

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, January 31, 2019
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 717
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

House Bill 717 proposes to establish the Plastic Pollution Initiative Program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources to eliminate plastic waste polluting the State's environment; establish the Plastic Pollution Advisory Council to collect data on plastic pollution and associated cleanup costs, and appropriate funds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department recognizes the deleterious impacts of marine debris on wildlife and their habitats as a primary natural resource issue throughout the State. Marine debris degrade land and ocean based habitat through smothering and abrasion and impact a variety of wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial) through ingestion and entanglement. Hawai'i has the highest reported debris accumulations in the United States' Pacific Ocean Coastlines. The Department recently conducted a state-wide survey of marine debris accumulations spanning 1,000 miles of Hawai'i's coastline and detected over 20,000 individual pieces of marine debris, primarily composed of plastics. This was considered a vast under-estimate considering the study focused only on larger, easily identifiable debris items. Smaller microplastics are also prominent throughout Hawai'i's beaches. The study also highlighted the need for marine debris management in remote stretches of coastline, not easily accessed by clean-up groups.

Although a large amount of marine debris arrives from the ocean, it is all of our responsibility to reduce the amount of debris entering and re-entering our ocean and beaches. One of the major challenges we face in managing marine debris in Hawai'i, is the lack of a coordination among State, City and County, and Federal agencies in addition to clean-up groups and communities.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

House Bill 717's Plastic Pollution Initiative Program is a critical step in helping the Department address this issue by the establishment of an advisory council that can coordinate a state-wide marine debris management plan and fund-raise for the necessary appropriations to address this critical issue.

The Department recommends one change to the bill in that a "Plastic Pollution Initiative" is established rather than a "Plastic Pollution Initiative Program" with the responsibilities described in the bill. The wording of "Program" may lead to confusion with other Departmental programs, such as the Forestry Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 31, 2019 8:30AM Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **HB717**: Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB 717**, which aims to eliminate plastic waste polluting the State's environment by establishing the Plastic Pollution Initiative Program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources. This bill also establishes the Plastic Pollution Advisory Council and appropriates funds.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, dedicated to exploring, enjoying, and protecting these unique and beautiful islands we call home, have engaged in decades-long efforts to protect public access to trails and beaches in addition to restoring hundreds of trails on public and private land. Part of our dedication to protect is to keep these valuable public areas free of pollution from plastics and other waste. In this case, we advocate for halting harmful plastic pollution at the source. This measure is one of many that support our collective efforts to reduce pollution across the board.

Single-use plastics pollute our lands and freshwater bodies, clog up drainage systems, harm wildlife and ultimately end up in our ocean waters--settling on our reefs and, in some places, creating large plastic island gyres. Plastics, especially for single-use, cannot typically be recycled, and pose harm to marine life. The toxins and heavy chemicals found in them are not compostable or biodegradable, and can take 500 years or more to decompose. They create an overabundance of waste that continually overflows local landfills and overflows our beaches. By reducing single-use plastics at the source, Hawai'i will have the opportunity to take on one of the most toxic and widespread of pollutants, and showcase its state sustainability goals to the nation. This effort will also 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 very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 717**.

Mahalo,
Lori Mallini
Volunteer, Sierra Club of Hawai'i

January 30, 2019

To: The Honorable Nicole Lowen , Chair
Members, House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: Tim Shestek
American Chemistry Council

Re: **HB 717 – Comments**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 717, legislation that would create the plastic pollution initiative. ACC stands with the majority of scientists and policy makers who have found that effective marine litter solutions require an array of actions, including increased litter prevention, reducing, reusing and recycling, and other waste management infrastructure improvements.

Tackling marine debris is a complex challenge yet the plastics industry is actively engaged in efforts to respond. A landmark study published in Science Magazine identified developing countries in Asia that lack waste management as the source of the majority of plastic waste entering the oceans. By contrast the United States including Hawaii accounts for less than 1 percent of plastic marine debris.¹ Unfortunately, currents bring some of this unmanaged waste from Asia to Hawaii's shores. Thus, this is a global challenge that the plastic industry is working to address. Building on work in individual regions, trade associations representing both plastic resin makers and converters have come together to work with governments, NGOs, researchers and other stakeholders to prevent marine litter. Under the industry's "Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter" over 350 projects have been launched globally to prevent marine debris. Commitments have been made to:

- Contribute to solutions by working in public-private partnerships aimed at preventing marine debris;
- Work with the scientific community and researchers to better understand and evaluate the scope, origins and impact of and solutions to marine litter;
- Promote comprehensive science-based policies and enforcement of existing laws to prevent marine litter;
- Help spread knowledge regarding eco-efficient waste management systems and practices, particularly in communities and countries that border our oceans and watersheds;
- Enhance opportunities to recover plastic products for recycling and energy recovery; and
- Steward the transport and distribution of plastic resin pellets and products from supplier to customer to prevent product loss and encourage our customers to do the same.

Notably, earlier this month global companies in the plastic value chain, including many ACC members announced the creation of a new non-profit called the Alliance to End Plastic Waste. This new group is committing \$1.5 billion over five years to end plastic waste and will focus on providing help to the largest sources of plastic in our ocean.

In addition to Asia, we have basic waste management challenges in the US and Hawaii that need to be addressed. Just last year, ACC partnered with the City and County of Honolulu on a project to find and close off potential pathways for trash from land-based sources 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,

¹ Jambeck, J.R., Andrady, A., Geyer, R., Narayan, R., Perryman, M., Siegler, T., Wilcox, C., Lavender Law, K., (2015). Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean, Science, 347, p. 768-771

and most importantly, out of waterways and the ocean. As part of this effort, ACC provided new cans that are now installed. Further studies will be conducted to gauge the effectiveness of this intervention. More information about our activities to help reduce marine debris can be found at: <http://www.marinedebrissolutions.com>.

Generally speaking, ACC supports the intent behind HB 717. Nevertheless, we would like to offer some specific suggestions. The bill proposes to create the plastic pollution advisory council consisting of various stakeholders. ACC urges your committee to expand the makeup of the advisory council to include representatives of restaurants, the plastics manufacturing industry, plastic packaging producers, retailers, and the grocery product industry. Including representation of these sectors will help ensure the task force can draw upon an array of expertise and resources related to marine debris, recycling, litter prevention, packaging design and use, as well as potential impacts any public policy option might have on the broader business community.

ACC also urges you to be mindful of the potential unintended environmental impacts associated with any effort that focuses exclusively on plastic materials. While some may suggest that simply eliminating plastic materials will have a net benefit on the environment, this assumption is not supported by scientific fact. A 2016 study found that the environmental cost of using plastics in consumer goods and packaging is nearly four times less than it would be if plastics were replaced with alternative materials.² Strong, lightweight plastics help us do more with less material, which provides environmental benefits throughout the lifecycle of plastic products and packaging.

This type of information and background is essential for any effort that looks at potential public policy options for addressing marine debris. Thank you for the opportunity to share these comments. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or ACC's Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551.

² https://www.plasticpackagingfacts.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/ACC-report_July-2016_v4.pdf

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:19:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Inga Gibson	Pono Advocacy	Support	No

Comments:



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, January 31, 2019

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

RE: HB 717 Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha mai kakou Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 717 relating to Environmental Protection.**

HB 717 establishes the Plastic Pollution Initiative Program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources to eliminate plastic waste polluting the States environment. HB 717 establishes the Plastic Pollution Advisory Council to collect data on plastic pollution and associated cleanup costs. HB 717 appropriates funds for the Plastic Pollution Initiative Program.

The Democratic Party of Hawai`i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment are essential. DPH supports a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. DPH supports the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. DPH believes in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai`i.

DPH believes in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. DPH supports programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 17, ln. 4-16.*

DPH supports the protection of our `aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 17, ln. 18-21.*

For the foregoing reasons, OCCLP supports HB 717 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 5:21:50 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert brower	surfrider foundation kauai	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:47:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henry Curtis	Life of the Land	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please pass this bill to protect our `aina.

Mahalo

Henry Curtis

Executive Director

Life of the Land

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 10:03:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Juterbock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:52:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

GREAT!!

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:01:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 6:37:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shane Albritton	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

LATE

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:57:21 PM
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachael	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:01:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valentina Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:05:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cassandra Hull	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:05:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahi Pacarro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As the Founder of Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii I've seen the progress we've been able to make in the past 8 years regarding plastics in our environment and I can tell you honestly that IT'S NOT ENOUGH!! I can also say that the funding for our cleanup efforts is also a constant challenge. Considering the work that groups like SCH does helps to promote the paradise portrayed by our tourism industry, it's urgent that funding from the State should go to those doing the cleanup work. But let's be real, the cleanups will never stop until we stop the problem at the source. That is why I am for this bill which is both a measure aimed at proactive solutions while supporting the ongoing reactive responses needed till we can truly stop the flow of plastics into our ocean.

LATE

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:29:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandre Vaquer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an active member of Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii I've seen the progress we've been able to make in the past 8 years regarding plastics in our environment and I can tell you honestly that IT'S NOT ENOUGH!! I can also say that the funding for our cleanup efforts is also a constant challenge. Considering the work that groups like SCH does helps to promote the paradise portrayed by our tourism industry, it's urgent that funding from the State should go to those doing the cleanup work. But let's be real, the cleanups will never stop until we stop the problem at the source. That is why I am for this bill which is both a measure aimed at proactive solutions while supporting the ongoing reactive responses needed till we can truly stop the flow of plastics into our ocean.

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:22:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Van Gent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yesss I support this bill for a plan to eliminate our island's plastic waste problem! Please pass it to clean up our oceans!

HB-717

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:45:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ava Fedorov	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is crucial to do everything we can to protect our island and it's precjous resources.