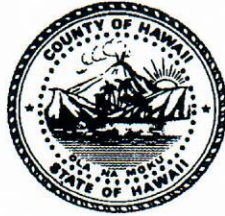


Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee



Phone: (808) 965-2712
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: eileen.ohara@hawaiicounty.gov

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

County of Hawaii
Hawaii County Council

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

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Senate

January 31, 2018

Re: In Support of Senate Bill 2498, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
To be heard by AEN on 02-01-18 2:30PM in conference room 016

Aloha Chair Gabbard 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,

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
Arthur Brun
Mason K. Chock
Arryl Kaneshiro
Derek S.K. Kawakami
JoAnn A. Yukimura



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

January 31, 2018

TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 2498, RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Thursday, February 1, 2018
2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2498, Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I strongly support the purpose of this measure to protect the State's economy and environment by prohibiting the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers statewide. Polystyrene foam products are the most common type of litter pollution throughout the islands of Hawaii, and because it is an ultralight product, it bypasses existing collection systems and accumulates in land and in waterways. Further, polystyrene foam is known to leach styrene, which is a known carcinogen, and other toxins that poison the environment and local food chain, as well as contributes to the potential death of marine animals and avian populations through ingestion.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

MASON K. CHOCK
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:ct



January 28, 2018

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

From: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

RE: SB 2498 – OPPOSE

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose SB 2498, 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, this legislation 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.

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

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



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.marinedebrisolutions.com>.

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

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

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



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

Experts agree that improving waste management is the key to addressing marine debris. Attempts to reduce marine debris through product bans fail to recognize the underlying source of marine debris in developed countries, litter. Thank you in advance for considering our views. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at Tim_Shestek@americanchemistry.com. 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.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment
Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 2:30pm.
Conference Room016, State Capitol**

RE: SENATE BILL 2498 RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

Executive Officers

Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Chair*
John Erickson, Meadow Gold Dairies, *Immediate Past Chair*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Vice Chair*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Secretary / Treasurer*
Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
John Shilf, Rainbow Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Barry Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

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

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Thursday, February 1, 2018
TIME: 2:30pm
PLACE: Conference Room 16

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.



February 1, 2018

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

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

RE: SB 2498; Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers; **In Support**
February 1, 2018; Conference Room 016

Kona Brewing Company offers our **support** of SB 2498, which prohibits the sale and use of 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 out of 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Rait". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mary Rait
Kona Brewing Company



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
February 1, 2018**

Re: SB 2498 RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS

Good afternoon Chairperson Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment. 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 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. By mandating the type of disposable food service containers, you would be forcing businesses to use alternative non-polystyrene containers that often cost more than the current polystyrene ones being used. 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 are not willing to pay for.

We should be looking at a coordinated comprehensive litter reduction program. 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.



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

Gregg Fraser, Executive Director **Sunny Obrey**, Executive Assistant **Holly Kessler**, Director of Membership Relations

2017 - 18 Board of Directors:

Amanda Kullman-Kipp
Don Murphy
Eki Locke
Elisa Flores
Eron Read
Frank Nagamine
Gary Manago
Harold Watanabe
Jayson Lum
Jed Roa
Jetsun Dutcher
Kahau Manzo
Kim Kakuchi
Mark Noguchi
Michael Skedeleski
Michelle Brumblay
Nick Roschi
Pat Kashani
Paul Yokota
Rede Eder
Scott Mackenzie
Slade Neeley
Taryn Silva
Tom Jones

Allied Members:

Anne Lee
Biff Graper
Conrad Nonaka
Doug Harris
James Baloalua
Jason Wong
Jim Cremins
Matt Rose
Naomi Azama
Sharon Shigemoto

Advisory Board

Derek Conselva
Gerda Tom
Jon Muranaka
Jonathan Youngs
Justin Yoshino
Kehau Giles
Keith Kamisugi
Lisa Tomihama
Neenz Faleafine
Pono Chang
Ray L'Heureux
Richard Turbin
Victor Lim

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

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Chair
Hawaii Restaurant Association

Subj: SB2498 Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers

Date: January 30, 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.





Senate AEN Hearing
Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018 – 2:30 pm
Room 016
SB 2498, Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers
Position: Oppose

Chair Gabbard and Members of Senate AEN 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.

SB2498 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.

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 SB2498, please consider the following:

- Studies conducted for Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) in January 2008 showed that banning polystyrene foam food take-out containers would dramatically increase environmental impacts by doubling the greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, and waste associated with the use of alternative products. (Source: **Herrera Environmental Consultants, "Alternatives to Disposable Shopping Bags and Food Service Items: Volume 1." Prepared for Seattle Public Utilities, 29 January 2008.**)
- Banning polystyrene foam containers will not decrease litter; it will only change the TYPE of material that is littered. For example, when San Francisco placed restrictions on the use of certain plastic foodservice products, the city found that alternatives became more littered. (Source: *"The City of San Francisco Streets Litter Re-Audit 2008," prepared for the City of San Francisco Environment Department, July 4, 2008.*)
- A ban that singles out food-grade EPS food containers does little to reduce litter or ocean debris harmful to marine life and the environment.

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





SB 2498
In Strong Support
Hearing Date: February 1st 2018
Committee on AEN

Aloha Members of the AEN Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cleanup Costs & Economic Benefits

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

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

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

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

Environmental Impact

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

³ www.unep.org/pdf/ValuingPlastic/

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

⁵ www.islandpulse.org

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

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

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

Human Health

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

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

Mahalo,

Rafael Bergstrom
Oahu Chapter Coordinator, The Surfrider Foundation

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



Jan. 30, 2018

Support for SB 2285: Relating to Plastic Straws

Committee: Agriculture & Environment (AEN)

Hearing: Feb. 1, 2018, 2:00pm, Rm. 016

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the AEN Committee,

As the Hawaii Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, I am writing in strong support of SB2285 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.

Polystyrene food containers are one of the most littered items in our Islands, and they are also one of the most toxic forms of plastic, and Hawaii has one of the highest per capita uses in the country. Opponents will say it's recyclable, but the fact is that less than 1% is ever recycled. They will also say that it's a "litter problem," but the plastics industry has been using this tactic and blaming the public for decades without producing products that are actually recyclable. An EPS foam ban was implemented in San Francisco, and there was a 30% decrease in EPS litter within one year (San Francisco Street Litter Re-Audit, 2008). Over 110 cities and counties across the country have enacted EPS foam bans with dramatic decreases in litter and savings to the county. For an extensive list see: <http://www.surfrider.org/pages/polystyrene-ordinances>.

Industry lobbyists will also say that banning polystyrene food containers will hurt small businesses, but there are many restaurants that have dropped these products and are doing just fine. In fact, the new Ocean Friendly Restaurants Hawaii program has certified more than 140 restaurants that are foam-free in the last 14 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 time. In fact, as part of International Coastal Cleanup Day last year, 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 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 available and affordable alternatives that are non-toxic, biodegradable and pose no threats to the environment or human health and will cost the counties less to clean up.

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

Aloha,

Stuart Coleman

Stuart H. Coleman, Hawaii Manager



SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 5:47:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii uses more polystyrene per capital than any other state. As a Honolulu resident, I strongly support a ban on polystyrene foam containers for four main reasons: human health, animal health, environment, and costs.

â—» Polystyrene leaches carcinogens and when burned emits toxic chemicals that can endanger human health.

â—» This light and brittle material blows into waterways and breaks down easily, endangering all kinds of marine life that think it is food.

â—» Polystyrene litter despoils the beautiful pristine environment on which our recreational economy depends.

â—» Finally, the costs of removal of polystyrene from storm sewers and waste streams is enormous. The additional cost of sustainable substitutes are insignificant compared to the above benefits. Please ban this plastic garbage!

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:56:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon		Support	No

Comments:

Please continue the good work we did on Hawai'i Island!

Ban polystyrene!!! Protect our keiki and sea life ʻōʻā

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:11:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2498. The Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly support this bill. A prohibition on the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers is long overdue and will immediately and permanently improve human and environmental health. Please pass SB2498 this year!

Mahalo,

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:01:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Milo Spindt	Kauai Paramedics Association	Support	No

Comments:

I support the ban on polystyrene. There are many alternatives that are economical and environmentally friendly.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS			MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President 23404	Guy Archer	Jan Lubin	Cameron Sato	P.O. Box
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Juliet Begley	Jenny Nomura	George Simson	Honolulu
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer	Gloria Borland	Stephen O'Harrow		Hawai'i 96823
Karin Gill, Secretary	Chuck Huxel	Doug Pyle		

January 29 , 2018

TO: Honorable Chair Gabbard and Members of Agriculture and Environment Committee

RE: SB 2498 RELATING TO POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS.

Support for hearing on Feb. 1

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 2498 as it would prohibit the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers statewide. One only needs to look at Wikipedia to find evidence in support of this bill: "Polystyrene is slow to [biodegrade](#) and is therefore a focus of controversy among environmentalists. It is increasingly abundant as a form of [litter](#) in the outdoor [environment](#), particularly along shores and waterways, especially in its foam form, and also in increasing quantities in the Pacific Ocean." Save our beaches and ocean; ban polystyrene foam.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:41:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I will keep this simple.... styrofoam bad, compostable and healthier alternatives good..... minor trade off for businesses - pass-through expense to consumer.....Helps state reach Hawaii Green Growth and the Aloha + Challenge goals..... It's the right solution to a problem we as a society created with our focus on single use convenience consumerism....

Zero Waste Kauai Strongly Supports SB2498.

Respectfully,

Pat Gegen

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:46:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalia	Kauai Lions Club	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kalia Boiser Gomes and for a long time I have been against styrofoam and what it can do to our environment. The sale and use of it is damaging to us, our ocean, our animals, and sea creatures if polluted or overheated. Often, this does seem to be the case. It is an item that either never breaks down or it takes a very long time to disintegrate. I learned about this in my biology science class at Kauai Community College. This wasn't the main subject of the class, but environmental sustainability was a matter that often came up. It's important for the continuation of life.

I am the Board of Director for the Kauai Lions Club and a member of the Surfrider Foundation. Therefore, I frequently participate in beach clean ups and roadside clean-ups. I believe if we were to eliminate the use and sale of styrofoam, then we would have a better chance of keeping our island greener. The products we use, most of the time, in one way or another, end up littered in our communities. If we can take away this harmful substances, then perhaps we're one step closer to showing better care for our beautiful ocean waters and everything that lives in it. People don't even realize how bad this substance is, but I do. Based on the knowledge of technology, the knowledge from my college course, and the knowledge gained from the Surfrider Foundation and the Kauai Lions Club, I've learned that this product is not good.

Let's do something about it, and take it out of the picture completely, or at least in Hawai'i. Let's show our people, and wild life that we care! We did it with plastic bags. Why not do it with this? It's what separates us from the other polluted places. We want our islands to stay beautiful, we want our islands to stay green, and we want our animals to live on with us.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will consider doing the right thing.

Mahalo,

Kalia

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:58:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GABRIELLE DAVIDSON		Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Styrofoam causes detrimental harm to our islands. Please ban it from Hawaii. Thank you.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 11:51:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judie Hoepner		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support a ban on styrofoam products.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:19:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bill parker	b-rad foundation	Support	No

Comments:

As a principal in the B-rad Foundation I have a good deal of experience cleaning up the beaches of Kauai. It is, along with mentoring children in environmental stewardship, what we do. I have seen the effects of careless disposal (littering) of polystyrene on the ocean surrounding us, it's inhabitants, and our beaches. I have seen the results of the marine debris that washes in daily and contains a good deal of polystyrene that simply breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces until it is impossible to do anything about it, yet it is still there, and will be for hundreds of years to come. It is high time that we ban this material throughout the Hawaiian Islands, it is easily replaced by many other biodegradable materials. The future is ours to protect, do the right thing.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:23:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:37:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert@bamboomoonvideo.com	Kauai Surfrider	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass SB Bill 2498 relating to polystyrene. Styro is a pollutant, does not break down and in most cases is used for 5-10 minutes and then tossed away. There are many new biodegradable alternatives with a close price point to standard styro.

I have been a part of many beach cleanups here on Kauai. We mostly find marine debris but the trash and litter we find always contains styro food containers.

Many food establishments here have voluntarily switched but many have not and a ban would help all the establishments to be styro free.

Thank you,

Robert Zelkovsky, DC

Kaua`i resident 43 years

Wailua Homesteads

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:20:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2498 to ban styrofoam containers. There are many more eco friendly alternatives that acutally biodegrade. Styrofoam provides a huge portion of the trash we find on beaches. This endangers our waters and the animals that live in it. Plus no tourist wants to swim with stryofoam. Keep Hawaii Clean!

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:56:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leah Laramee		Support	No

Comments:

POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS have been scientifically proven to have many negative impacts on health and the environment. As a small Island state who is already being impacted by climate change we need to do everything we can to keep our people and our home healthy. There are a number of decomposable, ecofriendly, cost effective options that can replace this outdated container. For these reasons I am in strong SUPPORT of this bill and urge you to pass the bill and make it into law. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2498

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

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lana Shea		Support	No

Comments:

Styrofoam is a POLLUTANT and lasts for 100's of Years! Most of the the time it is only used for a short 10 or 15 minutes then thrown away to last hundreds of years in a land fill, unless it breaks down and get into the sea! There are Many BIODEGRADABLE ALTERANTIVES that are cost effective! PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WE ALL NEED IT TO SURVIVE!

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:29:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Morgan Bonnet		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 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

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:33:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josh Owens	Department of Education	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, as an active and involved member of the community and ecosystem I fully support the ban on polystyrene foam. I have lived and worked Kauai for many years as well as in Indonesia/Bali, and Thailand and Vietnam. The oceans and coastlines there are almost unrecognizable; disgusting, unhealthy and deeply depressing. We are not far behind. Walk the high tide line on any of our beaches and you will see polystyrene and other plastic waste everywhere. The impact on animals and plants in and around the ocean is intensifying and we must act. The costs for the community and our people is negligible to unnoticeable and the public relations effect on tourism as well as health will only promote and protect our beautiful aina. We must lead the Pacific in environmental protections and progress. Please support the ban. We and our environment are running out of time.

Thank You,

Joshua Owens

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:40:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2498 which aims to ban the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers in Hawaii. They litter the landscape and enter our oceans. Polystyrene foam containers do not biodegrade. They breakup into smaller and smaller pieces and are ingested by animals and enter the food chain. We need go back to day of paper plates and wax paper which do biodegrade in the environment. We should not let the short term financial interests of Polystyrene vendors, restaurants, and food vendors to supercede the long terms interests of humans to a clean and safe environment. I strongly support a ban on the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers.



Progressive Democrats of Hawai‘i

<http://pd-hawaii.com>

PO Box 231 Honolulu HI 96809

email: info@pd-hawaii.com

January 30, 2018

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Re: SB 2498– Relating to Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Containers

Hearing: Thursday, February 1, 2018, 2:30 p.m. Room 016

Position: Strong Support

Progressive Democrats of Hawai‘i thank the Committee for this opportunity to testify on the critical issue of ridding the State of Hawaii of the ever-present and environmentally destructive clutter of polystyrene foam food containers. This bill would apply to all polystyrene containers, including but not limited to single-use “clamshell” containers.

Section One of this bill rightly points out that polystyrene is difficult to capture and collect; that it fragments easily and accumulates in massive quantities; that it is a known carcinogen; and that it is highly unsightly. Moreover, “Polystyrene foam also contributes to the potential death of marine animals and avian populations through ingestion.” There are plenty of cheap and readily available substitutes. Let’s go back to them!

We strongly support this bill. We trust that the Department of Health will take its duties under this bill seriously and establish and enforce its regulations strictly. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick, Co-Chair
Progressive Democrats of Hawai‘i
Burdick808@gmail.com / 808-486-1018

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:46:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
liliana akuna		Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB 2498. Styrofoam never ever goes away. It ends up in our oceans thus kills our ocean life. We eat the fish which means we are eating all that junk. There are multiple other brands restaurants can start using instead of styrofoam. Everyone needs to Malama and understand that plastic & strofam never goes away! We need to ban it from our precious state!

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:14:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
randy wolfshagen		Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii's economy and lifestyle are based on experiencing clean, beautiful tropical islands.

Our trash problem harms these.

Styrofoam is the worst type of trash. We have many options to replace it. It is the right thing to do for our kaamaaina and our visitors.

Do the right thing and stop the use of styrofoam.

Mahalo, Randy, Mirka, and Pueo Wolfshagen, Kekaha

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:15:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:16:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ischa Vingle	One Ocean	Support	No

Comments:

I am a Kauai local and a waterwoman. I am out on the ocean every single day and actively organize beach and ocean cleanups. Polystyrene foam is the most frustrating thing to come across as it is known for breaking into tiny unmanageable pieces that are extremely hard to contain and recover. You can see millions of these pieces floating together in the tidal lines. However it easily breaks down into the tiny pieces, those tiny pieces take thousands and thousand of years to break down. While they do they are leeching chemicals into our environment and being consumed by filter feeders and making their way into the food chain. The hawaiian islands are surrounded by big beautiful ocean and it has been part of the way of life since the beginning of time... it deserves to be respected and preserved. Now is the time to take our actions (and lack there of) into consideration. Our planet deserves better and our kiki deserve better. Anyone that is not in support of this bill is too focused on money and or the ease of styrofoam... but is time we move away from that thinking and start being conscious. Mahalos!!!

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:41:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

It is reckless and irresponsible to continue using styrofoam. It has a dramatically negative impact on the environment, particularly oceans. There are plenty of alternatives that can be used. The minor convenience you receive by using styrofoam does not justify the burden you place on your children and grandchildren.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:42:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
doorae shin	uh manoa	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Doorae Shin, and I am testifying in full support of this bill on behalf of the KÅ• kua Hawai'i Foundation, a non-profit founded by Kim & Jack Johnson to provide environmental education to Hawaii.

I first became aware of plastic pollution when I was a student at UH Manoa. I moved here 7 years ago, and I was humbled by my newfound connection to nature. But in my first years on the island, I noticed so much trash and plastic flying around and littered in the places I love, and Styrofoam was a big offender.

I organized a campaign at UH Manoa to ban polystyrene foam, and in April of 2013, the UH Manoa administration passed an official policy banning food vendors from using EPS foam. In the transition period where restaurants switched to alternatives, there was never a single complaint of economic hardship or dissatisfaction about the policy. All of UH's food establishments, ranging from small food trucks to larger businesses, made a smooth transition, and UH has been a foam-free campus for several years. A copy of the policy can be found here:

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

Now Maui & Hawaii counties both have passed versions of a foam ban, so we are well on our way already towards a foam-free Hawaii.

Global data from the Ocean Conservancy reveals that 9 out of the 10 top items found on our beaches are food and beverage related plastics (the only one that is not is cigarette butts), so reducing single-use plastics like foam from foodservice operations is the lowest hanging fruit to mitigate the plastic pollution crisis facing our oceans.

Our overconsumption of plastic is causing unnecessary harm to nature and wildlife, many of those animals being endangered, and this bill is such an important step in slowing these threats to animals and biodiversity in our oceans. Not to mention that the harmful chemicals in plastics accumulate up the food

chain, meaning that people eating fish & seafood receive concentrated doses of these chemicals in their bodies.

Above all, the use of styrofoam in foodservice is simply unnecessary and harmful. 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 less than 30 minutes that we know will last hundreds of years in the environment is irresponsible and irrational.

There are ever-increasing, affordable alternatives to foam that offer the same shapes, sizes, function & quality that foam does without any of the consequences. All major distributors of EPS foam in Hawaii already distribute eco-friendly and foam-free alternatives, so distributors would not lose any business, and can easily benefit from the transition.

And though we should be aware of a loss of a small number of jobs at KYD (local foam producer), we should be equally aware that these are hazardous jobs. In producing polystyrene foam products, KYD exposes their employees to harmful chemicals like styrene, which is categorized as an animal carcinogen and a suspected human carcinogen (National Institute of Health's 2011 Report on Carcinogens). Another National Institute of Health study found "An excess of spontaneous abortions ... in women whose work included the processing of polystyrene." These are just some of the warnings heeded by scientists that have studied these and many more health effects from exposure to styrene.

So any jobs 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, by instead producing and distributing disposable foodware made from plant materials, which supports local farmers on top of creating a healthier workplace for local employees.

Knowing that the use of polystyrene foam in restaurants is simply unnecessary and that alternatives are abundant and cost-competitive, I hope you support this bill so our local 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 polystyrene 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

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:48:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:29:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Dinner	Gentlewave Bodywork Referral Inc	Support	No

Comments:

There are now many low-cost, biodegradable options to styrofoam. It is time to stop the use of this substance that has no positive features and does so much damage.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:53:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB2498.

Follow Maui's example and ban polystyrene containers for good.

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:55:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebekah	Surfrider	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Rebekah Magers and I am a resident of Kapahi on Kaua`i. I am writing in full support of SB2498 to prohibit the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers statewide. Polystyrene foam is one of the most littered and least recycled forms of plastic.

I work as the Ocean Friendly Restaurants Coordinato on Kaua`i and I have come across many restaurants who use more environmentally safe cost effective alternatives. While it has proved to not be such a burden for the restaurant owners it is a tremendous burden to our island, animals and people. Hawaii State Department of Transportation (DOT) produced a trash plan that shows styrofoam and plastic bags as the top two contributors to the waste stream. Banning these wasteful single-use products could save the state millions of dollars. Banning this EPS foam that is never recycled will lessen the burden put our volunteers who spend thousands of hours statewide cleaning up our beaches and coastal zones. Banning this polystyrene that breaks up easily into small pieces will prevent more marine and wildlife from mistaking it as a form food. We need to be the change we want to see in this world.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:12:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christa McLeod	Kauai National Wildlife Refuge	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Respected Members of the Legislature,

I believe that for the health of the island, its wildlife and human residents that we must be proactive in banning or limiting the availability for polystyrene on these beautiful islands. We were progressive and have become a national leader in our banning of plastic bags and believe we are the right ones to lead the nation in this next movement. It will only positively affect our island health as well as our tourism industry. Consumers are ready and willing to absorb extra costs if it means the earth will benefit.

Please consider supporting this measure,

Warmest regards from Kauai`i,

Christa DeRaspe McLeod

Environmental Educator at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:17:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miles Greenberg	self	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii is way overdue in banning polystyrene. Please ban this noxious substance that degrades very slowly when there are better biodegradable options especially with our limited dumping sites.

Thank you

Miles Greenberg

6540 A Kahuna Rdi

Kapaa, HI 96746

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:20:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse Brown-Clay		Support	No

Comments:

My name is Jesse Brown-Clay and I have grew up in the mountains of Wailua on the island of Kauai. In school as a keiki, I was drawn to Hawaiian studies and always loved when they spoke and taught about the land and plants. I went on to work for Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps and went to university on the mainland to get my Bachelor of Science in Ecology. I have returned to Hawaii with the dream of contributing to this place and the community here. I am working hard on local sustainability issues with non-profit organizations and local governmental offices. My vision is to create realistic achievable goals that will help improve our waste and consumption patterns and policies. **Encouraging restaurants and businesses to stop using polystyrene and other single-use plastic packaging was my number one goal. Now, you have a major chance to save the islands from further polution and litter, and help protect the marine life and beauty of this place.** Please please please pass this bill and ban polystyrene from our home. **Thank you for all your hard work and service to our community.**

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:33:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JOHN HSU		Support	No

Comments:

i would like to support SB2498 and believe it will make a big defference in keeping our oceans and aina cleaner.



Environmental Caucus
of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

January 30, 2018

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Re: SB 2498 – Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers,
Hearing: Thursday, February 1, 2018, 2:30pm, Room 016

Position: SUPPORT

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports SB 2498 to prohibit the sale and use of polystyrene foam containers statewide. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

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, taking the lead to reduce human ecological impact.

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

Lana Rose Olson, Vice Chair
Environmental Caucus
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Lana.olson@gmail.com
808.639.8488

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:38:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arianna Feinberg		Support	No

Comments:

As a small business owner, lifelong Maui resident and active community member, I strongly support SB2498 to prohibit the sale and use of polystyrene containers. Polystyrene containers may be a bit cheaper BUT that price does not include the externalities taxpayers will deal with in the future including the damage this plastic does to the health of our marine life and cost of creating more landfills. Thank you for your consideration of the long term benefits to our islands of this ban.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:45:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this legislation.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:18:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Jowett	Hale Honu	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support the styrofoam ban bill. I constantly pickup plactic waste on the beaches of Kauai. We need to start eliminating the sources of this debris by banning its manufacture or use on the islands.

Thanks,

James Jowett

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:51:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I've seen first hand the destruction to our environment as a result of plastic and polystyrene waste strewn along our coastlines. Every time I visit the beach I can pick up more waste than I can carry out found littered on and around the shore. These single use products can persist in the environment for more than a million years, however, since polystyrene is not biodegradable. Styrofoam can also break into small pieces and choke animals that ingest it, clogging their digestive systems. Styrofoam and other plastics currently make up about 30% of the landfill volume in the United States. As a steward of the land, our state can foster the change required by switching to biodegradable alternatives, and even urging businesses to encourage reusable options to minimize the new waste introduced to the environment. Mahalo for supporting this important bill.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere,

Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment. My name is Jun Shin and I am 18 years old. I am a freshman at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and a board member at-large for Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawaii. I am writing this bill in support of SB2498 relating to polystyrene foam containers, which is due for a hearing on February 1st, 2018 at 2:30 PM and ask it to be advanced through the committee.

Here are the reasons why this issue has come to my attention and is very important to me:

- This cannot be disposed properly
- If thrown away, it gets clogged up
- Once clogged up, it hurts our natural resources like land and water
- It hurts our marine life

Please, protect our environment and save these resources, as well as their inhabitants so that future generations can enjoy and learn just as we get to do today.

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

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

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:25:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brooke friswold		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:22:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:05:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:48:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Nandoskar		Support	No

Comments:

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:35:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
L. Osterer		Support	No

Comments:

There is no good reason for continuing the use of styrofoam when non-toxic materials are available for the same use, including recyclable cardboard, waxed containers, and corn products. Styrofoam is often single use, creating a lot of trash that takes a long time to break down. There is no good way to dispose of it. Burning it creates more toxins. It kills birds and fish ingesting it. It can be found everywhere, in the soil, on beaches and floating in the ocean.

Please prevent further pollution of our precious Hawaii aina by supporting this ban now.

Thank you for your careful consideration,

L. Osterer, Koloa, Hawaii resident and registered voter.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:52:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Aaron Katzeman		Support	No

Comments:

For economic, public health, and environmental reasons--especially the protection of our ocean and atmosphere for the present day population, future generations, and countless species who are affected by our lack of regard to their own livelihood--please support and pass SB 2498 and place a ban on polystyrene foam in the state of Hawai'i.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:53:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Eisen		Support	No

Comments:

The evidence is clear that better and affordable alternatives are available that do not have the well-known adverse effects of polystyrene foam. Two counties in Hawaii have already successfully transitioned away from allowing foam. It's much preferable to implement such a ban on a state-wide basis, so let's get it on!

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:33:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
siena schaar	keiko conservation	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Bill SB2498 to ban polystyrene packaging in Hawaii. Through hosting marine and reef clean-up events all over O'ahu for the last 3 years, I have first-hand seen the detrimental effects of this man-made product. Polystyrene breaks up into micro plastic and is often mistaken as floating fish eggs or food for many marine inhabitants - upon being ingested, these microplastics not only bioaccumulate but they cause many animals to essentially starve to death. Banning polystyrene in Hawaii will be a huge step in the right direction towards being more environmentally conscious. I believe that it is our civil duty to protect Hawaii's living and non-living resources from the harmful effects of plastic pollutants.

Mahalo for your time,

Siena Schaar

Co-founder of Keiko Conservation



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

February 1, 2018 2:30PM Conference Room 016

In SUPPORT of SB 2498 Relating to polystyrene foam containers

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

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports SB 2498**, which seeks to regulate and reduce the use of polystyrene foam. The bill calls for a ban on businesses and individuals to distribute, sell, or provide polystyrene food containers to the general public.

Single-use plastics pollute our lands and freshwater bodies, clog up drainage systems, harm wildlife and ultimately end up in our ocean waters--settling on our reefs and, in some places, creating large plastic island gyres. The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, dedicated to exploring, enjoying, and protecting these unique and beautiful islands we call home, have engaged in decades-long efforts to protect public access to trails and beaches in addition to restoring hundreds of trails on public and private land. Part of our dedication to protect is to keep these valuable public areas free of pollution from plastics and other waste. In this case, we advocate for halting harmful plastic pollution at the source. This measure is one of many that support our collective efforts to reduce pollution across the board.

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 polystyrene food containers are not compostable or biodegradable, and can take up to 500 years to decompose. Polystyrene food containers, as well as other single use foam products, create an overabundance of waste that continually overflow local landfills, and overflow our beaches. There are alternatives for single use polystyrene food containers, including compostable and biodegradable options. By

reducing single use plastics at the source, like polystyrene food containers, Hawai'i will have the opportunity to take on one of the most toxic plastic pollutants, and showcase its state sustainability goals to the nation. 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 the local population.

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

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

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:14:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
leslie farnel	for forgotten felines	Support	No

Comments:

Please prohibit Styrofoam cups, boxes, coolers, peanuts except as needed in medical, scientific or other responsible uses

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

Nikos A. Leverenz
Committee on Agriculture & Environment
01 February 2018 -- 2:30PM
SB 2498 -- SUPPORT

Sen. Gabbard & Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Environment:

I am writing in support of SB 2498, which would ban the sale and use of polystyrene foam.

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.

Polystyrene foam is a petroleum-based product that does not readily degrade. As such, if and when it reaches the ocean it is likely to be ingested by marine life or join a floating island of garbage that is a vivid example of a wayward consumer culture and reckless waste mismanagement.

As a consumer who has become more mindful of the ecological implications of the production, packaging, and disposal of products over time, I appreciate the efforts of state and local policymakers who are vigilant about sustainability. I also consciously support businesses like World Centric and EarthChoice, which produce food service products that are less harmful to the environment.

As the City of Honolulu deliberates 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 operate to 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.

Sincerely,
Nikos A. Leverenz

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:44:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Yes

Comments:

Bill# SB2498

Hearing Date: 02/01/2018

Hearing Time: 02.30pm

Place: 016

Committee: AEN

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 2 years now. I am a graduate student in the Department of Oceanography at UH Manoa.

I decided to become foam free, because I feel this is, where I can start contributing a little to a more sustainable world. Plastic waste is something that can successfully be regulated on a local level and make a great difference. In my opinion, it is largely unnecessary to eat from styrofoam containers as there is more sustainable alternatives available.

First of all, the environmental impact of EPS is large: EPS is being designed to be used it once, and according to the US EPA less than 1% of foam is recycled nationally. 0% of EPS Foam is recycled locally. EPS Foam is composed of over 90% air, so even when properly disposed of, foam products easily fly out of trash bins and dumpsters, and they enter into the natural environment. Snorkeling or diving in the waters around Hawaii, I have frequently encountered styrofoam containers or parts of them.

EPS Foam also breaks apart more easily and quicker than other plastics, making it more difficult to clean up and easier for animals to mistake as food and ingest. During my degree I have worked on microplastic pollution, which presents a threat for marine life and ultimately us as we base our living on resources from the ocean. Once released into the marine environment, wave action, sun and wind break large plastic pieces into microplastics, which then are impossible to collect and small enough to be ingested by organisms at the bottom of the food web. As plastic surfaces readily adsorb heavy metals and other toxins, bioaccumulation and magnification are valid concerns.

Besides environmental impacts, the onetime use of styrofoam is costly: Plastic is costing cities, counties, states, & countries millions of dollars and our global economy billions. Costs are passed to the taxpayers by burdening our storm water management systems with the need for expensive best management practices and the costs of cleanups.

This is largely unnecessary as we have good alternatives: Compostable clamshell burns 1.76 times greater energy compared to one EPS Foam clamshell of the same size. And burning compostable products come without the toxic ash or smoke that EPS foam creates in the burning process. The material for fiber containers can be grown and then made here in Hawaii, so more jobs and sustainable ones can be created.

In conclusion, the use of styrofoam presents an unnecessary environmental threat, because there are good alternatives. In addition, styrofoam is costly for the consumer and bears potential health risks.

For these reasons, I strongly support the foam container ban. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely, Paula Moehlenkamp

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:52:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dwamato	UHM	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this foam ban. I am personally tired of seeing these items in our natural places and steet corners. Furthermore, having foam melt on to hot foods is gross and unhealthy. There are so many more affordable alternatives.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:55:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy Kennedy		Support	No

Comments:

Please! It's the responsible, pono thing to do.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 5:15:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nadean		Support	No

Comments:

This is just common sense... the island is surrounded by ocean. Styrofoam is horrible for the environment! Please ban styrofoam so it doesn't end up in our ocean!

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:20:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary James	individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:22:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Maitino		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am fully in support of this bill banning POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS. There are plenty of alternatives that are not toxic to our land, our oceans and streams. We need to keep our landfills from being filled with styrofoam which does not break down. And as humans we are consuming the toxins that leach out of the containers into our hot foods. Please support this bill.

Thank you,

Maria Maitino

Kilauea, Kauai

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:42:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Budzius		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:54:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kelsey adamson	Surfrider Foundation	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. Styrofoam may have served its purpose as a cheap and easy way to provide takeout containers and cups in the past, but its 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

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:56:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha my name is June Chee resident of Waikiki [REDACTED] and I strongly support this bill. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:59:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miki Wallace		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Miki Wallace and I live at [REDACTED]. I unequivocally support the ban on styrafoam. I participate in independent and organized beach clean ups through Surfrider & Save Our Surf. We see foam all the time littering the beaches, reefs and sea life, not top mention what ends up in the beelies of our marine life.

Please help protect our aina by eliminating the use of these oil based-non decomposing pollutants.

Mahalo,

Miki

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:00:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Carpenter	Palolo Resident	Support	No

Comments:

I regularly participate in beach cleanups and the amount of styrofoam I see on the beach is astounding. I understand that some feel that the cost is prohibitive yet I see more and more successful businesses choosing compostable/recyclable containers and making the right and responsible choice for our islands. Ban styrofoam. It's the only real choice.

SB 2498
Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers
In Strong Support

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 1st, 2018
Hearing Time: 2:30 PM
Room: Conference Room 016
Committee: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Gil Riviere,

my name is Natalie Wohner and I am a resident of Manoa. I am writing in full support of SB2498 to prohibit the use of polystyrene foam containers on all islands of the State of Hawai'i.

Being a year-long volunteer for the Surfrider Foundation I know that expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam containers are the least recycled form of plastic and the most littering items found at beach cleanups. Being a PhD student in Materials Science and Engineering, I know that EPS foam is also the most toxic food container according to numerous studies, especially when served with hot liquids. It is very shocking for me to see that so many people, including children at schools, still get their food served in EPS foam containers, not knowing how much they risk their health.

Most people indeed are not aware of the negative impact of EPS foam containers on health and the environment. Therefore it is our duty, yours and mine, to protect those who do not know and those who trust in the honorable decisions that are made by you to protect their health.

I am born and raised in Germany and when I moved to O'ahu six years ago, I could not believe how many people eat their food out of EPS foam containers producing tons of waste and damaging their health. Growing up in Europe and traveling to many countries, the US is by far the worst country regarding using single-use items such as EPS food containers or plastic bags and bottles. Maui and the Big Island are already foam free and so should the rest of the islands. It is only a question of time until EPS foam will get banned, but it will get banned eventually for the above well known reasons.

The sooner you will pass this bill, the sooner can the environment recover from its pollution and more people are being saved from harmful intake of toxic chemicals released from EPS foam containers. The islands and our health should be our highest priority and it is our role to protect it. I am very optimistic that the State of Hawai'i can play a leader role in protecting our environment from such health and environmental hazards by banning EPS foam food containers.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony and for your time.

Aloha nui loa,
Natalie Wohner

Contact: natalie.wohner@gmail.com

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:27:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
david sutton		Support	No

Comments:

STYRO IS A POLLUTANT, DOES NOT BREAK DOWN, FOR MOST USES IS USED FOR 5-10 MINUTES AND TOSSED.

THERE ARE MANY BIODEGRADABLE ALTERNATIVES THAT ARE COST EFFECTIVE.

SEVERAL MUNICIPALITIES HAVE ALREADY BANNED IT - WE CAN TOO!!!

Please Do It!!

SB-2498

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:41:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laura Ramirez		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2498

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 7:34:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2498

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 7:51:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca N. Williamson		Support	No

Comments:

I appreciate all the efforts from community and state, to maintain a clean and healthy environment where my baby girl can play and grow, knowing that both the land, and water, and the creatures that make them home, are well cared for. I believe prohibiting distribution of polystyrene foam, is a smart decision to ensure further progress. I was on Kealia beach just 2 days ago on January 30th and my friend picked up a little pile of foam eating containers that someone left on the beach. She tossed them in the rubbish. We're happy to help and hope to see more bills in a direction of sustainability, and in consideration for the best interest of the aina. Aloha