digestive systems, causing painful starvation and death. Birds peck at and pick up pieces of plastic to feed to their young. The young then die of malnutrition, their bellies swollen with plastic pieces. But the bad news runs deeper."

- dtmag.com

"Because of the surface chemistry of plastics, a broad spectrum of chemicals will adsorb on or "stick to" plastic, greatly concentrating the chemicals. If you've ever opened a bag of packing peanuts and found them "sticking" to your clothing, you'll recognize the effect. When those plastics are consumed by organisms, the digestive process releases those chemicals, allowing them to build up in the organism's tissues. As these organisms are consumed by other larger organisms, the magic of bio-magnification can increase the concentrations of the chemicals by orders of magnitude, eventually reaching hazardous levels with the potential for contaminating our food supplies."

- dtmag.com

"Floating plastic becomes a substrate to transport microbes, algae, invertebrates and fish into non-native regions, impacting the local ecosystems. One estimate suggests some 6 million plastic parts and bits find their way to the ocean every day and that doesn't include the billions of micro plastic particles found in cleansing scrubs and other cosmetic products."

- dtmag.com

People should use reusable bags and dishes when going to a local food truck, or out to lunch, I mean, we use reusable bags at the supermarket, why not elsewhere?

Please deeply consider my plea,
Kimberly Martin

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:29:31 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Lee, Chair Mizuno, and members of the committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Health and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony is strong **support** of SB2498. This bill is an important and substantial step to restoring the health of our marine environment and our communities. Less plastic waste means cleaner water, healthier fish, and in turn healthier humans. While this bill may seem daunting and expensive to some restaurants, many businesses are already making the switch to compostible carryout items. Change is possible and it will benefit us all. I urge you to please pass this bill for cleaner waterways and the health of our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kaily Wakefield

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:31:18 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Diana Dymarsky | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:35:07 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michelle Shin | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:42:00 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Scott Fisher | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Let's take a stand together to stop pollution use, and further production of these destructive materials - one step at a time.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:45:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jenny Yagodich | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha. Please pass SB2498 SD2. Styrofoam (especially plate lunch boxes, containers, and cups) is terrible for our fragile Hawaiian ecosystem and should be banned. It's so sad to see how many businesses use styrofoam containers in Hawai'i each day. As an example, I recently had lunch at a popular spot called Nico's. I was excited to go, as I've heard the food is great, and they are known for thier fresh fish. I was shocked to discover that literally ALL of thier food was served in styrofoam. I assumed a company that depends on the health of the ocean would do more to keep it healthy, but no. Companies like these use styrofoam because it's inexpensive. I feel that since places like Nico's and hundereds of others (including lunch trucks) refuse to use more eco-friendly alternatives, the State should force them to. Many spots already do. Hawai'i's environment is worth the few extra cents to protect. There's no question that styrofoam is bad for the environment - please pass this bill and require change. Mahalo.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:46:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Richard I Levine | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in very strong support of SB 2498.

This ban is long overdue as polystyrene has long been identified by science as a substance made from toxic petroleum and other dangerous chemicals that are not congruent with the health of our planet nor that of human physiology.

Polystyrene foam is used in one-time use products that can take hundreds of years to decompose. It is not biodegradable, it is not compostable, and it has been shown to cause harm throughout our environment as well as its inhabitants.

Many countries around the world and many municipalities on the US Mainland have already banned this toxic product. The City and County of Honolulu has tried to as well but corporate lobbyists, in spite of the overwhelming evidence to support a ban, seem to be able to stall that effort with lies and misinformation about the negative impact polystyrene has.

Environmentally safe, viable, and affordable alternatives exist and are currently being used by food establishments all over the world from the biggest chains to the smallest mom & pop places with no negative impact to their financial stability. No private enterprise has gone out-of-business because of the minimal price differential between polystyrene foam and environmentally safe recyclable or compostable alternatives. Any testimony to the contrary is at best dishonest but very clearly lacking in any integrity.

Given the small size of our isolated beautiful island state, and given the intimate and vitally important relationship that we have to maintain with our aina in order for us and future generations to survive as well as thrive here, it is abundantly clear there is no longer any excuse to neglect our kuleana to this place.

Respectfully,

Dr. Richard I levine

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:49:35 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelsey Barrow | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Lets make the change for a better future.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:54:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nina Lambert | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Our beautiful Hawaii Island is impacted by single-use plastics that hurt the health of our land and the ocean that surrounds us. Certified compostable products are an obvious alternative to foam and are easily accessible. I fully support SB 2498 to protect our oceans, its marine inhabitants and future generations.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:02:01 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kari Goodbar | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kari Goodbar. I am a resident of Palolo Valley and today I wish to voice my full support for SB 2498 which would prohibit the sale and use of polystyrene throughout the entire state.

I am an animal care specialist at Dolphin Quest Oahu and secretary for the Executive Committee of Surfrider Foundation's Oahu chapter. I spend my weekends cleaning our beaches and attempting to quantify endless amounts of marine debris and I spend my work week caring for and studying marine mammals. In addition to animal care, the most important aspect of my job is educating people about marine animals and the threats they face in the wild. Amongst a myriad of human induced threats to our oceans, the biggest issue that we highlight and encourage our guests to take action on is plastic pollution. The problem with polystyrene and other petroleum based plastics is that it doesn't biodegrade. Polystyrene is different than other plastics in that it 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. Dolphins and other marine mammals swallow their food whole, so ingestion of these materials is simple and instantaneous. Polystyrene 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. This material is a plague on our ocean ecosystems because an item that is designed to be used once remains in the environment forever. According to the US EPA less than 1% of foam is recycled nationally and 0% of EPS Foam is recycled locally

In my everyday job as an educator, I focus on plastic pollution because it is an area where small actions by a large number of individuals can actually have a huge impact. When I share this information with my guests who come to meet the dolphins or people who are joining a beach clean up for the first time, they are horrified at the impact our societal mentality of "disposable" convenience is having on our oceans. I share with them ways that they can help make a positive difference, such as avoiding these single use plastics or choosing products with alternative materials such as glass, metal, or cardboard. These are simple actions people might not have considered before but they are actions that people are highly receptive to and eager to adopt.

My wish today is for our laws and legislation to emulate the personal responsibility our public is already taking. In Hawai'i, we are blessed to be constantly surrounded by and connected to nature. I hope that the state of Hawai'i can lead the example for the rest of the nation in protecting and preserving the fragile ecosystems that support our very existence. Please help stop a major source of pollution at its source by supporting SB 2498 today. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Kari Goodbar

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:10:20 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support a ban on foam containers as it is terrible for our land and community. There are many more effective biodegradable options. Let's create a sustainable future. Thank you.

lowen2 - Heather

From: Alexis Araw <alexisaraw@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 6:20 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB2498

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to say that I support SB2498 in phasing out styrofoam and polystyrene in Hawaii.

Thank you
Alexis Araw

Sent from my iPhone

lowen2 - Heather

From: Bailey Weiner <bdweiner@ucsc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:04 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

I'm a young college student very determined to keep our earth as wonderful as we can for as long as possible. Hawaii should ban styrofoam not only to prevent the Monk seal population from going completely extinct but also to protect any other species that are likely being affected in a negative way. With only a precious 1,400 monk seals left in the world we have no room left for toying with their environment if we expect to our children and grandchildren to see this wonderful species.

Thank you for your time,
Bailey Weiner

From: Michelle Bennett <michellejbmason@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 11:32 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2498

Aloha,

Thank you for allowing me to voice my support for SB2498. I don't know how often you take a good look at the beach but for me living on the east side, we see a lot of styrofoam blown ashore and also floating in the water. It's extremely difficult to clean up especially when it is broken apart because even the smallest breeze will blow it away. It's covering our oceans and more and more is being added to it every day.

Polystyrene is bad for the environment and our health. A ban is important to enact the change that needs to happen with food trucks and restaurants on the islands because many are too wrapped up in the convenience or how cheap it is. But there are many other options that are in the same price range that won't cause companies to go bankrupt.

Hawaii is very behind on many environmental issues but passing this bill will help push the state forward toward a more green future.

Mahalo for taking your time to read this,
Michelle Bennett

lowen2 - Heather

From: Alicia J. Berard <alicia.berard17@my.stjohns.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 6:01 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

To avoid endangerment to the monk seal species, the ban of styrofoam is needed! All animals serve an important role in the ecosystem and we, as rational human beings, have a responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all species. Thank you for your time!

lowen2 - Heather

From: cristina bozesan <cristina_bozesan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 11:45 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

EPS breaks up rather easily, increasing the probability for accidental ingestion by birds and marine life when it is improperly disposed of.

lowen2 - Heather

From: Max Bracey <bracey.maxwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:35 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB2498
Attachments: DSC03788.jpg; DSC03820.jpg

Hi-

I'm a scuba diving instructor working on Kauai. I witness first hand the impact of pollution on our oceans through my job everyday. Every time it rains, we get more debris in our water and the wildlife suffers. If we can ban styrofoam, we will at least have taken a small step in the right direction.

Monk seals are some of the most incredible creatures I've encountered beneath the surface. They're playful and extremely curious at times. We should do whatever we can to keep this critically endangered species around. Let's give the 1,400 that are left a fighting chance.

Healthy oceans are paramount to a healthy planet. We owe it to the sea life and ourselves.

Thanks,
Max Bracey
bracey.maxwell@gmail.com
(310) 804-4784
PADI # 386930

lowen2 - Heather

From: Brianna G <zotielcoffee@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 6:36 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

You'd think that Hawaii would be beautiful- clear water, white sand, warm sun..

However.. some of the beaches are just polluted to the max..

It's sad to look at, really.

And it angers many people- including me.

With such gorgeous sights, you should at least keep it clean.

It's very VERY upsetting to see plastic stuck on animals and such- Lots of marine animals die from ingesting plastic, getting caught in plastic, and much much more. They have scars left on them from plastic. When people cut their fish, most of the time they'll find tiny pieces of plastic and trash. Whales get caught up in rope and trash.. Dolphins ingest plastic pieces.. seals ingest plastic bags.

..and you know what thing is a factor in all of this mayhem?

Styrofoam.

It all starts with people manufacturing it in factories.

The certain factories that make styrofoam release toxic chemicals into the air (styrene), and it affects people. Some of the effects experienced include irritation of the skin, eyes, and the upper respiratory tract and gastrointestinal effects.

Styrene leads to further complications, including effects on the nervous and respiratory systems, and possibly the kidney and liver, as well as other issues. It also caused increased spontaneous abortions in women. Contact with liquid styrene during the manufacturing process can lead to first degree burns!

Hmm.. Oh and just as a reminder, WE'RE ONLY TALKING ABOUT THE MANUFACTURING PART.

Now, let's talk about styrofoam cups causing food contamination! Yay!

Food in Styrofoam containers can be contaminated by chemicals that leak into food, affecting our health and the reproductive systems. Oh, and if you have a warm cup of coffee in one of these disgusting cups, it's even worse since it's warm.

Styrene has also been found in 40% of Americans.

Now, let's talk about what Styrofoam actually does to our environment.

The amounts of Styrofoam waste that accumulates is colossal, as only 1% of Styrofoam is recycled in California!

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.

How disgusting.

Would you want to starve?

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, it absorbs many other pollutants in the sea water produced in other countries.

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!

Lovely!

Now, getting back to a poor dying species of seal..

There's only 1500 of them left..

1500.

And they're suffering because of US;
We're their only hope- and voice.

Let's change using styrofoam, and switch to safe alternatives.

Please.

So many people want their voice heard- and so do the seals..

Hawaii, please..
Change.

From: Amy Cady <a.cady@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:03 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB 2498

Aloha,

Please ban polystyrene, also known as styrofoam, in our beautiful Hawaii. I see it ALL OF THE TIME on the side of the highway between Ewa Beach and Kapolei, as well as the beaches and parks my family frequents. This toxic product is hazardous to humans, wildlife, and the environment. Additionally, we already have companies on island who sell eco-friendly alternatives in bulk, which will help the transition for companies and consumers very doable. Change is hard. However, change is sometimes necessary FOR THE GREATER GOOD. Let us lead by example!

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration of this very important bill [on Friday, March 16, 2018 at 9am](#).

Sincerely,
Mrs. Amy Cady
Ewa Beach

lowen2 - Heather

From: Steven Chavez <steven.matthew@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:01 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB2498

Ban styrofoam! It's toxic.

Sent from my iPhone

lowen2 - Heather

From: Holly Corkill <holly.corkill@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 3:12 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: In Support of SB2498

Please ban styrofoam products, our precious ecosystem is counting on you to do so!

Sent from my iPhone

lowen2 - Heather

From: dcady97@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:59 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: SB2498 Styrofoam Ban

Please support SB2498 banning styrofoam. Hearing Friday, March. 16, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

I gave verbal testimony regarding this issue in a previous hearing. I continue to monitor the bills progression.

Bad for the environment. Bad for litter. Bad for the beauty (think tourism dollars) of our state. Bad for the ocean and marine life.

There are easy, affordable alternatives as many businesses know and are already voluntarily offering alternatives. Hawaii should be exemplary leaders in this area. Not average or lagging behind.

David Cady
Ewa Beach

lowen2 - Heather

From: Nadia Fale <nmfale@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 12:44 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

Aloha,

I believe that it is our responsibility as citizens of Hawaii to protect the beautiful land and the ocean that we are blessed to call our home. This includes the wildlife that we share our home with. Polystyrene foam, while convenient, poses a threat to our home and all that inhabit it. I support SB 2498 because I support the sustainability of these islands that we call home.

Mahalo for your time and attention,

Nadia Fale

From: Megan Hale <meganhale4@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 2:35 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

Human kind has already caused the fastest rate of extinction the earth has ever seen. It has taken hundreds of millions of years of evolution for the incredible amount of biodiversity to exist that we are so lucky to see today, let's not let another one of nature's creations slip away because we want some simple, convenient single use item. Styrofoam will most likely be banned across the United States in the near future anyways, so why not be a leader in this? Why not pave the way for other states? Set an example. Your state depends on tourism, do people want to come to a trash ridden island where half the wildlife is gone? And their fish dinner is full of microplastic and styrofoam? I definitely wouldn't. The tides are changing, people are becoming more aware of their affects on the planet. Veganism is sky rocketing, every one knows about climate change and wants to stop it, and sustainable energy use is taking hold. Humans are finally beginning to understand we need to stop thinking of ourselves and think about the bigger picture, so I support this ban.

Thank you for your time.

- Megan Hale

lowen2 - Heather

From: Kelsey Herman <kaherman@umich.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 12:19 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

Hi there,

We need to ban styrofoam, it is harmful to our planet and doesn't break down over time. It all ends up somewhere, let's stop producing it NOW!

Best Regards,
Kelsey Herman LMSW
School Social Worker

lowen2 - Heather

From: Lei Shimabukuro <lshimabukuro19@kaiserhs.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:16 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: Styrofoam Ban

I support sb2498!!

lowen2 - Heather

From: Liam Brosnahan <lbrosnahan762@g.rwu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:06 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

Hawaiian Monk Seals are endangered animals who are threatened by styrofoam, please ban it with the ideology that our environment has a right to be protected in mind. Thank you

lowen2 - Heather

From: Mackenna Cady <kennaaloha@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:56 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: Please Support SB 2498.

Aloha!

Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to speak up about this issue.

Please help Hawaii ban polystyrene. This material (more commonly known as styrofoam) is highly dangerous for both the planet and our health. There are other more eco-friendly, safer alternatives to polystyrene already on the market, so there is really no reason to keep this material available to the public (specifically styrofoam restaurant to-go containers. People shouldn't be eating or drinking out of this material).

We hope you'll consider both the health of Hawaii's citizens and the health of the ocean, and therefore pass this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration and thank you for serving our state.

Sincerely,
Mackenna Cady
18 years old
Ewa Beach

lowen2 - Heather

From: Kendra Nelson <kendranelson@go.byuh.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 11:07 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB2498

Aloha! I am pushing for the ban of styrofoam in the state of Hawaii to help out our wildlife & preserve our ocean. These materials are harmful to our oceans ecosystem & we have the responsibility to do what's best for us & the creatures we share this planet with.

We are bigger than ourselves

Kendra Nelson

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From: Sara Sass <ss7220a@student.american.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:01 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

Dear Hawaiian State Legislature,

Aloha. I write to you to support the ban of Styrofoam coming to the floor.

Styrofoam contains the chemical **styrene**, which has been **linked to** cancer, vision and hearing loss, impaired memory and concentration, and nervous system effects.

Like many chemicals, we know about Styrofoam's health effects from worker exposures. **Prolonged effects** of chronic styrene exposure that many manufacturing workers face include depression, chronic headaches, fatigue, and weakness, and minor effects on kidney function and blood. The US Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration and the EPA are aware of and chronicle styrene's negative effects.

In 1986 the EPA released a report that listed the **polystyrene manufacturing process** as the fifth largest creator of hazardous waste. Fifty-seven chemical byproducts are released during the manufacturing process of polystyrene, polluting the air, land including national parks and residences, water and communities that live near the facilities. Since Hawaii is an island, the water contamination is significant.

As if the public health impact of polystyrene isn't enough, Styrofoam's environmental effects are well documented. It takes 500 years to decompose, and it takes up 25-30% of our world's landfills. In addition, our lakes, waterways and oceans are suffering thanks to Styrofoam waste. There are **57 chemical by-products** released during the manufacturing of Styrene, polluting Hawaiian air and precious Hawaiian waterways. Styrofoam is no longer manufactured with CFC (notorious ozone-depleting chemical), but still uses HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons) that are still linked to depleting the **ozone layer** and affecting **global warming**.

I urge you to ban Styrofoam and other dangerous chemicals from the beautiful islands of Hawaii, to protect both the environment and consumers from Styrofoam's cancer causing effects.

Consumers did not use Styrofoam for centuries and instead other packaging material like cardboard and paper was used. There is no need for Styrofoam and eliminating it does not create any undue burden on businesses or manufacturers due to the massive availability of environmentally friendly alternatives.

Thank you. Mahalo!

Sara

lowen2 - Heather

From: hope sinclair <hope_sinclair2@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 12:04 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

I believe Hawaii should ban styrofoam because poor animals are having to face brutal consequences daily because of our population!

lowen2 - Heather

From: Trace Miranda Kupahu <tlkmiranda01@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 1:08 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB2498

Traci L.K.Kupahu

lowen2 - Heather

From: venture aloha <venturealoha@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:01 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB2498

Ban styrofoam!

Sent from my iPhone

lowen2 - Heather

From: Abby Wagner <dbqabby@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 7:45 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: In support of SB2498

Hawaii should ban styrofoam to help keep all of the amazing animals in the ocean alive!

Abby Wagner

lowen2 - Heather

From: Cole Williams <colewilliams1365@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:50 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT SB 2498

I support the banning of polystyrene foam.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:23:12 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Reese Co | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Reese Co. I have lived in Hawaii for about 5 years, and I have been to the many beaches and parks in Hawaii. I have noticed a lot of trash around Hawaii, which degrades the natural experience of many of these places. I feel like our tourism suffers from these polystyrene containers because they litter the parks and beaches in Hawaii. Additionally, polystyrene poses many health risks toward people who eat food that is in polystyrene because it may cause cancer towards those who eat and drink from polystyrene containers. The department of health and human services (DHHS) has labeled styrene as a possible carcinogen. I hope that this information influences your outlook towards polystyrene.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:24:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ku'ulei Neher | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:26:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kilala Hall | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I'm tired of seeing foam littered around the beaches that I clean up. It's a pain to clean up, and the amount that I see is heartbreaking and appalling. Because we are an island, foam impacts our ecosystem much more than the most places. If we want to have beautiful and healthy beaches continually, this is a step we need to take.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:26:58 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello, my name is Liam Kellogg. Due to a school project, I have just found out the dangers of polystyrene in styrofoam. I am in the eighth grade, and if I had not found this information, I would not have known what this chemical could do to my health. I believe that everyone should at least be educated about this chemical and other products that will detriment their wellbeing, either by the company warning their customers of polystyrene in their products or through a course on human health. If we continue to use products like these we are jeopardizing the next generation's health and wellbeing. As a labeled carcinogen and by multiple sites accused of deadly chemical byproducts to the environment.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:30:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nathaniel Wehr | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

To the hearing committee:

I write in support of this bill that will ban styrofoam in Hawaii. This material has been repeatedly shown as a detrimental pollutant to the environment and should be banned by the progressive state of Hawaii.

Sincerely

Nathaniel wehr

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:35:04 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| McKenzie Leigh Kessel | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:48:44 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Matthias Keller | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

Being a resident of Oahu and an uncle of three, I want to see the best for my family. The sad part is, I already know these kids growing up today will never know what it's like to see a beach without rubbish. It is repulsive that such a thing has become the norm. What is more shocking is the thought that the new generation will truly believe pollution on their beaches, cities, oceans, is the norm. If we don't act now these kids will grow up in a nest of rubbish, styrofoam being a big contributor. I clean beaches regularly, and I enjoy putting in the effort to make the new generation see what Oahu was, but we need to stop it now! I could name a list of other cities, countries, who are leaps and bounds ahead of us. John John and Carrissa Moore, two of our prized athletes, no longer surf with the hawaiian flag behind them. I believe a motive for this radical move was because they don't want to support a government that allows this trashy behavior to happen.

Respectfully,

Matthias Keller

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:01:05 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa Finley | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am very excited to hear that this bill has made it through the senate. Styrofoam is a horrible pollution, and I feel hopeful at the thought of it being banned in the first state ever! It is my hope, and prayer that this is the beginning of a trend that is necessary for our state legislation to do the right thing for our ocean and land. My son is 3 years old, and he has no idea the damage that is being done to nature, and the long term effects it will have for his life. Consumers MUST have more options, and without banning these lethal materials, they will keep getting made and used by businesses. With a ban, it forces alternative, natural options. We owe this to our fish, our whales, our crops, and our children. This has gone on long enough. You have been put in a position of power, and with that comes a GREAT responsibility. Do what is right, and vote to ban foam in Hawaii. Be the change, and set the tone for others to follow. You are surrounded by the beautiful ocean, the gift from God, and you are responsible for taking big steps to protect that which surrounds you. When you are done passing this bill, push for other states to do the same. Styrofoam has no place on our earth any more!

Thank you for your part!

Melissa Finley

River Forest, Illinois

Ban the Foam: Why the Death of Polystyrene means Life for Hawaii

It's time we bid a final farewell to the plastic-based nuisance polystyrene. Ubiquitous in carry-out containers and convenience items, and more commonly known as Styrofoam, its death means certain life in our Hawaiian Islands. It is a hazard to human health. It's detrimental to the health of our oceans, and to Hawaii's biggest industry – tourism. Banning polystyrene removes death from our islands, and allows life, health, and innovation to prevail.

This Friday, Hawaii legislators have the opportunity to continue to prove Hawaii a leader on environment and health initiatives by supporting SB2498.

Styrene, a compound of polystyrene, contains benzene, a known carcinogen in animals. The National Academy of Sciences and the National Institute of Health concluded styrene is “reasonably anticipated” to be a human carcinogen. This carcinogen is more easily transferrable when styrene is heated – and how often do we dump warm food into our to-go containers before leaving a restaurant?

Further, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Reduction Model (WARM) report shows that burning polystyrene – as we do when we incinerate polystyrene at HPower – emits *more* carbon dioxide equivalent than other plastics. For each ton of polystyrene incinerated, we allow 1.64 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions into the atmosphere – that's air we, and our children, breathe. It's the air we need to survive. Its air that impacts not just Hawaii, but the planet as a whole.

Polystyrene's simple existence as a product is dangerous to human health both in its use and in its disposal. But it's not just humans that feel the effects.

Marine life also feels the burden of our polystyrene use. With tourism as Hawaii's primary industry, the health of the oceans is paramount. Polystyrene is one of the greatest threats to the health of our oceans – so light and brittle that it breaks apart easily, those tiny pieces finding their way faster and in larger quantities to our waterways than other forms of plastic pollution. Foam is found in the bellies of dead marine life, and its chemicals leach into the waters around it, tainting it with those “reasonably anticipated” carcinogens. It touches every aspect of life in Hawaii – and beyond.

Financially, polystyrene foam is a burden. Foam is *the* number one culprit at beach cleanups, and the biggest cost to Hawaiian tax payers, according to the Department of Transportation, who estimated that Styrofoam and plastic bags are the number one source of waste (and clean up). San Diego County, with population equivalent to Hawaii, spends \$14 million alone on plastic cleanup – that's tax payer money that could be better spent elsewhere. The foam ban creates an opportunity to breathe life into our oceans and, subsequently, ensure the health of our tourism industry – an industry integral to the livelihood of so many Hawaiians.

Hawaii is ready for this ban. Over 140 Hawaiian restaurants have already gone polystyrene-free. In fact, the Ocean Friendly Restaurant (OFR) movement was so successful in Hawaii that Surfrider Foundation introduced the program at the national level – a testament to the enthusiasm with which the OFR has been received. OFR restaurants are some of the most vociferous supporters of the polystyrene ban, seeing first-hand the positive effects of dumping polystyrene and choosing compostable, non-petroleum based products instead.

The economic benefit of the polystyrene ban extends beyond restaurant owners, as many of Hawaii's main purveyors of compostable food-grade products are Hawaiian-based businesses, to include companies like Sustainable Island Products, Triple FFF, and Diamondhead Distributors. Supporting these purveyors supports local Hawaiians, and can create job opportunities: material for fiber containers can be grown and manufactured right here in Hawaii. Contrast that with trying to create polystyrene manufacturing jobs in Hawaii, which directly exposes workers to large amounts of toxic chemicals – chemicals that need to be shipped to Hawaii – and the choice seems an obvious one.

What does the future of Hawaii look like without polystyrene? It looks healthier – healthier people, healthier oceans and beaches, and a healthier economy. We hope Hawaii's leaders will consider the potential for this robust future when voting for SB2498, the polystyrene ban, this Friday.

[On Friday, the Hawaii State Legislature will hear SB2498, a bill trying to ban the use of polystyrene in Hawaii. This bill passed the Senate for the first time since its inception over a year ago thanks to Sen. Rox Baker of the 6th Senate District, moved to the House, and comes to a vote on Friday, March 16.]

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:13:00 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allegra Giacchino | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support SB2498. Our beautiful beaches and ocean are what draw millions of tourists (and tourist dollars) to Hawaii. People are not interested in visiting beaches littered with garbage. Our sand and water are becoming terribly polluted with tons of little bits of styrofoam. This rubbish doesn't break down and is very difficult to clean up, directly threatening our economy!

As a resident, I no longer go to restaurants that use polystyrene foam containers. I support businesses that have gotten with the times. Customers are willing to pay more for environmentally friendly products. More and more, people are avoiding establishments that contribute to the contamination of our islands. Supporting SB 2498 is the right thing to do for the planet, and the right thing to do for our economy.

Thank you so much for your thoughtful, forward-thinking consideration.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:16:00 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aaron Feinberg | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Thank you for banning styrofoam!!

lowen2 - Heather

From: Tonya Smoot-Kent <tsmootkent@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:44 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support sb2598

Aloha,

I urge you to pass this legislation so we can reduce our impact on our land and waters and its inhabitants. Styrofoam is absolutely unnecessary for food service containers and cups its just familiar. The state was had the wisdom to remove platic bags in the past, this is the next logical step.

Mahalo

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:17:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Paul Helfer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Paul Helfer and I am a resident of Makiki. I work in financial services in downtown Honolulu, and I am writing in full support of SB2498 to ban polystyrene foam on O'ahu. Thank you for considering this important bill.

I am an avid swimmer and grew up on this island. While attending Iolani, I was on the water polo team and trained on a weekly basis in our ocean. Today, trash and toxic chemicals from our waste products are deteriorating its quality, as styrofoam is made of petroleum and lasts for hundreds of years in the environment, polluting the land and ocean. I want to be able to swim and go to the beach without ingesting chemicals and seeing the sand littered with styrofoam scraps.

Foam is made up of over 90% air, making it lightweight. Even when properly disposed of, it commonly blows out of trash cans and into storm drains and the ocean. It is also commonly mistaken for food by animals, including protected and endangered animals, which makes animals sick and can lead to death. If this is killing animals, we must recognize that humans are not immune to the toxins.

Additionally, every time a hot meal is put in a styrofoam container, the material is melted into the food. The hot contents burn through the styrofoam. Styrofoam contains the chemical styrene, which has been linked to cancer, vision and hearing loss, impaired memory and concentration, and nervous system effects...the list goes on. What happens when you eat hot foods or drink liquids from styrofoam plates and cups is the styrene leaches out of the Styrofoam and into our bodies. We must put an end to this. It is a health hazard in every aspect, the way it's produced, the contamination to hot food, and once deposited, hurting our environment.

It is our responsibility to create a better environment for future generations, and it starts today with important bills like this.

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

Mahalo,

Paul

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:19:22 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eric Dilley | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Polystyrene foam containers are a terrible way to package to go and take out foods. Yes, they are cheaper but are they actually cheaper? When you factor in clean-ups, ingestion by sealife, entanglings, etc. it really isn't. We must put a value on leaving as small of a footprint as possible while living the highest standard lives. This must be done without foam. We have control over what gets into the ocean and because these products do not degrade, they will be around for generations. It is time for us to clean up our act and pass sensible legislation that mandates getting rid of polystyrene foam. I strongly support this bill and hope that it passes through the state legislature as soon as possible to begin the process of cleaning up our oceans.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:26:22 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:29:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joan Pan | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Joan and I am a resident of Honolulu. I fully support SB2498 on the Statewide foam ban and thank you for considering this bill. Walking around town I often see foam litter, which is not only is unsightly, but also damaging to the environment, animal, and human health. If cost is the main concern for food service businesses to switch to alternative take-out containers, there are over 140 restaurants that participate in the Ocean Friendly Restaurants Hawai'i initiative that voluntarily make the business decision to go foam free. Many of these businesses are small and locally owned; and they have not reported financial burden from going foam-free. Again, I am writing in full support of the Statewide foam ban, SB2498, and thank you for considering this important bill.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:30:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deanna Marks | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, polystyrene is the fifth largest source of hazardous waste in the United States. Polystyrene is not frequently recycled, takes hundreds of years to decompose, and accounts for much of the waste in landfills. Polystyrene is the primary pollutant of the oceans, bays, and water ways. The pollutive nature of polystyrene extends to our atmosphere, as large amounts of greenhouse gases are emitted during the production process.

In addition to the negative environmental impact polystyrene causes, the production of this material is extremely hazardous to the health of those who manufacture the product, as it causes myriad issues with the central and peripheral nervous systems, and is linked to both Parkinson's disease and Leukemia.

Please consider banning polystyrene in the State of Hawai'i. There are plenty of viable, eco-friendly alternatives to polystyrene that would not have the same environmental damage and negative health effects. The delicate ecosystem of Hawai'i, and the world as a whole, deserves to be preserved and free from the threat of polystyrene.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:31:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a 16 year resident of the state of Hawaii, 4th grade teacher, surfer, yoga teacher and practitioner and lover of all things living. Pleas pass this bill! This bill is necessary to Hawaii Sustainability 2050 Plan! We need to take more necessary steps to meeting the goal of sustainability and SB2498 is a vital step! Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Chris Neppi

4th Grade Teacher

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:38:33 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Mizuno and member of the committees.

I am submitting this to testify in support of this bill. My name is Megumi Odin, I am the owner and operator of Vegan Hills located in Kaimuki.

I moved to Hawaii from Japan 10 years ago and have opened many vegan restaurants and eateries in my residency here. I knew even back then about the impacts styrofoam had on the environment, so I never used it in my businesses. I also didn't like the smell or texture of the products. I have been using the Eco brand of environmentally safe take out ware, which nobody used at the time. It was expensive and really cut into my profits, I received a lot of ridicule from other vendors for using these products as opposed to the cheaper and more convenient styrofoam, but I believed that it was a small price to pay in comparison to how much it would help out our planet.

10 years ago, there was only one person from which I could get eco friendly containers. Now, there are so many people and options to choose from, and they are exponentially less expensive than they were a decade ago. While the biodegradable products are not as durable as styrofoam, there is always new research under way to make sturdier products that do not contain polystyrene. I believe that if we ban the sale and use of styrofoam across the islands, there will be a demand in better and safer products, which will only make for these companies to create the better products which we demand.

Our customers really appreciate the eco friendly products we use as well. Being a vegan restaurant, a majority of our guests are already aware of the environmental impacts of styrofoam and plastic, and always comment on how grateful they are that we use products that are biodegradable and ocean friendly, and most customers express that they wish more restaurants and eateries would use eco friendly products like we do.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my testimony and for your time and consideration of this important issue.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:42:32 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| M. Angeles Gallego | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

I have lived in Hawaii for three years. Every time I go to eat somewhere they give me a stereof foam plate. Instead I would like to bring my own reusable container. I have seen stereof foam in all the beaches I go, and I can't recycle it at home.

There are many other options, people can bring their own plates and cups, or they could use materials that are recyclable, specially in the areas close to the beaches.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:44:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Colleen McEnearney | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in support of bill **SB2498**. As an avid beach goer and lover of the outdoors it always breaks my heart to see styrofoam containers littering the shoreline and in our ocean. It is particularly sad because I know that these containers remain in our oceans for years and have a significant negative impact on marine life. While I know that styrofoam is an inexpensive container for to-go foods, I would gladly pay more as a consumer to have containers that are made of reusable/recyclable materials.

I sincerely hope that **SB2498** is able to pass so that we can continue to make Hawai'i a greener and more sustainable state.

Thanks so much for your consideration,

Colleen McEnearney

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:47:50 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eliei Starbright | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

We need to stop using POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:50:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kimberly Ramos | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I fully support the polystyrene ban. For the past five years I have worked in the waters surrounding Maui, as a snorkel and whale watch guide. My time working on the water has convinced me that Hawaii's marine resources are precious. Not a day goes by where I do not see marine debris in our ocean; much of the litter is polystyrene. It is our responsibility to be good stewards of this planet, and we must start with our islands, our backyard. There are so many alternatives to plastic and polystyrene. This synthetic material is not biodegradable, it is made from synthetic chemicals and fossil fuels, and is consumed by marine life. Marine life that ingest polystyrene may starve to death or can also buildup fatal amounts of toxins in their systems. In addition to the threats that polystyrene poses to the marine environment, it also leaches chemicals into the food and water they house. The risk to human health and the local marine ecosystems are more important than cheap polystyrene containers.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 12:07:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dianne San Luis | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:50:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| William Moschell | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I think styrofoam needs to be banned from Hawaii. I try not to support restraunts that use them. I had stopped going to my favorite establishment... Pioneer Inn on Monsarrat until they recently switched over to a sustanable container.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 12:18:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Recently I've visited Oahu after 4 years of absence and was shocked about increasing environmental pollution, especially the pollution of the ocean with plastic and styrofoam. Then I've heard about this bill. It would be a prominent example for the world to ban styrofoam as the first state in the U.S. I hope you will!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 12:57:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Claire Poh, PhD | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the ban of the use of styrofoam. Expanded polystyrene has 0 biodegradability, meaning it will never degrade in a landfill. It also has no potential for Post-secondary use. Hawaii already has a huge trash problem and has to spend millions a year to export the trash we produce. By Banning the use of foam, a significant reduction in the amount of trash Oahu produces that has to be sent to the mainland. There are many alternative materials restaurants can use besides styrofoam. Therefore, I strongly urge you to pass this bill. - Dr. Claire Poh, PhD in Materials Science & Engineering, of Hawaii Kai 96825

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:07:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Martha Staff | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:20:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Daniel Covington | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Say No to styrofoam! Remember all the Hawaii Council members that voted against the Ban 2 years ago are no longer in office. They lost the election on this issue and others.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:25:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Amelia Petrovich | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. As a tourist visiting HI several times a year, I'm appalled at the amount of styrofoam and polystyrene packaging products allowed in the islands, the eyesore of seeing the debris caused by the indestructible nature of the packaging, and worst of all, how detrimental this is to nature, fish and birds which make Hawaii the paradise it has always been.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:36:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2498. Poly styrene containers are a huge contributor to environmental pollution on land and in our oceans. They are not necessary as there are other viable options. The cost of replacing styrene containers with biodegradable products is not nearly as great as the costs of continuing to use them. I do not accept the slippery slope logic that supporters of this bill are trying to "take away our plate lunches." I frequently purchase plate lunches and fast food which is served in polystyrene; each time I wish I could get the same food in a more environmentally friendly container. Change is never easy, and people become attached to the familiar, however, it is well past the time that we all need to make changes that will enhance, rather than further degrade the quality of our environment. The effects on the ocean and to the creatures that live, swim, and eat from the waters are sufficient reason to pass this bill. We all need to take responsibility for our planet, and this bill is a step in the right direction. Mahalo.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:45:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Connie Gause | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Link to see baby otter's choking on polystyrene: Why Styrofoam is bad for your health and the planet _ 1 Million Women.html : Please see below articles and studies: Mahalo, Connie G.

Please let Hawaii be the first state to make a major difference in the environment by banning polystyrene products on her beautiful islands. The attached reports states how hazardous polystyrene is for the environment.

[GENERAL EARTH INSTITUTE](#)

Say Goodbye to Styrofoam

BY [EICES GUEST BLOGGER](#)|MARCH 11, 2015

6510



[Comments](#)

By Sara Louie

On July 1, single-use styrofoam products will cease to be in circulation in New York City due to a new regulation. In the last year of Mayor Bloomberg's final term in office, Bloomberg made it his last mission to rid New York City of the non-biodegradable material. This January, after the Department of Sanitation concluded that there are no viable means of recycling and reusing styrofoam materials, Mayor DeBlasio announced the new law. The ban, which will be implemented in all five boroughs, will require that no manufacturer or business sell, give or use any single-use styrofoam product including coffee cups, foam trays and packing materials like packing peanuts.

Banning styrofoam in all its various shapes and forms will mean "removing nearly 30,000 tons of...waste from our landfills, streets, and waterways," according to a [statement](#) from DeBlasio. While it will mean an addition of waste in paper or other plastics, it will decrease the overall amount of garbage going into landfills since we do know how to recycle and have means of reusing the post-consumer products of the

other materials. The United States generates a total waste of 250.9 million tons per year, according to EPA data from 2012. This is trash not being recycled or repurposed. Earth Institute Executive Director Steven Cohen makes a [valuable point](#) that banning styrofoam is a sign that New Yorkers are caring more about their environment and the waste that they are producing. This ban will raise awareness about the large amount of waste produced by the city and promote a shift in habits in even more New Yorkers.

To be sure, removing 30,000 tons of styrofoam materials/objects out of circulation is not something that can easily happen overnight and without protest. It will require the cooperation of manufacturers, businesses, and the population to change their habits. The ruling to ban styrofoam comes after a year long investigation by the sanitation department looking into a safe, economically viable way to recycle and reuse post-consumption products. In December 2013 when Local Law 142 was passed and required that the recycling of styrofoam be investigated, the sanitation department talked to businesses and companies about possibly doing so.

In order to sustainably use styrofoam, a non-biodegradable product that fills up our landfills and that is made from the non-renewable resource crude oil, it needs to be recyclable and reusable in its post-consumer form. The process to recycle styrofoam requires that it is clean and free of any dirt, food, liquid, other forms of plastic, and other materials. From there it is ground up and treated with heat and friction to remove all air. It is then melted and cooled into plastic pellets that can be used to manufacture other products. Unfortunately, there are very few plants that have the capability of processing styrofoam, and there is no current market for post-consumer expanded polystyrene in the tri-state area.

Styrofoam structurally is a [plastic](#), specifically Type 6, according to the [seven different classifications](#) of plastic. Plastic cutlery, coat hangers, video cases and some toys are all made of Type 6 plastic, but styrofoam is the hardest form of Type 6 plastic to recycle. The reason comes down to its structural properties. Because of its brittleness, it is difficult to clean and remove from other materials without resulting in a jumbled mess of styrofoam particles. Being 95 percent air, styrofoam is lightweight and is easily carried away by gusts of wind, allowing it to get into areas it should not be. In New York City, this includes clogging storm drains, littering streets and beaches, and drifting off into waterways that affect aquatic life. Expanded polystyrene also takes up much more space than normal polystyrene does, and since there are very few treatment plants that can handle recycling polystyrene, it is not economically nor environmentally efficient to transport styrofoam to those facilities.

Alternative Packaging Materials

The ban of styrofoam will require changes in purchasing habits of restaurants, school cafeterias, food carts and other businesses. Here are some of the ways segments of the city are looking towards alternative packaging products.

New York City public schools serve around [850,000 students](#) for breakfast and/or lunch every school day. Typically, lunches were provided on styrofoam trays that are lightweight and could handle the heat and liquids of any particular meal. With the new regulation, schools will begin shifting to compostable plates in May and be completely styrofoam-free by the summer.

Many companies and businesses have already started researching and experimenting with new materials. Dunkin Donuts, famous for the styrofoam cups that keep coffee warm for hours, is looking into a double-walled paper cup. Other possible alternatives are recyclable plastics and reusable tumblers, although those are not as popular to many customers who like the styrofoam.

The ban on packing “peanuts” and other styrofoam packing products may not be truly felt in New York City outside of the businesses that package goods. The ban does not regulate outside of New York jurisdiction and states where goods can still be packaged with styrofoam and shipped into the city. The decision on what packaging material works best is greatly influenced by its cost to manufacture and ship. An option, [biodegradable packing peanuts](#), can be made out of corn or wheat and beneficially have no electrostatic charge and dissolve in water. Unfortunately they have a higher cost to make and are heavier than styrofoam peanuts. Other alternative materials are plastic air bags, paper stuffing, and a styrofoam-like material made out of [mushrooms](#).

For now, the styrofoam ban will be imperfect until it is phased out in the surrounding areas. Styrofoam will still exist in the city from incoming shipments, albeit much less will be in trashcans overall. The ban also will allow for small businesses (less than \$500,000 revenue per year) to apply for exemptions granted that the alternative containers would cause “undue financial hardship.” The ban follows several cities’ decisions including Washington, D.C., Minneapolis, San Francisco, Oakland, Portland, Albany and Seattle.

—

Interested in learning more? The Earth Institute Center for Environmental Sustainability is offering a course entitled [Introduction to Environmental Policy](#) on Mondays, May 11, 18, June 1, 8, and 15th, 2015 as part of the [Certificate Program in Conservation and Environmental Sustainability](#). For more information or to register, please contact eices@columbia.edu.

Sara Louie is an intern at The Earth Institute Center for Environmental Sustainability and

What is Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)? Report on "OneMillionWomen.com)

Polystyrene is actually just another type of plastic. It can be expanded into the foam material that we all know as "Styrofoam" by expanding it with 95% air. It is often used for packaging fragile products, or insulating hot food and beverages.

In the U.S. alone, the amount of **polystyrene cups used each year would circle the Earth [426 times](#)**... that's almost *18 million miles* of Styrofoam cups!

Styrofoam is a big part of the [plastic problem in our oceans](#). Being 95% air, its buoyancy allows it to float down waterways, eventually making it to the ocean where it gets broken down into smaller pieces and ingested by marine life.

Lightweight Styrofoam is easily carried away by wind and often ends up in places other than the landfill. Unfortunately, rogue Styrofoam ends up littering streets and beaches, clogging storm pipes, and harming animals. In order to protect wildlife, Antarctica has prohibited polystyrene.

Learn more: [From the land to the sea – How what we throw away ends up in the ocean](#)

That single-use Styrofoam cup doesn't just go away after you toss it in the bin. The [Department of Sanitation](#) concluded that **expanded polystyrene cannot be recycled**, despite the fact that many of the containers display the recycling symbol.

Plus, Styrofoam sitting in the landfill releases methane gases that have *over 20 times the ozone destroying potency as CO2*. Still not convinced? Check out more reasons [Why you should invest in a keep cup](#)

[New York City's ban on polystyrene](#) became effective last July and over 70 other U.S. cities have followed suit. However, since the bans are only effective within city limits, products encased in Styrofoam packaging can still be shipped in.

[San Fran](#) is the latest city looking to ban Styrofoam. So, what's the hold up?

Styrofoam is still the most cost-effective packaging, and most companies don't want to assume extra costs just to transport their products.

However, a few companies are making moves. McDonalds, Jamba Juice, Dunkin Donuts, and IKEA are a few companies who have already pledged to phase out their use of Styrofoam...way to go!

"IF WE CAN GET THE ACT TO BAN POLYSTYRENE PACKAGING
THEN [THE CAPITAL] COULD BE A REALLY POSITIVE ROLE MODEL
FOR OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES TO FOLLOW"

- JOHN DEE, FOUNDER OF DO SOMETHING

Styrofoam isn't just bad for the environment; it's bad for your health

A lot of people assume that Styrofoam must be safe since it's often what our takeaway comes in... wrong!

Styrene (a component of polystyrene) is a harmful chemical that can leech into food and drink. Even worse, styrene is *classified as a carcinogen to humans* according to the [National Research Council](#). Back in 1986, a [study by the EPA](#) detected Styrene in 100% of human tissue and breast milk samples.

Since we see Styrofoam almost everyday of our lives, it can be hard to picture what life would be like without it.

What would a Styrofoam free world look like?

Actually not much different! Here are some of the many alternatives to Styrofoam

Mushroom based packaging

The mushrooms are grown in molds and are ready to be used within 5 to 10 days. Unlike petroleum-based plastics such as Styrofoam, mushroom packing is renewable, sustainably sourced, and certifiably compostable! Computer company Dell has started shipping its electronics in mushroom packing!

Biodegradable packing peanuts

made of natural materials such as wheat or cornstarch. As far as strength goes, they actually outperformed Styrofoam in several tests!

Starchtech, a producer of the biodegradable packing material, recommends these methods of disposal:

- Empty into a large sink or tub and dissolve by running warm/hot water.
- In warmer climates, dispose of in your garden or compost. If they blow away, simply wait for the next rain and let nature wash them away!
- Children can dab the ends on a damp sponge and make creative designs. When the fun is done, just wash them away with water.

Styrofoam free schools

I bet your primary school days include some sort of memory of carrying your lunch on a Styrofoam tray in the cafeteria... well those days are coming to an end. New York City schools and 5 other school districts in the U.S. have [replaced foam trays with compostable plates](#)! Annually, this change will eliminate half a *billion* toxic and polluting styrene foam trays!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:51:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Christina Comfort | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha - I am Christina Comfort, a long-time Hawaii resident and an oceanographer at the University of Hawaii.

I am writing in strong support of SB2498. This is a crucial bill for the long-term sustainability of our island, reefs, and oceans.

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 fish and seabirds, inhibiting food absorption, and causing starvation) and sub-lethal effects (toxin build up in the food chain - eventually to humans).

I just attended the American Geophysical Union's Ocean Sciences meeting last week 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.

The opposition will say that cardboard products take more greenhouse gases to produce and ship, but these measurements do not account for the greenhouse gases drawn down (reduced in the atmosphere) by producing organic material by growing trees for cardboard. Cardboard based products will eventually break down in the event that they make it into the environment, and as they are heavier and less likely to be blown by wind into a waterway or ocean (which happens all the time with foam). Ultimately, the ideal is to use long-term reusable products such as glass and metal washable containers that can be re-used for decades, and the single-use products that we do use need to come from renewable sources and be able to break down in the environment. Another angle of opposition will say that foam containers are important for heat retention, safety, etc in food service - but the heat exposure in foam actually is a public health DETRIMENT as this can release hormone disruptors and carcinogens from the processed plastic product. The many restaurants operating successfully without foam show that it is in no way needed.

Again, I am in strong support of SB 2498 to ban foam products. Passing this bill would represent a huge step towards better environmental practices in Hawaii and better care of the land and ocean.

Aloha,

Christina

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:52:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cameron Dabney | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:59:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lindsay trinidad | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

It is not a sustainable material that will pile up and pile up on land and in the ocean.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 1:59:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christina Hoe | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My one-year old daughter deserves to swim in a plastic, polystyrene free ocean. She deserves to have healthy soil, clean water and a society that values her health over cheap convenience. Any adult who opposes this measure is invited to come speak to every kindergartent student on this island and explain why he or she feels that a foam container is more important than health, a clean environment, and a sustainable world. Elected officials don't work for me. They work for the keiki. Get your priorities straight.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:03:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Legislators:

The dangers of styrofoam, polystyrene, and plastics to humans, wildlife, oceans, and the environment are substantially documented. Photographs of partially decomposed dead birds with pieces of these products laying where their alimentary tracts used to be is heartbreaking.

You cannot go to any park or beach, drive along any road, or hike along any stream or the Ala Wai canal, without seeing these products littered, floating, or blowing away.

This bill will not only help make O’ahu cleaner and safer once it goes into effect, but it will make an enormous impact for all future generations. Please don’t make our future generations ask why it took us so long.

Sincerely,

Kim Jorgensen

Waikiki

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:07:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Matt Wicks | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Plate lunches taste just as good eaten out of compostible containers that won't hurt the environment or our wildlife. Just like the plastic bag ban before this, it's time for Hawaii to lead the way and ban polystyrene foam containers too.

lowen2 - Heather

From: Richard Brown <richbrown73@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 11:50 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: In Support of SB2498

Dear Government of Hawaii,

Please ban the use of Styrofoam, it's having a devastating effect on your wildlife. I would love to visit your beautiful country someday but I can never visit whilst this is allowed to carry on. Please please do something about it.

Kindest Regards

Richard

Sent from my iPhone

From: The Plastics Project <theplasticsproject@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 1:33 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: We support SB 2498

The Plastics Project stands in strong support of bill SB 2498. Styrofoam is harmful to both human health and the environment. The problem with all plastic pollution, including styrofoam, is that once its created, it doesn't go away. Even recycling is limited by type of plastic and how many times it can be recycled before its structurally unusable. Implementing a ban would force a much needed change and manufacturers will need to come up with more environmentally friendly products. Styrofoam is extremely unhealthy for humans and animals. We ingest chemicals as a result of using styrofoam and many children don't have a choice. Even schools use styrofoam because of convenience and cost. Please pass this bill. We need change!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:08:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Please vote yes on bill SB2498 SD2.

All of our friends and family who visit us here in Waikiki from the mainland and Europe are shocked to see how much these dangerous products are used in restaurants everywhere on Oahu.

Even more disheartening is seeing it become litter in all the parks, in the Ala Wai Canal, flying in the wind on beaches, and floating in the ocean. The amount of it that is estimated to be eaten by birds and marine life is staggering, let alone the dangers to humans after prolonged use.

I know I am missing out on a lot of delicious food, but I am simply unable to support restaurants that are not eco-friendly because they package food, plate lunches, take-out meals, and doggie-bag leftovers in non-biodegradable and non-compostable containers made of styrofoam, polystyrene, and plastics. I know so many people who would gladly patronize dozens of different restaurants if they stopped using styrofoam/polystyrene packaging. Any extra cost for eco-friendly products incurred by small businesses could be offset by more customers.

Please pass this environmentally-critical bill so the great state of Hawaii will be one of the national and international leaders for the health and safety of humans, wildlife, oceans, and the environment.

Respectfully yours,

Denise Boisvert

Waikiki

lowen2 - Heather

From: Madi Masek <mnm2898@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 11:40 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: In Support of SB2498

Aloha,

Please ban styrofoam here in Hawaii! It is environmentally damaging and is harmful to human health.

Mahalo,
Madi Masek

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:17:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrea Jean Minor | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill! The ban on foam containers is way overdue. It's time do what's right for the ecosystem and wildlife. Residents and visitors do not want beaches and parks littered with foam. There are better alternatives to foam. If it adds a few cents to my meal, I'm happy to pay it!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:30:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Genie Wery | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the ban of foam containers to help protect the environment.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:31:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jaclyn Nicole Mundell | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I want to see Hawaii continue to lead the way in reducing plastic waste. We have a responsibility to protect the oceans, animals and land from the destruction that plastic waste causes.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:36:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jeffrey Mermel | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As the Founder of Bears Coffee Shop in Hilo I fully support a statewide ban on styrofoam. As a business owner, I certainly do not mind paying a little more for this environmentmentally friendly measure

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:39:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Huayi Court | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:40:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

lowen2 - Heather

From: Brianna Provost <briannaprovost@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 2:20 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: Brianna Provost
Subject: In Support of SB2498

Styrofoam has no place in our oceans or beaches and definitely not inside of animals and marine life's stomach. It slowly kills them by starving them. We as humans have come up with SO many amazing things and ideas but we also have been the major contributor to the extinction of so many living things. We can definitely figure out a way to live without styrofoam for the betterment of the entire planet.

Please ban styrofoam.

Thank you for your time.
Brianna Provost
Sent from my iPhone

lowen2 - Heather

From: Nadean Lane <lane.nadean@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 2:07 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB 2498

Aloha,

Please ban styrofoam as this is horrible for the ocean and the animals! We are here to protect this world not destroy it.

Mahalo for your time,

Nadean Lane

lowen2 - Heather

From: Leslie Glazer <leslieglazer28@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 2:33 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

Styrofoam needs to be banned! Please help to save our marine life and oceans.

Support SB 2498.

ThNk you,

Leslie Glazer
Sent from my iPhone

lowen2 - Heather

From: Grace Ferraz <grace.ferraz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 2:36 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am emailing to voice my concerns with regards to polystyrene foam and its implications towards marine life especially for the critically endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal.

I strongly believe that Hawaii should ban styrofoam and its associated products given its environmental harm amongst other plastic debris found on Hawaiian beaches. A recent survey conducted by the state's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) found that more than 20,000 bits of debris were found on the main islands of Hawaii - majority plastic.

I hope that you take into consideration both my individual amongst others concerns surrounding this issue.

Kind Regards,

Grace

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:44:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shirley Ames | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill to ban plastics.

Shirley Ames

Waipahu Resident

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:45:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kennedy-Anne Marx | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

My Name is Kennedy, I live on the island of O'ahu, I live in Kailua. I am a junior in highschool and I love to go to the beach and swim in the ocean. Although, it is very depressing and disgusting to see our beautiful sea filled with plastic!! Its ridiculous and gross!! I support the SB2498 Bill. We need to stop the problem at the source, that means we need our community locally to reduce the amount of polystyrene foam and other awful plastics that we use. You are in a place of power, please use it wisely and listen to the keiki, we don't want to play in foam filled oceans. It is non-essential, it is ugly and it is unhealthy. I am only 17 years old, I want to one day take my children to the beach and let them play in the pristene sand without finding polystrene when searching for shells. IT'S NOT FAIR TO ME OR FUTURE GENERATIONS. WE NEED THIS TO STOP.

Please make the right desicion. This island isn't meant for wasteful plastics that last forever.

Mahalo, Kennedy Marx

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:48:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ruby Plicka | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:52:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Annie Goodenough | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Polystyrene is an awful material that doesn't biodegrade and pollutes the environment. There are many more eco friendly options that can easily replace these containers and be less harmful to the environment. Please ban polystyrene!

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:56:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lisa King | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I completely support this bill to reduce the use of polystyrene foam containers here in Hawaii and I urge that the Legislature pass it.

Thank you, Lisa M. King, PhD., Big Island of Hawaii

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:54:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joseph Plicka | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 2:58:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Connor O?Toole | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, Hawai'i State Legislature,

I wanted to reach out and show my support to move forward with Bill SB2498. We as citizens of Hawai'i have shown our dedication and understanding that foam is no longer a sustainable means that is necessary anywhere in the world. Banning foam on our islands will be the forefront of something incredible- a force that shows the rest of the United States and the world that we no longer have a need for this invasive man-made habitat and animal killer. Please consider your generation and the future generations in mind when you make your decision on this bill. You could be the start of changing this world, our ecosystems and lifestyles for the betterment of humanity.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and God Bless.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:04:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Zachary Mermel | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I wholeheartedly support the passage of SB2498. Banning styrofoam containers from our Islands is one positive step toward reducing our negative impact on Hawaii's delicate ecosystems. Passage of SB2498 will serve as a powerful precedent for other forward thinking states to emulate.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:13:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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 and the better alternatives will also become more available to all. The pollution of our land and ocean is not worth saving a few cents on packaging for the convenience of a to-go meal.

LATE

Dear John M. Mizuno, Bertrand Kobayashi and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. As well as Chris Lee, Nicole E. Lowen and members of the Energy and Environmental Protection committee.

I am currently a Senior at UH Manoa and have lived on Oahu for about three years, growing up in the Seattle area my parents always had a garbage, recycle and yard waste. At my current house, there is currently no option to recycle. Which leaves my roommates and I responsible to either take all of our recyclables down to a center or throw them away in the garbage. With only one of us having a car it makes it difficult to consistently drive to the recycling center to rid of all our recyclable materials.

Whether it be the Manoa stream, the road going up to Tantalus or just about any beach on the island; plastics and polystyrene foam are everywhere. Banning the use of polystyrene foam containers will not only completely fix the pollution problem here, but it is an immense step in the right direction for a clean Hawai'i. Polystyrene foam is not only aesthetically unappealing scattered throughout the island, but is also the detrimental health effects to humans, marine and animal life that is something that simply cannot be overlooked.

By supporting and pushing this bill forward it will demonstrate to the people of Hawai'i that the government cares and supports their people and the environment we all inhabit. I envision that by setting this example in Hawaii it will raise awareness to neighboring countries and spread amongst the world. One small action can set a large chain reaction, so although this may seem small it is of great importance that we address this issue immediately. Although the budget may be tight, I see the people reclaiming our environment as the pinnacle of importance.

Sincerely,
Gabriel Boynay

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:15:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hi my name is Teneal and I live in Hawaii and I believe that styrofoam is negatively affecting our environment. This non-biodegradable material is landing in our oceans and causing pollution and the killing of our beautiful marine life. We have to stop and change to something more environmental friendly materials that are biodegradable.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:15:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| April Babcock | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

The use of styrofoam is antiquated and time to be done in Oahu. Although companies may need to spend more on containers, it is worth the added cost. Consumers would likely pay a bit more to have a cleaner environment.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:20:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Maddyson Jeske | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a student at the University of Hawaii Manoa. As a college student, I have a part time job with a restaurant company at the local market. I am constantly handing out foam containers to the customers and it truly makes me sick to my stomach to think about the number of conatiners are being handed out. It is awful to see something of one time usage be turned into waste within 10 minutes after guests are done eating from it. This material is awful to the health of our communty too! There is no good reason for foam to be legal.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:28:18 PM
Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Polly Miller | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:45:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Asia Yeary | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Legislatures,

Please support this ban on polystyrene foam containers. These containers are are incredibly destructive to our environment because they never biodegrade, are made of petroleum, can easily blow into the ocean and eaten by endangered species, and are unhealthy to eat out if your food is hot. They may be cheap at face value, but if you include the true lifecycle cost of these containers, they are extremely expensive and our children and their children will be paying the price. Please make a wise decision now and protect future generations by banning polystyrene in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Asia

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:50:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dan Bogdan | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Becoming a member of a group on the UH manoa campus has given me the ability to reach out and let my voice be heard. As a political science major this is of major concern to me to be an active member of our society. This ban will be in effect a start to the focus on making sure that the decisions we make as people, as citizens will create a world in which the future is one that our children and their descendants will be able to engage and be a part of the beauty of the natural world in which we are so blessed to be a part of.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 4:17:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Constance Perry | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

It makes me sick and sad to see styrafoam still being used in Hawaii. We all know about the sea of rubbish in our ocean in which each piece of plastic will take many years to decompose if it ever does. Please help protect our coral, fish and all life in the ocean. Please support this bill and support the environment that is so important to our economy and lives.

Mahalo,

Constance Perry

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 4:27:13 PM
Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ian Earle | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

We have to look at the bigger picture, well beyond simple day-to-day convenience, to see the harmful affects that Polystyrene, a product that has a very long shelf-life, will continue to have far-reaching and harmful affects on the environment/our oceans/flora and fauna for generations to come. It is finally time to sacrifice a little bit of easy for the greater good or our aina and our world.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 4:31:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sasha Giron | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Salutations,

Foam should be banned because of the harm it does to Papa (Earth).

Foam does not break down like natural materials.

Due to the pollution of foam/ and plastics, the ocean has microplastics that goes into the diet of the marine life, which goes into our diet since we eat fishes.

Since foam does not break down, it will get smaller and smaller but not ever decompose like natural materials; due to this, it will affect the marine life and land life, which will also affect us.

Another point that should be taken into consideration, even if you don't believe in the Earth having a life, to Native Hawaiians (and other cultures close to the land), the Earth is an important being. We need to take care of it. If we do not take care of the Earth, it will not return any care. Therefore, take care of the land and the land will take care of us.

Ban Foam.

Sincerely,

Sasha Giron

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 4:36:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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 you to please pass bill SB 2498 SD2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Jacqueline Chico

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 4:39:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marissa Miller | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Honolulu SB2498 SD2

In Strong Support

Hearing Date: March 16, 2018

Aloha,

My name is Marissa Miller and I am an 18 year-old resident of Honolulu, writing to you in strong support of SB2498, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Food containers.

As a representative of the youth in Hawaii, I believe that this is an extremely critical piece of legislation to ensure a cleaner and healthier future for my generation. We need to take careful looks into waste management and plastic pollution at this point in time because single-use plastics are increasingly a problem and they aren't going away anytime soon on their own. As an island in the middle of the pacific, where much of the world's plastics gets deposited (on currents carrying them from the plastic gyres in the ocean), we need to be leaders in reducing our consumption and use of such detrimental plastics as polystyrene foam.

Plastics are a multi-faceted problem with numerous detrimental effects on marine ecosystems. The most obvious issue is the ingestion by and entanglement of marine species like fish, turtles, and birds. Aside from this, plastics are also toxic, and bioaccumulate high concentrations of toxins that can affect coral health, other marine organism health, and even human health. Yes, this is a human health issue in addition to an environmental issue, as most environmental issues are.

As someone who has spent many hours doing volunteer work with organizations who conduct beach cleanups particularly on the northeast side of Oahu, I have seen firsthand how big of an issue this really is and how important it is for us to act now on it. Polystyrene foam is particularly bad because it is so light and brittle and can easily escape proper disposal and break down into small pieces in the environment that are

nearly impossible to clean up. This is why we need to prevent the use and disposal of them in the first place. Polystyrene foam containers are 100% unnecessary, not to mention expensive when you take into account the costs of cleaning up the pollution and dealing with the other threats and impacts that they have on our environment.

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 providing dine-in containers or having customers bring their own reusable containers. The next best alternative—when reusables are not realistic or possible—are certified compostable products.

Surfrider Oahu and its partners have certified over 140 hundred businesses around the State as "Ocean Friendly Restaurants" 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.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Marissa Miller

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 4:41:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jaclyn Johnson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Honolulu County Council Members,

I am writing to you in strong support of Bill SB2498. We are at a pivotal time in our fight against plastic pollution! Now is your chance to help protect our beautiful oceans from a deadly plastic source. Polystyrene is one of the worst types of plastic (<https://www.5gyres.org/polystyrene/>). Passing this bill will be one step in the right direction. No longer can I go down to the beach in which I grew up and find no plastics. I see it in the guts of the fish my father catches, the shoreline where my baby cousins crawl, the stomachs of dead birds rotting on the beach, it is everywhere. Passing this bill to ban polystyrene will be monumental for the state of Hawai'i. It is outrageous to see a KNOWN carcinogen being handed out in plate lunches and coffee cup containers. Please think about the future of our keiki and our aina! Now is the time to fight plastic pollution through legislation!

Thank you,

Jaclyn Johnson

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 5:01:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christine Otto Zaa | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha House Representatives,

I strongly support SB2498. Please protect our people and Earth from this toxic material that does no good only harm. Let's stop accommodating businesses who only care about profits. These businesses who profit from the natural resources and beauty of this state should care more about preserving it than ruining it. Take care of the land and the land will take care of you.

Thank you,

Christine Otto Zaa

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 5:19:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Steve Duddles | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

This bill is incredibly important to protect our land and oceans. Other options besides foam are easily available and many places, like the Fatboys near me, already use recyclable containers for plate lunch. Please pass this bill and let's be the progressive state we aspire to be.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 5:34:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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> .

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 5:48:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Styrofoam is very bad for the environment and human health. There is no reasons to be using it besides the fact that it is cheaper and disposable. However this economic concern would suggest that money is more important than our environment and our health. There are plenty of other eco friendly options instead of styrofoam that would be way more suitable.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 5:49:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| MK Slingerland | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 5:51:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Adrianna Ortiz | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing in full support of SB2498 SD2 to prohibit the use of polystyrene food containers across the beautiful state of Hawaii. As we all know by now, plastic pollution is a huge problem here on Oahu and across the state. Understanding that 80% of the rubbish that is in the ocean originated on-land means that we must evaluate our behaviors when it comes to what we buy and what we dispose of. Rubbish is merely out of sight out of mind once it leaves our hands/homes/schools etc. The journey this rubbish takes has only begun as a large portion ends up on our coastlines and beaches. It is not really 'gone'. Even if the rubbish does make it to the incinerator, known carcinogens are released during combustion. One of the main contributors to the amount of rubbish we produce is the single use plastics. These plastics are intended to be used only one time before being thrown out, yet they are made from materials meant to last forever. Polystyrene containers from food trucks, take out or leftovers along with other single use plastics heavily pollute our environment.

The safety of polystyrene for our food should also be called into question. Especially in cases where very hot foods are placed in polystyrene, harmful chemicals leach into the food. These trace amounts of toxins could very well have cumulative effects and by allowing food vendors to use them, we are also subjecting young kids to these very powerful toxins since some schools still serve lunches on polystyrene trays.

I understand that the opposition has stated that there would be a great cost difference of 2 to 3 times more for eco-friendly products. Based on local research from small restaurants on island who have made the switch from polystyrene to compostable eco-friendly products the cost increase was negligible. If this ban was enacted across the state it would level the playing field for all restaurants/food industry businesses and would not disadvantage any one business.

In summary I ask that you please consider this and the other concerns addressed at the hearing to prohibit polystyrene food containers across the state. There is more than cost to consider when it comes to making the right decision.

Thank you for your time,

Adrianna Ortiz, resident at 3303 Hooper Place, Honolulu

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 5:59:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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-preferable 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!

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:04:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Wiedner | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Elected Officials,

Please pass SB2498. Plastic pollution is killing our ocean.

There are so many better options than styrofoam.

This ban will have a great impact ans will help keep our islands beautiful.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Barbara Wiedner

1774 Puu Kaa St

Kapaa, HI 96746

808-635-2593

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:06:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Douglas Gorman | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the banning of styrofoam products. This is a huge issue relative to environmental stewardship, something every citizen can participate in to make the world a better healthier place for our children.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:09:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Atcheson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please pass this bill. It is a good start in reducing the scourge of polystyrene foam on our beaches and in our waterways and the ocean.

I do not find convincing the arguments about hardships that will result if we are not allowed to continue making the environment pay for our little bit of convenience. People and businesses are creative, and the constraint of not being able to sell or provide foam takeout containers will be soon taken in stride as we innovate and adjust our own habits. It's already apparent at many ocean-friendly restaurants.

I will not append my entire testimony on the SD1 version, but here is an excerpt:

"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."

Again, it is encouraging to see this bill advance and I urge you to get it over the finish line.

Mahalo,

David Atcheson
1212 Nuuanu Ave, Apt. 906
Honolulu, HI 96817

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:24:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elizabeth Duca | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I have witnessed the polluting effects foam containers have had on the beaches of Hawaii. It is especially important, living on an island, that we only allow reusable or eco-friendly packing containers to be used by local businesses and restaurant owners. Preserve the natural beauty of Hawaii and Mother Earth.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:40:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erin Tseu | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 6:56:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathryn L Strong | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I am a Hilo resident writing to support SB 2498 SD2, banning polystyrene in the state of Hawai'i.

Polystyrene is an outdated and unnecessary packaging material that is hazardous to humans, animals and the environment.

Maui and Hawai'i Island have banned polystyrene, as have hundreds of local governments on the mainland and in Canada, Europe and Asia. Dozens of restaurants on every Hawai'ian island have also gone foam free. It is time for the State of Hawai'i to follow suit.

Polystyrene is made from petroleum and processed in chemical labs. It contains styrene and benzene, both suspected human carcinogens and neurotoxins. Styrene is a confirmed animal carcinogen.

Polystyrene leaches styrene when it contacts warm food, acidic food or liquid. According to the EPA, short-term human exposure to polystyrene causes eye irritation and gastrointestinal damage. Long-term exposure causes loss of hearing, headache, fatigue, weakness and depression. One study of polystyrene's effects on pregnant women showed an increased rate of spontaneous abortions and decreased birth rates.

Polystyrene is made of 93-98 percent air. This means it easily breaks into small pieces and flies out of trash cans and into our natural environment, where animals often mistake it for food.

Polystyrene cannot be recycled in Hawai'i and is not biodegradable. It is also usually used only once and thrown away. There are many alternatives to polystyrene that are compostable, recyclable and reusable. For the sake of our people, our animals and our land, the State of Hawai'i must embrace these eco-friendly alternatives and ban polystyrene.

Mahalo nui loa,

Katie Strong

Hilo resident

LATE

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 do understand there may be some opposition to this Bill, but due to its far-reaching benefits, they will fall flat. For Example, Industry lobbyists may 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! Moreover, 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. Most alarmingly, 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!

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 proud 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 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 action 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

LATE

Re: SB 2498 SD2, RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

Hearing: March 16, 2018, 9:00 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 SD2, 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

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:03:16 PM
Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marsha Hee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support SB2498 and urge all committee members to vote in favor of this measure, which will help to reduce the use and presence of hundreds of thousands of nonrecyclable and noncompostable polystyrene foam containers that is filling up our landfills with toxic, greenhouse gas producing material that for decades have polluted and littered our landscapes, waterways and oceans. There is no good reason to continue using and allowing this material to accumulate and poison our natural resources which negatively impacts the habitat and lives of countless land and ocean creatures as well as human life. Compostable and recyclable food container options have been readily available long enough for food vendors as well as their customers to be educated about. In the long run, supporting SB2498 is the smart, sensible and better-for-our-economy choice for life sustaining practice and products providing future generations with a healthy quality of life in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:17:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Diane Ware | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear committee members,

Enough already on this stuff that can not be recycled, gets all over land and ocean and ends up endangering humans and wildlife.

I only frequent restaurants on the Big island that use no styrofoam for anything and they are not complaining about the cost. One restaurant is Naung Mail Thai. Another I'd Kilauea lodge.

I refuse drinks in styrofoam and support 0 waste recycling and composting most everything.

Mahalo for supporting this bill for passage.

Diane Ware, 99-7815 Kapoha, Volcano HI 96785

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:41:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Harriet Burkholder | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

We have other alternatives to foam containers that are affordable. These do not break down into tiny pellets that that too easily enter the ocean causing harm to sea life. Hawaii's ocean is key to our tourism industry as well and we can set a great example to the rest of the world by banning these one use, harmful products.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:44:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| elena piette | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Marine debris is a huge problem, especially to the Hawaiian islands. We must do everything we can to stop this huge problem.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:49:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:52:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nina Faye Blanco | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:56:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cynthia Welti | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As a resident of Kauai I see how many restaurants still use styrofoam. When I talk to them about it, none of them seem to love it. It's just difficult to have a level playing field with some still using it. I believe passing the bill will help us all with better alternatives.

Thank you so much for considering this.

Cynthia Welti

Kapaa

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:23:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bonny F Landers | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha!

My names is Bonny Landers and I currently live in London and am a Florida voter.

I have visited Hawaii several times as a tourist to visit friends on Kauai and Oahu. I fully support eliminating polystyrene foam containers to protect the beautiful ocean and the beaches of the state.

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony in support of this bill. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo!

Bonny Landers

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:30:19 PM
Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kerry Lum | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please, please, please eliminate this product that is unsightly, unnecessary, and breaks down as a carcinogen. It's harmful to our aina and our selves; at the same time is easily replaced.

Kerry Lum

concerned citizen



March 15, 2018

To: Chair & Senate Committee

From: Katie Metzger

RE: SB 2498 – SUPPORT

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2498. I am a relatively new resident here on Oahu. My family got transferred here 4 years ago. Over that time, I have come to love, admire and respect the tremendous natural beauty of the Hawaiian Islands and the majestic ocean that surrounds us. Sadly, I have also become increasingly aware and dismayed by the continued use of styrofoam on the islands, knowing that it has and will continue to pollute our ocean and landfills. This bill, SB 2498 provides an opportunity to take an important step to help heal our ocean and work toward a more sustainable lifestyle.

Of all US citizens, I feel that the residents of the State of Hawaii should take a leading role in protecting the ocean that surrounds us. Our ocean, it's beaches and the natural beauty of the Hawaiian Islands provide us a lifestyle that is beyond compare. Additionally, these natural wonders are what feed our economy via the tremendous tourism we all have.

It's a fact that tourists eat out a lot! And, they don't know which restaurants carry styrofoam and which do not, so they can't make an informed decision on where to buy. It's such a shame to know that styrofoam is so widely used. I feel this reflects poorly on our state's resource management and stewardship, or lack thereof.

For all these reasons, I urge the Committee to pass SB2498. This bill will serve our collective efforts to protect our ocean, the aina, and the health of our people by keeping styrofoam from polluting all that we love and cherish.

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

Sincerely,

Katie Metzger

LATE

Dear respected Representatives,

My name is Kaya Harper and I am a senior at Le Jardin Academy in Kailua, Hawai'i. I am writing you to urge you to support Bill SB2498 to ban the sale of polystyrene foam containers. There are many reasons for which to ban these containers, most of which I am sure you have heard, for example, the fact that these containers take 500 years to decompose. However, I would like to share a personal account of why I believe they should be banned.

Over winter break my friends and I were riding our bikes through Kailua town. At the crosswalk, by the Goodwill, we stopped for the light. A car pulled up then and rolled down the window to through a foam plate lunch container onto the street. It landed in the storm drain. I was shocked and horrified, as you can probably imagine, and we immediately collected the container to dispose of properly, but I cannot help but think, what if we had not been there? The answer is simple, the container would have washed into the sewers and potentially out to sea where it would wreak havoc on our oceans.

I have lived in Hawai'i all my life, and one thing that has always impressed me about my amazing home is the willingness of others to support our community and do the right thing.

Mahalo for you time,

Kaya Harper

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:53:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Taylor "Trey" Lima | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

There are so many alternatives to styrofoam and styrofoam is so harmful to the environment. I believe that if we want to be a group of sustainable islands like we say we do, we must take steps forwards into our future with sustainability. A good step in the right direction would be to ban styrofoam. Banning styrofoam would not just be a good act for good publicity for the island, this decision would be pono. I'm confident you guys will make the right choice.

Mahalo Nui,

Trey Lima

Sustainability Coordinator at LCC

Coordinator of Sustainability Club at LCC

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:10:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marion McHenry | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Marion McHenry. I am testifying from Kauai. I strongly support this bill. We must act this year and end use of polystyrene foam containers across our state. Time is running out to keep our islands healthy and safe for all of our citizens. Please do not delay any longer. Pass this bill.

Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:43:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christian Robbins | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Christian and I am a high school student in Kailua, O'ahu. Growing up with the beach as my playground, I have seen first hand the detrimental long-term effects of styrofoam. It litters our precious oceans and get consumed by marine life, and eventually by us. Please stop this mindless consumerism. Our ecosystems, as well as our public health, should not have to suffer due to a selfish cheap convenience. Ban the foam.

On behalf of the future generations, please protect our sacred planet, it's the only one we get.

Mahalo,

Christian

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:55:50 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gerarda Terlouw | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As an Analytical Chemist (MS) and Chemical Oceanographer (MS), I study the effects of plastic degradation in the marine environment. There are viable alternatives to styrofoam with much less of a footprint on the environment.

If NYC, washington, and Miami Beach can have banned styrofoam, why cant Hawaii?

I am proud to live in a state that has a culture so interconnected with nature. Lets preserve this paradise, we dont need styrofoam.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:58:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melinda Alexander, LMT | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the ban of polystyrene in the State of Hawaii. I support business using biodegradable plant based single use containers. It is what is best for sustainability on our islands and ocean. Malama Aina and it will Malama us for a long time to come.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:53:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kenyon Smith | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a lifelong Hawaii resident, and I support a ban on the sale of polystyrene foam in Hawaii. Please pass this bill to help reduce our waste and preserve the our islands for the generations to come. Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:02:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emma Matilda Videgard-Lee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I believe that this bill is a small but important step for Hawaii to come back into balance with itself - taking care not to harm our beautiful land and ocean. I believe that when businesses commit to earth-friendly practices, they both become more attractive to customers as well as lead the path for a more environmentally conscious society. It's a win win.

There is truly no place like Hawaii. Let's say no to the harmful effects on nature and water these containers bring out, and let's say yes to preserving Hawaii's pristine beauty and abundant oceanic life for generations to come!

God Bless!

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:04:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaila Alva | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

Please consider passing this bill to ban foam from Hawaii. Lets think of the sustainability of our island home for generations to come.

Mahalo,

Kaila Alva

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:08:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Gerhardt Robinson | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Gerhardt Robinson, I live in Kailua and am a student at UH Manoa. I am testifying in full support of SB2498.

Expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam is an amazingly durable material. It resists most forms of degradation, including acids, bases, salts, molds, and bacteria (1). Instead of breaking down, it breaks up- forming smaller and smaller pieces. These are consumed by wildlife and accumulate in tissues (2). In the absence of light, polystyrene foam can persist for up to a million years- please take a moment to imagine what this 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, how we chose to use the resources we have discovered, 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 consuming them as fast as we can. Four percent of oil production is used as a feedstock for plastics, with another four percent going to power the process (3). Fully one third of current production is used to make single use packaging, including EPS foam (3).

To make the million-year life cycle even less of an abstract number, the modern form of humans evolved only around 160,000 years ago. As a young person I find it deeply disturbing how recklessly we are using our one-time endowment of fossil energy; creating plastics for single uses that can 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 coming 40,000 generations that will experience the effects of our creation of EPS foam. This is an amazing opportunity for Hawai'i to continue to show strong environmental leadership and set an example for this country, and I urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo,

Gerhardt Robinson

1) J.G.B. Derraik, "The pollution of the marine environment by plastic debris: a review" *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 44 (2002): 843; Gregory, M.R., Ryan, P.G. "Pelagic plastics and other seaborne persistent synthetic debris: a review of Southern Hemisphere perspectives" in Coe, J.M. Rogers, D.B. (Eds.), *Marine Debris—Sources, Impacts and Solutions*, (1997) Springer-Verlag, New York, pp. 49-66.

2 Yifeng Lu, Yan Zhang, Yongfeng Deng, Wei Jiang, Yanping Zhao, Jinju Geng, Lili Ding, and Hongqiang Ren,) "Uptake and Accumulation of Polystyrene Microplastics in Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) and Toxic Effects in Liver." *Environmental Science & Technology* 2016 50 (7), 4054-4060 DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.6b00183

3) Thompson, Richard C. et al. "Plastics, the Environment and Human Health: Current Consensus and Future Trends." *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 364.1526 (2009): 2153–2166. *PMC*. Web. 16 Mar. 2018.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:09:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kurt Miyajima | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the ban on banning styrofoam in the State of Hawaii.

It doesn't break down and ends up in land fills and the ocean.

A biodegradable container is much more eco friendly

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:21:36 PM
Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Malina Kaulukukui | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:24:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Support

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:24:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Darlene Miranda | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Representative Chris Lee, Chair

Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair

Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

Darlene Miranda, BSW student at University of Hawaii at Manoa

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Hearing: Friday, March 16, 2018 8

In SUPPORT of SB 2498, SD2, Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers

I would like to submit testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2498, SD2. If passed this bill would prohibit the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide, effective on July 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 SD2 to prohibit the sale of and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide.

As a mother my primary duty is to protect my children from any and all harm. I have also chosen the field of social work, because I have a strong desire to help those who are vulnerable or less fortunate in our society. As future social worker I feel that it is necessary to advocate for 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.

As adults and informed citizens it is easy for us to simply reject establishments that serve foods in these types of containers. However, others do not have the same privilege. Our children's lunches are being served in these containers at school, and that is not ok. They are vulnerable and unaware of the harms and effects of these unneeded and dangerous containers. It is our responsibility to ban these types of food containers statewide because children are not able to protect themselves and make those informed choices on their own. We need to give our children every opportunity possible to a better future.

In addition 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.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:50:44 PM
Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ed lee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

Our keiki deserve a better future than where we are heading if we continue the current usage of foam containers. Let's put our aloha into action.

Mahalo.

Ed Lee

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:57:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| tristan yver | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Considering our oceans terrible trash epidemic it is essential we do any measures to conserve our oceans marine ecosystems. Especially taking into account that styrofoam is one of the most damaging materials that could be populating our seas. I am fully in agreement with terminating the usage of foam in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:58:03 PM
Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mariah Wyckoff | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:04:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Danna Olsen | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen in strong support of Bill 4, relating to the ban of Polystyrene Foam Food containers on the island of Oahu.

I just moved to Honolulu from Madison, WI. I have a masters in public health focusing on environmental health. I've been here a short time but living on the island has made me more acutely aware of the waste our lifestyle generates. I'm really surprised and disappointed to discover how little is recycled here and how much plastic and styrofoam are being burned. Your poor waste management is really at odds with the attitude of respect for the environment that I expected to find here. Our current system is not sustainable and not healthy. The next generations will suffer if we continue to ignore this situation. I urge you to take this small step towards a more sustainable world. In 2018, I'm shocked to see how much styrofoam is being used by your food vendors. There are better alternatives! These containers are littering your streets and beaches and it hurts my heart. Please take action and ban polystyrene foam.

Thanks,
Danna

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:05:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Matthew Chauvin | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

"For all of us, becoming indigenous to a place means living as if your children's future mattered, to take care of the land as if our lives, both material and spiritual, depended on it."

Aloha and malama 'Ä• ina, respect the land, respect our keiki and our future keiki not yet born. Ban the foam. If you care about Hawaii economically, spiritually, ecologically, culturally, ban the foam. Don't let corporate interest sacrifice our all of our children's future for today's profit enjoyed by a few.

This is a small step in the right direction, a step we should have taken thirty years ago.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:18:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:21:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Rosalyn H. Baker

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Bill SB2498, SD2

Date: Thursday, March 16, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Hello, my name is Kate Welch and I am a student from Mililani Highschool attending an AP Environmental Science class this year. I am testifying in support of bill SB2498, which "prohibits the sale of polystyrene foam containers and serving prepared foods using the polystyrene foam containers statewide". The polystyrene material is both dangerous to human and environmental health. Polystyrene has been found to cause safety concerns because of its build-up in human tissue and has been known to cause cancer and detrimental liver impacts on animals. This material is non-biodegradable and could take hundreds or thousands of years to decompose. Even when disposed in landfills, the light material could be carried by the wind to the streets or polluting bodies of water. Through the process of polystyrene breaking down, the small enough components could potentially be eaten by an animal which could cause choking or intestinal blockage. Since organisms, like fish, consume this deadly material, it could further end up in our bodies because of the food chain and the chemicals that were once concentrated in the organism are now inside our own bodies. If the creation of polystyrene does not come to a halt, this deadly cycle could go on for thousands of years. In closing, I would like to reiterate my support for bill SB 2498 on the ban of polystyrene.

Sincerely,

Kate Welch

2019welchk@mililanihs.k12.hi.us

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:31:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Adam Becker | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I like to sail, surf and fish. Obviously, I am on the water quite often and I see Styrofoam containers on the beach and in the ocean as a normal occurrence. The best way I can think of to keep this stuff out of the water is by reducing its use on land. I whole heartedly support this bill.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:33:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Evan Tsuzaki | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Every action we take now has a greater impact on our world and for our future. As a youth, I am scared for the future, the problems that my generation must tackle, and if these effects are irreversible. Single-use plastic and foam are unsustainable conveniences that harm marine life and create a culture of irresponsible wasting.

I am so grateful that I've been able to grow up in place as beautiful as Hawai'i, and I thank you for working so hard to serve my community. However, I am also concerned for our careless use of single-use packaging, especially when we can so evidently see the effects of it in our environment. Hawai'i must set an example for sustainability, and prove this is the right direction to pursue. Please support the SB2498 bill and send a message that we can make a difference for our people, environment, and the children that will inherit it.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:32:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| sebastian wohner | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My sister is living on Hawai and she sent pictures and reported on the pollution of the state.

It makes me sad to see how conscious living beings do not seem to care about the environment just because some very few people make some profit. It has to stop that mother nature that gives us plenty is suffering because of the profit making of some people who have not understood how life works.

Clean up the shit! Stop giving power to some stupid industrial people, because they only are interested in their own well being. If they would care about the island, why don't they clean it? The politicians need to support the people and the nature that supports the living of the people, nature and animals in harmony but has to stop listining to profit orientated people who are not interested in the well being of their own environment.

I hope you are all clever enough to understand that and that your heart leads you to the right direction!!!!!!!!!!

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:50:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rebecca Mattos | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

The ban of polystyrene foam containers is important for the future of Hawaii, and our livelihood as whole. I moved to O'ahu in November 2017, though I have family history dating back to 1914, when my grandfather was born here. We have covered the most fragile, beautiful, and sacred land and water resources with this chemical substance that has no purpose to be inside our bodies or our food, as it leaks toxic chemicals into our bodies through our food and drinks. We have alternatives to use, and very effective containers as cost-effective replacements. I always ask for an alternate from restaurants, and if they serve food on styrofoam plates, I refuse to patronize that business. I always ask for to go items in foil and compostable containers, or bring my own. Please Ban The Foam, as it makes a difference to our generation, as well as our future generations. I have spent hundreds of hours cleaning the beaches and ocean since moving here in November, and each time, there are countless Styrofoam bits from containers that have broken apart. It is harmful to the wildlife I have seen, including albatross nesting on the James Campbell Wildlife Refuge. We can stop this by coming together and listening to the overwhelming voice of the people. Stop the Styrofoam mess and ban this toxic substance for good! Aloha and Mahalo, Rebecca Mattos

Rebecca Mattos

LATE

Christian Young

#SB2498 Legislative Testimony

Hello, my name is Christian Young. I am a Junior attending University of Hawaii at Manoa and I was born and raised here on Oahu. So being someone who has lived here his whole life so far, I grew up loving and cherishing this wonderful paradise that we all call home; filled with such natural beauty and diversity across every island. Those who grew up and/or live in Hawaii know that merely setting foot here is a privilege. However, I, like many others, feel that it is in danger of decaying and we can do something to help prevent it.

One of the main culprits of this threat is Expanded Polystyrene Foam, or EPS foam. EPS is a lightweight compound that is said to take more than a lifetime to biodegrade and is typically proves to be very expensive to clean up, seeing how it so easily breaks apart. EPS comprises 15% of street and storm drain litter, causes flooding. Land and Marine animals often mistake it for food or nesting materials and is said to be a probable human carcinogen and a neurotoxin. The 'Two Rivers' study in Los Angeles found that over 1.6 billion pieces of plastic foam were headed to the ocean over a three-day period during surveys in 2004/5. 71% of 2.3 billion plastic items in the survey were foam items and that made up 11% of the overall weight of plastic pollution collected during the surveys. This material is proving to be disastrous to our environment and it can be easily avoided.

The polystyrene ban could be a huge help in keeping our land and ocean protected from poisonous materials that can be substituted very easily with little cost differences. For example, replacing foam plates with other substitutes such as paper plates isn't a huge difference in expenses and just looking at the big picture, it going to be of huge benefit to the preservation of our state and to the future generations to come. Hawaii could potentially learn from other cities and states that has successfully banned polystyrene such as New York City,

Seattle, Washington DC, Miami Beach, Portland. I am in full support of SB 2498 and feel it is our obligation to preserve our state's beauty.

Mahalo for your time.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 1:39:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nicholas A Chung | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the banning of polystyrene foam containers in Hawaii. They are not biodegradable and are single use items that than get discarded afterwards. Their impact on the environment and contribution to climate change can not be ignored and new alternatives have already been introduced that can replace them with limited impact on our environment.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 5:11:29 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laura Jackson Coury | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill. It is extremely important for the future of Hawaii. As a future resident, it is imperative that we take these steps to protect our oceans, one of Hawaii's most precious resources. The economic future of the state is tied to this bill since tourism is so important. Future degradation of our oceans will only impair traffic to the state of Hawaii. These changes are critical given the growth of areas in Honolulu and other island sites.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 6:03:10 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fred Cash | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I'm sorry I'm not able to attend in person. I have been a resident of Hawaii for twenty years and for the last twelve years have lived in Rep. John Mizuno's district Kalihi Valley.

Going back before I moved here I worked as a cook in Portland, Oregon back in 1989 when the Portland City Council took action to ban Polystyrene Foam containers. The Restaurant Association was a loud opponent that it couldn't be done and was unworkable etc. As a cook who prepared the food taken out of our restaurant I was happy to see the action taken. Low and behold the sky didn't fall and we were able to find suitable alternatives for take out food.

Think about it, the Portland Ban was implimented in 1990 a simple less than a year after they passed the law. During the time before I moved I had gone from being a cook to owning a restaurant, which I sold my part when I move here. The ban had been in place for eight years already and we used other products when we sent food out with other biodegradable containers. Think about it, a large city of similar size to Honolulu had stopped putting polystyrene foam containers that create horrible polution both on land and ocean for nearly three decades already.

Think about how much non-biodegradeable polystyrene foam Hawaii has dumped into our landfills or gotten into our precious ocean during the nearly thirty years of inaction on this in our island state. This legislation is way past due and should be a no brainer after all the evidence has piled up during this time since the City of Portland took a stand decades ago. JUST DO IT!

Thank you for hearing this legislation to take action for future generations to leave a better and cleaner state than what we have now.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 6:14:45 AM
Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Richard Bennett | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Hawaii needs to lead the nation in banning the use of polystyrene. I fully support this measure and hope we can come together as a nation to save our planet.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 6:56:31 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| matt parker | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, My family and i live on Kaua'i and see the devastation of single use styrofoams and plastics here on a daily basis. The fact is, styrofoam NEVER goes away. NEVER Decomposes and cannot be recycled. This right here should make enough sense to the masses and people in charge that it should be outlawed to produce and to use. Please pass this bill and give our land a chance. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 7:26:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caitlin Carrington | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill because I care about Hawaii's beautiful waters and the animals that inhabit them. Trash is not just trash - styrofoam will never break down all the way, and will leave toxins in the environment for animals to consume. The can have an immediate negative effect on an animal's health, but also has the potential to have negative effects in their future, such as offloading toxins through breasts ill to their young.

From: Ocean Reseach <oneoceanresearch@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 8:51 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: In Support of SB2498

Foamed polystyrene cannot be recycled and accumulates in our landfills, oceans, and beaches. Our marine life ingest it and it blocks their digestion, causing them to starve. Marine debris in Hawaiian cetaceans continues to amplify strandings, with polystyrene foam making up parts of huge masses in their stomachs that prevent them from absorbing nutrients and enflames their organs. Polystyrene floats, becomes part of larger debris in the ocean, and entangles marine life like sea turtles, sharks, and dolphins. The toxic chemicals in polystyrene leach into the food it contains, and can cause cancer, neurotoxicity, and endocrine disruption. Polystyrene is an environmental and human health hazard. Hundreds of cities and counties have banned polystyrene foam, including Maui, @cityofmalibu, San Francisco, and Big Island. Please help make Hawai'i the first STATE to be foam-free!

Aloha,
Ocean Ramsey
1-808-722-0969

Senior Researcher & Dive Safety Officer for One Ocean Research and Diving
Co-founder of Water Inspired conservation group.
President of Save The Sea Turtles International.
Advisor for the International Shark Project and HSC.
PADI MSDT #197766
E02 & AED Instructor
1st Aid & CPR EFR Instructor

Find out more about my work and check out my TED talk on:

OneOceanResearch.Org
WaterInspired.Org
OceanRamsey.com
HelpSaveSharks.Org

Social Media:

Instagram: @OceanRamsey
@OneOceanDiving
@OneOceanResearch
@WaterInspired
@OneOceanEducation
@OneOceanConservation
@OneOceanGlobal
@OneOceanDesigns
@OneOceanHawaii
@OneOceanSharks

Twitter: @OceanRamsey
Facebook: Ocean Ramsey Water Inspired

Aloha

“In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught.”

— **Baba Dioum**

“It may feel that what you do is only a drop in the ocean but the ocean would be less without that drop.” -Mother Teresa

LATE

lowen2 - Heather

From: Carissa Cabrera <carissacabrera1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:13 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: Support of SB2498

Aloha,

I would like to reiterate my support for the statewide ban of styrofoam in Hawaii. As I'm sure other testimonies have addressed, styrofoam kills marine life at an alarming rate and plagues our ocean. As a marine biologist who personally necropsied the pilot whales that stranded in Kauai in October, I can confirm styrofoam was found in at least one of the 5 whales. Not only is styrofoam hazardous to our planet, it is toxic to humans. The carcinogenic, endocrine-disrupting neurotoxins within foamed polystyrene leach into our food that it contains. When food is hot, like soup, this can be exaggerated to almost 10x the amount of chemicals compared to room temperature food. These chemicals are linked to memory-loss, hormone deregulation, and cancer. These concentrations can severely impair the growth and development of fetuses and young children, and over time can affect adults. Many restaurants have already said no to styrofoam because it is a violently toxic material that is not good to any party involved. It can be partially incinerated, but compostable containers generate 40% more energy from incineration. There is absolutely no reason for it to continue as food packaging when alternatives exist. Hundreds of cities have banned styrofoam, let's make Hawai'i the first state and set the precedent of a sustainable region that puts human health and environmental health before profit margins.

Please be on the right side of this issue.
Carissa Cabrera

From: Holly Beale <hlbeale@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 5:08 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

Good morning!

I am writing to state my support for the banning of styrofoam being used, and ultimately damaging your beautiful beaches, wildlife and tourism.

I hope that as we continue to become more aware of how our actions are damaging our planet and those that live in it, we start to take more responsibility for our actions and decisions.

Please, please use your power of influence to ban this toxic substance and support the cause to save our plant and wildlife.

Warmest wishes,

Holly Beale
Cell - (+86) 173 1759 1892

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 7:52:19 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Louise Giuseffi | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

To whom this may concern,

I have been a resident of Hawaii for 16 years, and a resident of Moiliili for 14 years. I actually make a conscious effort not to give my business to restaurants that still use styrofoam for take-out. I believe that the use of polystyrene foam is environmentally irresponsible due to the pervasive nature of the material in the environment.

Years ago, I was a team leader for the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps of Oahu. While on a site planting endemic Hawaiian plants, we were working over an old dump site from the 1970's. Although our holes for planting the seedlings were shallow, we uncovered heaps of styrofoam among other plastic relics just below the surface. The styrofoam in particular, at 40 years old, looked like it had just been buried there yesterday. Every time I see styrofoam in our parks, in our streams, in our mountains, in our ocean, I am very disturbed knowing that this will not disappear, it will only accumulate- leaching chemicals into our soils and waters, harming wildlife when ingested or entangled, and creating a trashy appearance of our home.

I feel that banning styrofoam is the least we can do, and that it will be a small but necessary step in the right direction. In conclusion, I support this bill to ban styrofoam, thank you for your time, LG

lowen2 - Heather



From: Marc Moran <chiefstack@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 4:07 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support sb 2498

This isn't fair to the few marinelife we have left from our selfish acts of humanity. The least we can do is ban the one thing and try and save what we have left this is truly heartbreaking .

Sent from my iPhone

lowen2 - Heather

From: zerodestruction1 <zerodestruction1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:39 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT SB2498 !

Please support the Styrofoam ban! It is critical to save our environment & our wildlife! Thank you Elizabeth Bullock

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Amelia Wu <wuamelia@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 4:03 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

Members of Hawaiian Legislature,

I urge you to please support the ban of styrofoam products to help the fight of extinction for the Hawaiian monk seal as well as other species who may be affected by this particular material of trash. Even though it's one species, to me it represents our future as a human race. Our future on this beautiful planet that we as humans are quickly destroying. If we choose not to protect the health of the ocean, we choose not to protect our own health and future. Please seriously consider banning styrofoam and take one simple step in a better direction for our oceans!

Sincerely,

Amelia Wu

Sent from my iPhone

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Satvika Vyas <pareevyas@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 1:20 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

Hawaii should ban styrofoam ASAP.

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Anali Villanueva <analivillanueva08@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:24 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT SB 2498

I support banning polystyrene foam! We need to make a change if it is hurting our environment and endangering our animals!

LATE

lowen2 - Heather

From: Vanessa Valdivia <vanessavaldivia456@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:02 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

As we all know all plastic debris does not just biodegrade meaning this object can affect the organisms of the marine life and coastal health. Styrofoam can end up polluting oceans and beaches. As well as our health it has a huge impact on our environment.

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Diego Torres-Siclait <dtorres2@umbc.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 3:59 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

Replacing polystyrene with biodegradable materials and incentivizing the design, manufacturing, and industry of economically cheaper, biodegradable materials is the first step towards conserving our environment and reducing infrastructure and waste management costs

LATE

lowen2 - Heather

From: Erica Taniguchi <anuheamiti@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:34 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: Support for SB 2498

Aloha, I would just like to state my ohana's strong support for this bill banning styrofoam in Hawaii. Garbage is a huge issue here, on land, our beaches and the ocean. We should be doing everything possible to address this issue and change the products we choose to use. Thank you, Erica Taniguchi and ohana, Kauai

LATE

lowen2 - Heather

From: Shantanu Bhatnagar <shantanubhatnagar20@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 1:24 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: BANNING STYROFOAM

Hawaii should ban styrofoam ASAP.

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Clara Seinen <clara.seinen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:23 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Valeria Sanchez <vallella5@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 3:23 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2490

Please!!!! Support banning polystyrene foam!!!!!!
Sent from my iPhone

From: Haley Rose Harelson <haleyharelson@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:50 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

To Whom it May Concern,

Hawaiian monk seals make up a critical part of the island's coastlines and have inhabited the shores long before we built on them. With only 1,400 monk seals left, the species approaches total extinction within the next decade. Why do their numbers keep dropping? The answer is simple: trash and human-related pollution plaguing their native beaches. I'm emailing legislators right now because SB 2498 has the power to stabilize the population of this species and not only improve the health of the beaches, but the social equity of those who live around that area. With styrofoam being one of the main pollutants threatening monk seals, a ban on the material in Hawaii will foster environmental growth and ultimately save monk seals. I urge you to take action through this legislation because the problem is extremely time sensitive and once monk seals are gone, they will never come back. Advocate for Hawaii's beautiful wildlife and you will be rewarded with a thriving island for years to come.

Thank you,
Haley Harelson

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Serena Raymond <serenasraymond@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:27 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: Ban styrofoam in Hawaii

Hawaii is beautiful. Please ban styrofoam. Save the wildlife.

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Anirudh Ramesh <anirudhrameshshanthi6@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 4:25 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

Its time to save the hawaiian monk seals. BAN polystyrene foam!

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: chloe prior <chloenprior@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:00 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

Hawaii should ban styrofoam for the health of ocean animals and the planet as a whole.

lowen2 - Heather

From: G. Orengo <gabrielaorengo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 3:59 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT SB 2498

Legislators:

Trough this email I'm saying to you all that I SUPPORT BANNING POLYESTEREN FOAM to save our monks!

Thanks,
Gabriela

--

Orengo - Padua Gabriela
Animal Sciences & Pre Veterinary Undergraduate student
University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez
Contact: gabriela.orengo@upr.edu

--

Orengo - Padua Gabriela
Animal Sciences & Pre Veterinary Undergraduate student
University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez
Contact: gabriela.orengo@upr.edu

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Orengo - Padua Gabriela
Animal Sciences & Pre Veterinary Undergraduate student
University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez
Contact: gabriela.orengo@upr.edu

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: kira moore <kiramoore333@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:58 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

We need to ban polystyrene foam it is killing our sea life!! And in general all single use plastics !!!!!

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Makenna Millott <iskoteini@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 4:41 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: Support for SB 2498

Polystyrene foam (or styrofoam) is a brutal polluter. It not only floats and is easily carried on the wind, but refuses to break down, and is completely unnecessary. Its use is based around packaging and transport, when there are far better alternatives (paper and paper alternatives, for example). The banning of it would help to prevent its presence in our environment, protecting our waters and wildlife. If you wouldn't want to live surrounded by plastic, then don't make our wildlife, especially when they can't do anything about it.

Please, take the step to take it out of our environment, and remove one danger to our animals

Thank you

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Erin McNally <erinmc13@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 4:35 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kiara Mahon <kiara.mahon@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 3:30 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

Protect your wildlife and please ban polystyrene foam! Not a single one of those animals deserves to be affected by such extreme pollution. Styrofoam breaks down very slowly and threatens the already endangered monk seals and other wildlife as well.

If you don't want to protect the animals out of sheer good will and wholeheartedness, then maybe this will change your mind. Every animal plays a vital role in the environment. In this case monk seals control prey populations within your community. They are apex predators and are vital in maintaining a healthy ecosystem, so if you won't do it for the animals, do it for your home, because without those seals more problems will arise and more species will go extinct or become endangered. Hawaii is already known as the "extinction capital of the world" and as long as the native monk seals are dying, a part of your culture is as well.

There are only 1,400 monk seals alive today. Don't let them meet the same fate as the rest of their species did.

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Kiingsonizzl <sonalimoodliar@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 1:46 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

I think we should ban Styrofoam because as you can see that it is highly affecting our marine life animals. Soon these animals may go extinct and at the end of that it will affect us. Save these animals and save our oceans. The amount of trash that is thrown into our oceans is killing species one by one and we aren't even noticing. BAN STYROFOAM NOW TO PROTECT OUR ANIMALS.

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: allison keith <aekeith1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 3:23 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: In Support of SB2498

I support the ban of styrofoam. We have other environmentally friendly options available. There is absolutely no reason to continue the use of styrofoam and other harmful products that do not decompose. Our oceans and beaches are littered with all types of human debris. Innocent animals are being killed and on the brink of extinction because of our trash. We need to be good stewards and protect our planet. I believe a ban on styrofoam is a great start. It is such an achievable goal and will make an enormous difference to wildlife and their environment!

Thank you,
Allison Keith

LATE

lowen2 - Heather

From: J. Kainalu <kainalu007@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:55 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

Please ban polystyrene foam products immediately.

Your positive improvement of banning single use plastic was a failure - they made the plastic bags 3 times as thick! Come on Hawaii, we're not a third world, let's protect the remaining resources we have for everyone, the unique and endangered flora and fauna of Hawaii!

Please get your priorities straight, as an educator the lack of resource management and simple basic needs such as smooth safe roads and basic infrastructure is embarrassing. How do I explain to my students that there aren't enough resources or management skill to save whales, dolphins, turtles, fish, and people from our own trash?? It's not that hard, fix it!

From: juan oliphant <juansharks@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:32 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: In Support of SB2498

Foamed polystyrene cannot be recycled and accumulates in our landfills, oceans, and beaches. Our marine life ingest it and it blocks their digestion, causing them to starve. Marine debris in Hawaiian cetaceans continues to amplify strandings, with polystyrene foam making up parts of huge masses in their stomachs that prevent them from absorbing nutrients and enflames their organs. Polystyrene floats, becomes part of larger debris in the ocean, and entangles marine life like sea turtles, sharks, and dolphins. The toxic chemicals in polystyrene leach into the food it contains, and can cause cancer, neurotoxicity, and endocrine disruption. Polystyrene is an environmental and human health hazard. Hundreds of cities and counties have banned polystyrene foam, including Maui, @cityofmalibu, San Francisco, and Big Island. Please help make Hawai'i the first STATE to be foam-free!

JUAN SHARKS

One Ocean Diving
Research-Education-Conservation
oneoceandiving@gmail.com
1-808-728-8614 (Call or Text)
1-808-722-0969 (text only)

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Ong Yuan Jing <yuanjingong@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 3:21 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

All I wish was that the future generations are still able to see the Hawaiian Monk Seal not in a book but in real life.

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Jenny Karkoska <jennykarkoska@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 1:29 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: SB 2498 SUPPORT

Please ban strofoam! It kills wildlife! Once animals are gone, why would anyone bother to visit Hawaii?

Jennifer Karkoska

LATE

lowen2 - Heather

From: Cheyanne Jackson <cheyannejackson612@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 3:00 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

1. Our ocean is in serious danger
2. It is caused by human TRASH
3. our wildlife is dying
4. it will eventually affect people
5. the government needs to realize this is a serious problem
6. the government needs to do what they can to fix the problem
7. starting with a ban on styrofoam
8. I want to be able to share ocean life with my children and not have to tell them stories of what once was

Thank you kindly,

Cheyanne Jackson

LATE

lowen2 - Heather

From: Hanna Ibrahim <hannamibrahim@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 5:57 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

To whom it may concern,

I support the banning of polystyrene foam in Hawaii because our oceans need us to take action! There is so much human trash in the oceans that may look like food to many animals and when ingested causes them to become ill or have high toxin levels. Which then leads to an abundance of issues for the ocean and ultimately the environment.

The ban of polystyrene foam in Hawaii will immensely help this issue because styrofoam is one of the worst single use items humans have made. Styrofoam can never decompose and when it breaks into little pieces can look like fish to animals. Not only will banning polystyrene foam help our oceans it will also reduce the trash seen on the beach. Hawaii is a huge travel destination and tourist have in their minds white sandy beaches but come to find beaches filled with trash! Which could hurt tourism to Hawaii. I urge the Hawaiian government to finally ban polystyrene foam for our oceans and hopefully encourage the same to be done in other states.

Thank you,
Hanna I.

From: Conor Hinchcliffe <osuae8@bangor.ac.uk>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 9:46 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

To whom it may concern,

I believe that a ban on polystyrene foam in the state of Hawaii would have a huge impact on decreasing the deaths caused by human refuse such as polystyrene packaging and other plastics in our marine ecosystems. These waste plastics kill thousands of marine mammals, birds and fish everyday and you have the power to put a stop to this. I urge you to use that power.

Yours sincerely, Conor Hinchcliffe

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Gall y neges e-bost hon, ac unrhyw atodiadau a anfonwyd gyda hi, gynnwys deunydd cyfrinachol ac wedi eu bwriadu i'w defnyddio'n unig gan y sawl y cawsant eu cyfeirio ato (atynt). Os ydych wedi derbyn y neges e-bost hon trwy gamgymeriad, rhowch wybod i'r anfonwr ar unwaith a dilewch y neges. Os na fwriadwyd anfon y neges atoch chi, rhaid i chi beidio a defnyddio, cadw neu ddatgelu unrhyw wybodaeth a gynhwysir ynddi. Mae unrhyw farn neu safbwynt yn eiddo i'r sawl a'i hanfonodd yn unig ac nid yw o anghenraid yn cynrychioli barn Prifysgol Bangor. Nid yw Prifysgol Bangor yn gwarantu bod y neges e-bost hon neu unrhyw atodiadau yn rhydd rhag firysau neu 100% yn ddiogel. Oni bai fod hyn wedi ei ddatgan yn uniongyrchol yn nhestun yr e-bost, nid bwriad y neges e-bost hon yw ffurfio contract rhwymol - mae rhestr o lofnodwyr awdurdodedig ar gael o Swyddfa Cyllid Prifysgol Bangor.

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lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Tiffany Gurr <tiffanygurr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:29 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: In Support of SB2498

To whom it may concern,

I may be a little late turning this testimony in but I hope it's read. I hope Hawaii will ban styrofoam. It's made of plastic & is non biodegradable, imagine how much harm it's done to the environment already, the ocean is literally drowning in plastic. It's not just the ocean too, think about the awful effects it can have on us humans due to the styrene ingredient styrofoam has..it can cause skin, eye, upper respiratory infection, major exposure can lead to more than what it can do to on the surface, the ingredients in styrofoam can lead to weakness, being fatigue & depression which all is a big issue in Hawaii already. Please consider this ban, it'll make a difference in the environment.

Thank you,
Tiffany Gurr

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Corey Buck <corey_buck@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:32 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

For the safety of our waters and protection of wildlife from unnecessary materials.

Thanks

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Limit Break <limitbreakcole@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:32 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: "In Support of SB2498"

To whom it may concern,

I am In Support of SB2498

Sent from my iPhone

lowen2 - Heather

From: Adison <riceadison@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 10:23 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

Styrofoam is very dangerous to marine life. As a scuba instructor I have witnessed first hand the effects that it can have on underwater organisms.

Adison rice

Sent from my iPhone

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:14:46 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robi Campbell | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

Hope this finds you all well.

My name is Robi Campbell and I have been an avid beach cleaner on Maui for 6+ years. I have also been the beach clean up coordinator for Surfrider Foundation for 3 1/2 of those years. I have cleaned almost every beach on this island and I always find reminisce of polystyrene food containers.

This past year I have done many clean ups at Ka'ehu beach. For 3 hours I dug through rocks and driftwood. Every time I moved a branch or a rock a piece of polystyrene blew in the winds. I filled half a 50lb grain sack with little bits of polystyrene pieces. The streams over there have a thin layer of polystyrene laying on the top. It is impossible to get it all up. These reminisce of lunches long ago are going out to sea for the fish to eat. For us to eat. This problem is not just litter, it is a health crisis that no one seems to care about.

It is past time we stop the flow of this killer. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill. Not just for the environment but for the community. Mahalo for you time.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:38:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am testifying to support this bill. It is extremely important to get this bill pass in order to start a revolution. Don't you want Hawaii to set the standard high and start the revolution AGAINST marine debris. Expanded polystyrene foam (EPS), (commonly known as Styrofoam) is pervasive in the marine environment. Like most plastics, polystyrene is lightweight and floats. When littered, it is carried from streets and through storm drains out to the ocean. Plastics, including EPS, photodegrade. That is, they break down into smaller and smaller pieces and marine animals easily mistake polystyrene for food. So please support this bill and BAN this foam from contributing to pollution in our streets, beaches and oceans.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:39:08 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:43:33 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Harvy King | HIGH CROWN CONSULTING | Support | Yes |

Comments:

To: State of Hawaii House of Representatives

From: Harvy King; High Crown Consulting

Subject: Statement of Support SB4298

I am Harvy King, currently a resident of Kaneohe. As a Veteran of the US Navy, I recieved Environmental Protection certification. I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** this bill. I submitted testimony on this bill last year. Since then I have 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 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 on products made for babies, and later from almost all plastic container. BPA is an edocrine disruptor. BPA, Polycarbonate (PC), Epoxy resin (EPX), Polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and **Polystyrene** (a known **carcinogen** and **neurotoxin**) are being found everywhere in the world. **The health of the environment and Hawaii's citizens will be at greater risk if this bill doesn't pass.** 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 debris. His life's work has been studying debris 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. Professor Saido has even developed technology that is ready to solve the problem of marine debris washing onto coastlines around the world.

By eliminating styrofoam and converting to bio-compostable material Hawaii is creating a resource from its waste. This bill should be seen as an opportunity for Hawaii to apply a diverse energy technology specifically, anerobic digesters. Anearobic digestion is a renewable and alternative energy technology that directly addresses waste

management and food production through a closed loop system, which encourages “zero-waste” & “free-energy” communities. I think there may be a need to address the circumstances of industrial scale composting requirements versus small scale requirements in the Hawaii administrative rules and Honolulu ordinances. Please make the health of our planet and the sustainability of our society your highest priority.

Your work is greatly appreciated.

Thank You, Muchas Gracias, Mahalo Nui

Harvy

harvy@hawaii.edu

808-292-7405

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:58:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elaine Wyatt | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Strofoam is made out of polystyrene, a petroleum based product that lasts forever. Please don't let styrofoam fill our landfills and toxify the land and ocean.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:58:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Teddy Bermes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 9:17:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joel Saito | Wild Kids Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing testimony in support of SB2498 SD2 because I believe that our state and our community needs to make a committment to changing the way we think about waste. As an island community we need to think critically about our impact on not only the oceans as it relates to plastic and polystyrene waste but also on how we interact with land and natural resources. For me, this bill is a no brainer. If we can cut down on the amount of single use waste products, we can cut down on our trash output and can hopefully focus more on compostable containers and materials. I beleive it is possible for businesses to create systems in which they use alternative containers or they allow customers to bring their own containers. Sometimes change is not easy as we've seen throughout history and there is always pushback but I think this is a bill that we can all agree will be beneficial for Hawaii. I hope that businesses can make the transition away from polystyrene if this bill passes and still be sustainable and cost effective. In fact, I'll be more inclined to support businesses that find unique and alternative ways to cut down on their waste. It feels good to support a business that is conscious about their impact and I hope to see Hawaii make this transition. I'm in full support of this bill and hope to see Hawaii continue to be the progressive place that it has always been.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 9:27:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Scott Garris | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 11:06:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sittichat Sukpholtham | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 2:36:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mark Hixon | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As a professional marine biologist, I have witnessed the effects of plastic debris on sea life firsthand. Insidiously, as plastics break-down into smaller particles, they adhere to pollutants and are eaten by ever smaller ocean animals. Plastics last for decades to centuries before fully degrading. Eliminating disposable plastic containers from our landfills, streets, and beaches is a no-brainer. Please pass this bill. Mahalo.

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 3:26:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Durazzo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

The use of polystyrene and other petroleum products for disposable products is outrageous! The energy and chemicals used in the production and disposal of these products severely degrades the environment of Hawaii and our oceans. Suitable alternatives are available and are being used by many businesses and organizations here in Hawaii. However, the entrenched of habit and lobbying efforts by well-rounded interests outside Hawaii impede any effort to move towards a product that is less damaging to the earth our grandchildren will inherit. The State of Hawaii must take action to preserve the land and ocean. Pass SB2498!

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Leen Toz <leentozz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 8:10 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

Sent from my iPhone

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: riceer12 <riceer12@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 9:16 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB 2498

To Whom it May Concern,

I support SB 2498 and think Hawaii should ban Styrofoam to protect our animals. Especially the critically endangered who mistake it as a food source.

Thank you,

Erin Rice

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy Note 8.

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Kole Parker <koleparker@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 8:00 AM
To: EEPtestimony

I support SB 2498.

A harmless species of wildlife should not have to suffer the consequences of the use of materials that aren't environmentally friendly. There are many substitutes for styrofoam that aren't as dangerous towards wildlife that should be used and banning styrofoam would be a step in the right sores took for not only saving these seals but many other species as well.

From: Amelia Owenzz <ameliaowenzz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:58 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB2498

Styrofoam is non-biodegradable and appears to last forever. It's resistant to photolysis, or the breaking down of materials by photons originating from light. This, combined with the fact that Styrofoam floats, means that large amounts of polystyrene have accumulated along coastlines and waterways around the world. It is considered a main component of marine debris.

Styrofoam can be recycled, but the market for recycled Styrofoam is diminishing.

LATE

lowen2 - Heather

From: Liz Nebel <lizzynightworld@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 9:42 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I Support SB 2498

Please ban polystyrene foam! We can't keep polluting and killing our earth and its wildlife! Every little step counts! The animals need your help!

Sent from my iPhone

lowen2 - Heather

LATE

From: Yuriy Kovtun <y.v.kovtun@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 9:02 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: I support SB2498

I support the ban, because I want to stop the distriction of my planet!

In Hawaii you can do it, yet - don't miss the chance! In Russia any public initiatives doesn't work- be proud of what you have and use it for common wealth!

Yury



From: Katie <kevy66@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 8:11 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: Ban Styrofoam

I support SB 2498

Our ocean is by far one of the largest keys to running a smooth ecosystem. If we begin to pollute it then it only leads to extinction of animals, dead coral reefs, and causing damage to our lives as well. Every animal on this earth plays an important role in our ecosystem. It's very important that we make sure that endangered specials don't go extinct. Styrofoam is very dangerous our oceans and to many seals and other ocean creature. If we can ban it one state at a time then no matter what we are making progress. Let Hawaii show the world that you can live a clean life so we can preserve our wild life.

LATE

SB-2498-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 7:43:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Savannah Adler | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Savannah Adler and I am a resident, small business owner, and student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, here on Oahu, Hawaii. I was born in Lanikai and raised in Kailua and have seen the increase in plastics and Styrofoam waste in our oceans and on our shores, just in my lifetime. I have spent time abroad, internationally, and have seen how styrofoams, plastics, and other non-bio waste have polluted many regions of our world. The mounds of trash in Peru, Argentina, Brazil, India and parts of the USA have revealed to me personally about how immense this issue truly is. This has become a global issue which demands attention both globally and regionally. It is very sad to me that Hawaii, islands surrounded by the ocean, is not already in support of banning items like polystyrene foam containers, and other types of single use disposable items. Our corals are dying and people wonder, why? There are numerous journals published by scientists that explain that plastics are a main cause of coral disease.

"Plastic is only the latest in a litany of human-linked stressors that are imperiling coral reefs—the incubators of ocean biodiversity. And the synthetic substance is apparently driving up disease rates even in the types of reefs that have proved hardiest in the face of other forces. The new study shows that plastic must be taken into account when planning how to manage and protect reefs, and that many countries need to overhaul their waste management systems to keep plastic from getting into the ocean, several experts say."

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/where-plastic-goes-coral-disease-follows/>

With the amount of tourism in Hawaii, waste needs to be considered and reduced. We from the Hawaiian islands can stand at the forefront of this battle for the health of our coral reefs and be a proactive community that sets the standard globally. With so many tourists coming in and out of Hawaii, our position and advocacy from the islands can both educate and inspire not only our own residents, but global visitors as well. These visitors can take this message home creating a ripple effect. Tourism will be negatively impacted if our coral reefs degradate further and if our beaches continue to collect microplastics and other waste materials. If our coral and marine life continue to suffer, why would tourists want to come vacation here?

In this testimony I attached a photograph of what eating out at Waihole Poi Factory looks like. This was so shocking I had to record it. I ordered one plate lunch and one drink. They served these two items using 13 pieces of plastic, two of which were derived from polystyrene. They even wanted to give me a plastic bag, which I refused, but would have made it 14 pieces of non-biodegradable single use plastics. This restaurant stood out in particular because many people, including tourists, eat there every day. If they served 100 people in a day, just to throw out a number, that would equal 1400 pieces/100 customers. $1400 \times 7 = 9800$ pieces per week, $9800 \times 4 = 39,200$ per month, and $39,200 \times 12 = 470,400$ pieces per year. This is a conservative calculation that only represents this one little restaurant on Oahu. Imagine what the real number of single use non bio-waste is for our islands, then imagine what it is for the world. They have no options other than to-go containers at Waihole Poi Factory. They even asked if I was dining in, but this didn't mean less containers for my food. I was very upset and decided not to return unless they changed these habits. When I was leaving they asked me how everything was, I told them the food was good but I was very unhappy with the amount of containers and single use plastics that came with it. They explained that they want to become more eco and use different products. I was happy to hear this and look forward to their change over.

I am a strong supporter of this bill and hope to see it passed. Future generations depend on the actions we take today.



[](http://s1040.photobucket.com/user/Savannah_Adler/media/IMG_4458_zpsvm2nv7t4.jpg.html)