



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB0850**  
**RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Hearing Date: January 31, 2019 Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown

2 **Department Testimony:** This measure proposes to restrict the use of polystyrene foam food  
3 packaging by food providers by adding a new chapter to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Title 19  
4 “Health.”

5 The Department of Health (Department) understands the urgency surrounding efforts to  
6 reduce the impact of polystyrene on the environment. However, the Department is in a difficult  
7 position as programs such as this do not fit neatly into any of our existing regulatory programs.  
8 Furthermore, our existing programs already operate under constrained resources.

9 Bans such as this which focus, at least in part, on litter are a logical fit for HRS  
10 Chapter 339 “Litter Control.” However, the program responsible for enforcing these provisions  
11 was eliminated in the late 1990s.

12 Regardless of its placement in statute, the Department would need additional funding and  
13 personnel to enforce the proposed program.

14 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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

**In consideration of  
House BILL 850  
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

House Bill 850 proposes to prohibit the sale of polystyrene foam food service containers and their use by food providers, provide for exemptions, impose penalties, and require reports to the Legislature. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the deleterious impacts of marine debris on wildlife and their habitats as a primary natural resource issue throughout the State. Hawai'i has the highest reported debris accumulations in the United States' Pacific Ocean Coastlines. 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.

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. House Bill 850 would help reduce the polystyrene debris load entering Hawaii's shorelines and contribute to the improved health of our wildlife and their habitats.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**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  
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TO:  
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
Representative Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 31, 2019  
TIME: 8:30am  
PLACE: Conference Room 325

RE: HB850

Position:

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 in opposition to this measure, as it is a mandate on businesses that will increase costs for consumers and provide no upside for the environment. Alternatives to polystyrene are often several times more expensive, do not break down in landfills, provide less energy when burned for fuel at HPOWER, and many have to be shipped from China to the mainland and then here, as opposed to polystyrene containers which are manufactured in Kalihi.**

**There is also a safety concern from less sturdy non-polystyrene container. Leaks from these types of containers may burn customers, leaving retailers liable when they are unable to supply suitable containers. Consumer demand and technology should determine product offerings.**

Protecting our natural environment is a goal we all share, but this bill will not address the root causes of things like marine debris and trash mismanagement. 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.

If passed this measure would threaten hundreds of jobs in Kalihi where locally produced, favorably priced, FDA approved polystyrene food containers are made. Passing this measure will ban a safe, locally created product and mandate the use of a product that is manufactured in China under less stringent environmental regulations, and then must be shipped thousands of miles to the mainland and then thousands more from the mainland to Hawaii. The carbon footprint of transporting the non-polystyrene containers outweighs any potential benefit from using them.

**There are very real concerns associated with the manufacturing of some of the alternatives to polystyrene packaging.** A Smithsonian Magazine article (2006) wrote that biodegradable alternatives have considerable drawbacks that haven't been publicized ... for example 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 runoff enters 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). **A 2006 Life Cycle Inventory study by Franklin and Associates showed that polystyrene, when compared to other food service containers, is very efficient in 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 types of containers are produced in China where labor and quality, in addition to environmental standards, are known to be well below the labor, quality, and environmental standards practiced here on Oahu in the manufacturing facility that produces polystyrene containers for use in our local food businesses.

**Extensive studies from the FDA, Health Canada and Environment Canada concluded that polystyrene 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."**

While polystyrene is a petroleum product, it is also a resource. Here on Oahu polystyrene is utilized by HPOWER to create electricity, and because of its high BTU it generates more power than other materials. It is also currently being recycled here in Kalihi on a small scale, and is becoming a major recyclable resource in schools on the Mainland. In fact, more than 57 million pounds of packaging were recycled in 2004. Also, in accordance with EPA priorities, polystyrene manufacturers have placed precedence on source reduction and reuse as well as recycling, locally here in Hawaii as well as nationally.

In general, food retailers operate at a profit margin of around one percent and small businesses, grocers and non-profits have comparably low or non-existent profit margins. With Hawaii's high prices, they struggle everyday to survive. **They use polystyrene products as a**

**primary means of dispensing food because polystyrene is cost effective and sanitary and its sturdiness protects customers from spills and burns. In addition to being FDA approved, polystyrene containers promote food safety and help to keep food fresh for longer periods of time by insulating and maintaining appropriate temperature.**

While we understand the environmental concerns, there is currently **no comparable, cost effective alternative available that provides the same level of durability, temperature regulation and overall efficacy as polystyrene.**

We believe it is unfair to require our local businesses to use packaging alternatives that cost two to three times more than polystyrene products. While the difference per container may not seem like a lot, retailers purchase these containers by the case and in that volume the increased cost is substantial. Even if businesses pass the entire cost of the new containers on to customers, which many don't want to do, they still only recoup the added expense one container at a time while they are out the cost of the cases they have on hand. The only ways to offset this proposed prohibition are to increase prices or to take a substantial financial loss, which can contribute to layoffs or closures and leaving people without jobs. It's also essential to keep in mind that what is being discussed is an increase in the price of food, which will negatively impact Hawaii families and individuals.

Please remember that the proposed ban will not be a negligible cost against a large company; rather it will hurt non-profits, school cafeterias, grocers, restaurants, small mom and pop establishments, local manufacturing jobs, and local families- all struggling with high food and living costs.

For all these reasons this bill is not the right choice and for these reasons we ask that this measure be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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

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To:      Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
          Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair  
          Members of Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From:    Victor Lim, Legislative Chair  
          Hawaii Restaurant Association

Subj:    HB 850 Prohibiting Polystyrene Foam Food Service Containers

Date:    January 28, 2019

We at the Hawaii Restaurant Association representing over 3,500 restaurants in Hawaii opposes HB 850 that prohibiting the use of polystyrene foam food service containers state wide.

The neighbor islands have already passed their rules to do just this but Honolulu has taken a different approach since all the household and restaurant waste ended up at the H Power to be burned for electricity.

A recent study done by the Honolulu City Auditor reports out that less than one percent of our total trash stream is currently made up of foam food containers. Foam is much cheaper than alternate products and for ethnic foods with heat and moisture, also performs better in holding the product, retaining heat and safer transporting. We also do not have any composting facilities here in Hawaii where everything ends up at the H Power. We are looking at substituting a very functional product with a much more expensive substitute. The final result will have the consumer paying more.

We do want to reduce litter and that's why we try to educate our employees and customers with our Mala Ma 808 campaign making sure litter is properly disposed of in the trash bins.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to share our views on this.





**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
 Jan 30, 2019, 11:20 am

House EEP Hearing  
 HB 850, Relating to Environmental Protection  
 Thursday, January 31, 2019 - 8:30 am  
 Position: Oppose

**LATE**

Chair Lowen and Members of the EEP Committee:

I am Dexter Yamada, President of KYD, Inc. dba: K. Yamada Distributors. KYD, Inc. is a local family run business that originated in the 1940's. Today, KYD, Inc and its sister company, Hawaii's Finest Products, LLC, manufacture packaging materials such as food-grade EPS (Expanded Polystyrene) food containers, and distribute a variety of packaging products, to include compostable containers.

As a kamaaina family business in Hawaii, we live here and care about our environment. We believe in stronger litter management programs that curtail land-based litter from migrating to waterways and the ocean. This means public education and consequences for proper disposal of litter and a call for civic responsibility.

We offer the following information for consideration as the Committee deliberates over HB 850:

- **PS foam food containers are no more harmful to fish and ocean wildlife than other manmade materials, and are no more likely than other materials to become marine debris**

Marine debris is any manmade material that enters the marine environment. None of it belongs in our oceans regardless of what kind of material it is made of - whether wood, metal, plastic, or paper. A recent Ocean Conservancy study listed the most common types of litter that are found along the world's coastlines, based on data gathered during three decades of international coastal clean-up efforts. Fishing gear, balloons and plastic bags were estimated to pose the greatest entanglement risk to seabirds, sea turtles and marine animals. Plastic bags and plastic utensils ranked as the greatest threats for ingestion.

NOAA (National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration) states that the 5 most common items found during the International Coastal Cleanup are cigarette butts, food wrappers, plastic beverage bottles, plastic bottle caps, and plastic straws and drink stirrers. Plastics can enter into the ocean through ineffective or improper waste management, intentional or accidental dumping and littering on shorelines or at sea, or through storm water runoff. (Trash Talk: Marine Debris and Plastics, NOAA, Sept. 17, 2015)

Locally, the composition of ocean debris appears to be similar to NOAA's list of most common items. Anecdotal testimony from a Big Island marine biologist said that 25-89% of the island's ocean debris is land-based, predominantly straws, wrappers, insulation, shipping containers, hot coffee cups, meat trays, and saimin containers. EPS foam containers were about 1% of the debris. Although large foam block packaging, ice chests and coolers are often found in coastal cleanups, they are usually excluded from ban bills.

- **Banning Food Grade PS Foam Containers Will Not Reduce Litter**

According to Steven Stein, an environmental scientist who studies litter, banning one material will not reduce the overall litter in waterways. "Food-service containers made of polystyrene are a minor component of litter and, because there is no reusable alternative, a ban simply will substitute other materials that also end up in our waterways." <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/opinion-la/la-ol-polystyrene-food-takeout-containers-ban-20170628-story.html>





On a local level, the Honolulu City Auditor’s Single-Use Polystyrene Food Containers and Plastic Bag Study also conclude that polystyrene bans are not effective in reducing litter, and such containers are a minor component of litter. Like Stein, the Honolulu City Auditor states that because there is no reusable alternative, a ban simply substitutes other containers that will likely be littered. Both Stein and the City Auditor cite the California State Water Resources Board in its NPDES application noted that a ban of PS foam food containers resulted in the substitution of other products that were discarded in the same manner.

Personal reusable food containers are not a takeout option due to FDA regulations that restrict food service businesses from accepting personal, reusable consumer takeout containers due to sanitary and health reasons. Food container replacement for polystyrene containers, whether it is paper, fiber or plastic, would likely be littered in the same fashion. [http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oca/oca\\_docs/PS\\_Ban\\_Study\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oca/oca_docs/PS_Ban_Study_Final_Report.pdf)

- **Replacing PS foam carries significant and unnecessary costs to small locally-owned restaurants and lower-income consumers**

As a local distributor of food packaging materials, polystyrene as well as alternative products, we find that polystyrene foodservice products are generally more economical to use than other disposable foodservice products and reusable food service items. The wholesale price of single-use polystyrene foodservice products is often approximately two to three times less than other single-use containers, and four to five times less than a comparable reusable foodservice item when the costs of equipment, labor, water, electricity, and detergent costs are included. This allows schools, hospitals and other institutions to make better use of their limited budgets. For example, local Hawaii pricing shows the average compostable 8 oz cup costs more than twice the average polystyrene cup. This means the razor thin profit margins under which restaurants operate will be cut even lower. This may well translate to rising costs to the consumer, our local citizens and the small business owners working all over the island.

The following is the City Auditor’s data about estimated costs to business owners which will more than likely increase cost to consumers.

**Exhibit 3.4 Monthly and Annual Cost Estimates for Non-Polystyrene Food Containers by Types of Restaurants**  
**Source: OmniTrak and Office of City Auditor**

| Type                                    | Monthly Cost Increase Estimate | Annual Cost Increase Estimate (Monthly x 12) |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Total:                                  | \$ 294.64                      | \$3,535.68                                   |
| Small Restaurant (1-10 employees)       | \$ 293.75                      | \$3,525.00                                   |
| Medium Restaurant (11-50 employees)     | \$222.72                       | \$2,672.64                                   |
| Large Restaurant (50 or more employees) | \$420.00                       | \$5,040.00                                   |

Rather than a statewide ban of EPS foam containers, we encourage discussion with the respective Counties, about solutions for managing land- based litter to prevent marine debris since the Counties are responsible for municipal solid waste management.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.





January 30, 2019

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

From: Tim Shestek, Senior Director  
State Affairs

RE: **Bill 850 - OPPOSE**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose Bill 850, which would ban the sale and use of polystyrene foodservice containers in Hawaii. ACC and its members certainly support efforts to reduce litter and marine debris; however, Bill 850 appears to be drafted under the false assumption that alternatives to polystyrene foodservice containers are environmentally preferable.

ACC membership includes the leading suppliers and manufacturers of plastics foodservice packaging products, including polystyrene food and beverage containers. Unfortunately, the proposed bill is based on many misperceptions about polystyrene foam foodservice products, including that it cannot be recycled and that alternative food service materials leave a lighter environmental footprint and can be easily recycled or composted.

Key questions ACC believes the Legislature should assess prior to imposing new mandates on Hawaii businesses include:

- Will this legislation actually reduce waste or rather simply result in replacing one type of trash with another?
- Are there environmental impacts (e.g. energy use, water use, impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, trash generation, landfill waste, etc.) associated with the manufacture, distribution, use and disposal of likely alternative replacement products?
- Are likely replacement products recycled or composted within the State's existing infrastructure and do viable, end use markets exist for these products?

#### **Impacts on Trash Generation/Disposal/Litter**

New policies and practices should ensure that no waste, plastic or otherwise, ends up having a negative impact on the environment. Bill 850 is misguided and likely to be ineffective based on data from completed litter studies. The bill fails to recognize that litter and improper waste management are independent of material type. In fact, a study recently completed by the Honolulu City Auditor found that a "simplistic ban on a single kind of litter or trash is unlikely to effectively reduce the overall amount of litter and its harm to the environment"<sup>1</sup>.

Litter studies conducted following the enactment of a ban have shown an increase in the litter of alternative materials that is greater than the decline in the banned material. For example, when the City of San Francisco placed restrictions on the use of certain plastic foodservice products, the City found that replacement products became more dominant in the litter stream<sup>2</sup>. For this reason the California Water board rejected the use of bans as a compliance mechanism for waterborne trash reduction<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oca/oca\\_docs/PS\\_Ban\\_Study\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oca/oca_docs/PS_Ban_Study_Final_Report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/MRP/02-2012/Comments/Dart/Staff\\_Exhibits.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/stormwater/MRP/02-2012/Comments/Dart/Staff_Exhibits.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/trash\\_control/docs/trash\\_sr\\_040715.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/trash_control/docs/trash_sr_040715.pdf)

## **Assessing Polystyrene Foam and Likely Replacement Products**

If alternatives are considered, the decision needs to be based on a full life cycle analysis. All packaging leaves an environmental footprint regardless of the material type. It takes energy and raw materials to produce, transport, and recover or dispose of any material. So it is important to measure all of these impacts throughout the entire lifecycle of a product. Consider the following:

- Polystyrene cups weigh anywhere from two to five times less than comparable paper packaging products which means fewer air emissions when transporting products<sup>4</sup>.
- A polystyrene hot beverage cup requires about 50% LESS energy to produce than a similar plastic-coated paperboard cup with a corrugated cup sleeve, and creates significantly fewer greenhouse gas emissions than a similar coated paper-based cup with its corrugated sleeve.
- Studies conducted for Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) showed that banning polystyrene foam food take-out containers would dramatically increase environmental impacts by doubling the greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, and waste associated with the use of alternative products<sup>5</sup>.

It is also important to note that compostable food service containers only “degrade” in a controlled composting environment – essentially a large industrial facility where temperatures can exceed 140 degrees for several days. Hawaii does not currently have a commercial composting facility to process compostable alternatives, so these products will end up in a landfill. Biodegradable containers do not degrade if littered alongside the road, deposited into a trash can, nor will they degrade if they make their way into a storm drain or other water body.

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

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

**Reality:** Nothing biodegrades in a landfill because nothing is supposed to<sup>6</sup>.

## **Cost Impacts**

Lastly, replacements for polystyrene products will likely result in higher operating costs for restaurants, caterers, delis, and the host of other food providers covered under HB 850. 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.

## **Efforts to Address Litter and Marine Debris**

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.

On January 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

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<sup>4</sup> Life Cycle Inventory of Foam Polystyrene, Paper-Based, and PLA Foodservice Products, prepared by Franklin Associates, a Division of ERG, February, 2011

<sup>5</sup> Alternative to Disposable Shopping Bags and Food Service Items Volume I, prepared for Seattle Public Utilities, January 2008, Herrera Environmental Consultants

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.bpiworld.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=190439>



Some of our recent activity also includes helping develop new and innovative recycling programs nationwide; promoting industry-wide practices to contain plastic pellets; partnering with governments and conservationists to encourage recycling and discourage litter; working to educate children on the link between litter and marine health; working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to advance scientific understanding of marine debris; and continuing to innovate and develop smaller, lighter packaging. More information about our activities to help reduce marine debris can be found at: <http://www.marinedebrissolutions.com>.

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

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

Experts agree that improving waste management is the key to addressing marine debris. Attempts to reduce marine debris through product bans fail to recognize the underlying source of marine debris in developed countries, litter. Thank you in advance for considering our views. If you have any questions or wish to discuss our proposed amendments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at [Tim\\_Shestek@americanchemistry.com](mailto:Tim_Shestek@americanchemistry.com). You may also contact ACC's Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551.





COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane

Rep. David A. Tarnas

Rep. Cynthia Thielen

Rep. Chris Todd

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, January 31, 2019

TIME: 8:30 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 325

**TESTIMONY OF THE OCEAN TOURISM COALITION IN SUPPORT OF HB850  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and Members of the EEP Committee:

My name is James E. Coon, President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition (OTC) speaking in support of HB850 Relating to the Environment.

The OTC represents over 300 Ocean Tourism Businesses across the State. We are an industry that promotes a clean and sustainable environment. We take pictures and leave only bubbles. Most of our companies have already made the necessary changes to their operations to eliminate Polystyrene Foam Food Containers.

There are viable biodegradable and reusable options readily available.

The reduction of Polystyrene Foam in our environment will have a positive impact on our oceans.

Please pass HB850 this is an easy but significant win for the environment.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President

Ocean Tourism Coalition



## **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 850 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 850 relating to Environmental Protection.**

HB 850 prohibits the sale of polystyrene foam food service containers and their use by food providers. HB 850 provides for exemptions, imposes penalties, and requires reports to the Legislature.

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, In. 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, In. 18-21.*

Single use polystyrene foam food service containers are contra to recycling and waste reduction.

For the foregoing reasons, OCCLP supports HB 850 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-850**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 12:50:54 PM

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

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

Comments:

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:00:07 PM

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

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

Comments:



**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:59:56 AM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:56:28 AM

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

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

Comments:

For reasons indicated in the preamble, expanded polystyrene foam is bad for the environment, especially marine life. Please pass this bill! Mahalo!

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:19:18 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shannon Crawford    | PLASTICS            | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:12:01 AM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carmelita Phillips  | KYD, Inc.           | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:



**LATE**

**HB850**  
**RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

January 31, 2019

8:30 a.m.

Room 335

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** HB850, which would ban the sale and use of polystyrene food containers and their use by food providers, and thereby reduce the impacts of polystyrene waste on our native wildlife, marine and coastal resources, and associated Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

Polystyrene has a well-established impact on native species of cultural significance, including endangered as well as subsistence resource species. An ubiquitous and dominant feature of the average consumer's food and retail experience, global production of polystyrene exceeds 300 million tons annually; approximately **50 percent** of that production is disposed indiscriminately into the environment, causing significant negative environmental impacts. In Hawaiian waters, the ingestion of discarded plastic debris including polystyrene by native seabirds, such as mōlī, as well as by endangered honu, is a well-documented phenomenon that may have highly injurious or even fatal consequences. Notably, such species hold special significance in Hawaiian culture and traditions: the cultural importance of seabirds includes their role in navigation, meteorology, craftwork, and in their spiritual symbolic significance; likewise, honu are also featured in numerous mo'olelo, hula, ki'i pōhaku, and other art forms, and were traditionally raised and harvested for food, medicinal, and other purposes. Polystyrene may also be ingested by other marine fauna, and its bioaccumulation through the food chain may adversely affect numerous other native and culturally significant marine species. **Therefore, reducing or eliminating the amount of disposable polystyrene containers used in Honolulu may help to mitigate the impact of plastics on the native and endangered marine species in our islands' waters.**

Notably, polystyrene plastics may also threaten the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian cultural and subsistence practices. The toxins contained in discarded polystyrene, including those found in polystyrene itself as well as toxins readily absorbed by polystyrene material, may bioaccumulate in the marine food chain, discouraging cultural and subsistence practitioners from the practice of gathering and consuming marine resources. The presence of polystyrene fragments and other microplastics in our nearshore waters may also discourage the traditional gathering and consumption of pa'akai and other non-living resources. In addition, the harm caused to endangered and native species may foreclose the future use of such species in Native Hawaiian traditional

and customary practices, which depend upon the availability of healthy and abundant resources. Finally, the presence of polystyrene and other plastics may compromise the cultural and spiritual integrity of the marine and coastal environment, upon which Native Hawaiian subsistence practices and ways of life are inextricably tied.<sup>1</sup> **Accordingly, reducing the use and inevitable disposal of polystyrene containers into our marine environment may also represent a small but important step towards the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture.**

Finally, while OHA understands and appreciates that economic concerns may be raised by some, OHA believes it may also be important to consider the economic benefits that would result from a ban on polystyrene foam containers. For example, a ban on polystyrene food containers, and the resulting reduction of plastic waste on our beaches and in our coastal waters, will only enhance visitor experience and thereby economic activity in the islands. The outward commitment by our government to prioritize and be responsive to the needs of Hawai'i's marine ecology would also be favorable to Hawai'i's image as an attractive visitor destination. A polystyrene container ban would further enhance the market for locally-produced, environmentally friendly alternatives to polystyrene containers, injecting life into nascent sectors of our local economy and encouraging local, environmentally-conscious entrepreneurship. Finally, the reduction of polystyrene's impacts on our marine and coastal environment, as well as on human health, may result in significant avoided economic costs associated with such impacts. OHA therefore urges the Committee to consider the significant economic benefits of a polystyrene ban in any weighing of the marginal increased costs of polystyrene-alternative food containers.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB850. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> In Native Hawaiian understanding the spatial bounds of 'āina and moana are viewed holistically and maintain powerful and epistemological connections to Hawaiian ancestry and resilience; in one salient example, hāko'ako'a, coral reefs, are prayed for and spoken of in the kumulipo, the Hawaiian creation chant.

**LATE**



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI  
PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
January 31, 2019**

**Re: HB 850 Relating to Environmental Protection**

Good morning Chairperson Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) as founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry 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 HB 850 Relating to Environmental Protection. We need to maintain a fair balance regarding food service containers. However, bans are not the simple answer. We need to maintain a fair balance regarding food service containers and look at a coordinated litter reduction programs.

Businesses respond to the wants of the customers that patronize their establishments all while 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.

A mere substitution of polystyrene type containers to another type will NOT result in reduced trash as more than likely the substitution product would be discarded in the same manner as the polystyrene. We need to be looking into a comprehensive litter reduction program that not only takes into account educating the public, but also looking for alternative solutions like public trash cans that are designed so that it will keep its content from flying out.

We also want to point out that the alternative products often creates more waste in volume and energy as well as increase air and water pollution – in the manufacturing of, in the transportation to the business.

We also question why we want to violate interstate commerce by banning the sale of prepackaged food that come in Styrofoam containers items like that of Cup of Noodle.

This is one more additional cost to the bottom line that many businesses may not be able to afford or where many customers may not be willing to pay for.

We urge you to hold this measure. Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 31, 2019 8:30AM Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **HB850**: Relating to Environmental Protection

**LATE**

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 850**, which seeks to prohibit the sale of and serving of prepared foods in polystyrene foam containers statewide.

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

Single-use plastics pollute our lands and freshwater bodies, clog up drainage systems, harm wildlife and ultimately end up in our ocean waters--settling on our reefs and, in some places, creating large plastic island gyres. Polystyrene food containers are intended for single use, cannot typically be recycled, and pose harm to marine life. The toxins and heavy chemicals found in them are not compostable or biodegradable--*taking 500 years or more to decompose*. Polystyrene food containers, as well as other single use foam products, create an overabundance of waste that continually overflow local landfills, overflow our beaches, and are not a source of clean energy when burned at H-Power. **There are alternatives for single use polystyrene food containers**, including compostable and biodegradable options. By reducing single use plastics like polystyrene food containers at the source, Hawai'i will have the opportunity to reduce and even eliminate one of the most toxic plastic pollutants, thereby showcasing its state sustainability goals to the nation and the world. Banning the distribution and selling of polystyrene food containers will enable Hawai'i to invest in the future aesthetics of the island, and more importantly the health and safety of marine life and local communities.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 850**.

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



**LATE**



**HB 850**  
**In Strong Support**  
**Hearing Date: January 30, 2019**  
**House Committee on EEP**

Aloha Chair Lowen and Members of the House EEP Committee

I am writing to you on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's Oahu Chapter, in strong support of HB 850, relating to the phasing out 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 175 hundred businesses around the State that illustrate that foam free is not only the right thing to do, but is an economically viable way to operate. Though the program is only a year old, the amount of restaurants demonstrating their ability to operate in this manner continues to not only grow, but be an incentive for customers to frequent the restaurants as our population understands more and more the destructive effects these types of plastics are having on our world.

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

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

#### Cleanup Costs & Economic Benefits

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

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

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

- CA taxpayers are paying \$428 million per year to clean up plastic through storm drain management, street sweeping, and cleanups.
- San Diego County (with population of 1.3 equivalent to Hawaii) spends \$14 million alone on plastic cleanup
- United Nations Environmental Program Global Estimates are in the billions for the global cost to cleanup plastics, \$14 billion for marine plastic alone.<sup>3</sup>
  - This cost is closer to \$78 billion annually if all costs are considered, including the cost lost in fossil fuel production and loss of resources.
- Burden on the public
  - According to cleanup hours recorded across Hawaii's beach cleaning organizations and volunteer hour base rates, we spent \$750,000 - \$1 million on beach cleanups in 2016 alone.

### Environmental Impact

- It is argued that styrofoam is acceptable because we can incinerate it for energy. However, this approach is not without significant impacts. According to the Hawaii DOH Clean Air Branch the Covanta H-POWER plant emits 0.15 million metric tons of carbon dioxide<sup>4</sup> (a potent greenhouse gas) annually. Although touted as a "clean energy solution" for Hawaii, H-POWER only generates about 3% of Oahu's energy needs<sup>5</sup> while still emitting greenhouse gases through burning plastic.
- Further, for each ton of polystyrene not produced, 2.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions are avoided. This directly supports Hawaii's greenhouse gas reduction goals as stated in the Aloha + Challenge and as mandated by the US EPA.<sup>6</sup>
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Reduction Model (WARM) report shows that burning polystyrene emits more carbon dioxide equivalent than other plastics. For each ton of polystyrene incinerated, 1.64 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent are emitted.
- If burned at HPower, one compostable clamshell burns 1.76 times greater energy compared to one EPS Foam clamshell of the same size. And burning compostable products comes without the toxic ash or smoke that EPS foam creates in the burning process.
- Fiber clamshells are also less than half the volume of EPS, so a restaurant could fit about twice as many clamshells on the same amount of shelf space or have more space for other things.

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

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

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

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

- The material for fiber containers can be grown and then made here in Hawaii, so more jobs and sustainable ones, not jobs that are exposing workers directly to large amounts of toxic chemicals. EPS can also be made here, but raw, toxic source chemicals need to be shipped to Hawaii.
- EPS is designed to be used once, and according to the US EPA less than 1% of foam is recycled nationally. 0% of EPS Foam is recycled locally.
- According to the EPA Waste Reduction Model Report, 7% of plastic waste generation in US is polystyrene. Of our total plastic recovery, polystyrene makes up 0.7% of recycled plastic

#### Human Health

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

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

Mahalo,

Rafael Bergstrom  
Oahu Chapter Coordinator, The Surfrider Foundation

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

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:40:48 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>     | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Milholen   | Kokua Hawaii Foundation | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:53:19 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b>  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| K Elizabeth Matthews | Surfrider Foundation | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Please consider our planet and the long term impact. We need to turn this ship before it is too late. An additional 1-10 cents per meal can be accomplished and there will be ways to make it easier. We live on an island and should protect much better than we do. We need to act. Please think of the reality for our children and their children if we do not make the necessary adjustments.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:46:30 PM

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

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

Comments:

As the Founder of Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii I've been working in the trenches where polystyrene collects. Good thing the trenches of Hawaii that I was working in were actually quite nice. Nonetheless, polystyrene is ubiquitous. A ban would minimize and hopefully eliminate the existence of the non-biodegradable material while also switching our reliance on a petroleum based substance to a renewable biodegradable alternative. An alternative that won't leach styrene into our food, won't persist in our environment, and at this point is now comparable in cost to polystyrene. It's been time to pass this bill for years and I encourage you to listen to the MAJORITY of your constituents.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:08:06 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>           | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cassandra Hull      | Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:



**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:44:21 PM

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

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>     | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christian Robbins   | Kokua Hawaii Foundation | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

So many other places around the world have been successful without styrofoam.  
Please kokua and do the right thing for our oceans. Mahalo

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:19:35 PM

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



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

Comments:

**HB 850**

**In Strong Support**

**Hearing Date: January 30, 2019**

**House Committee on EEP**

Aloha Members of the House EEP Committee and Chair Lowen,

I am writing in strong support of HB 850 which relates to the phasing out of polystyrene foam food containers in the State of Hawai'i. As a coral reef scientist and avid beach user in Hawaii, I have a deep understanding of the negative impacts of polystyrene foam on our environment. When visiting the beach, it is clear that 100% of the foam containers do not make it properly in to the waste stream. These containers break into small pieces that are then potently consumed by wildlife and litter the beach with waste. I have been an advocate of compostable food containers for 10 years and have spoken with many business owners in the food industry on Oahu. It is clear to me that customers don't want to be served on foam and business owners don't want to serve food on it. I am sure that most people would not mine a 25 cent surcharge built into the price of thier meal. In addition, serving hot food just of the fryer presents a health concern when the hot oil melts the foam into the food. This is just plain gross and unhealthy. I urge you to support this bill hand help the people of Hawaii move to a container option that is healthier for Hawaiiis people and environment. Mahalo nui –

Daniel Amato, PhD.

**LATE**

**HB 850**

Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers  
**In Strong Support**

Hearing Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019 , 8:30am  
Room: House conference room 325  
Committees: Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Dear Chair Lowen and members of the House EEP committee,

my name is Natalie Wohner, I am from Germany, and I moved to O'ahu more than 7 years ago, where I am now living in Manoa as a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in Materials Science and Engineering.

**I strongly support HB 850**, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers, and being part of a committee that protects the environment and our health, you should support this bill as well. Polystyrene food containers leaches toxic chemicals (styrene) into the food when served with liquids with an increasing contamination of the food when those liquids are hot, such as tea, coffee, soups, currys, or sauces. These are known and well studied facts but here in Hawai'i most take-out containers are still made of styrofoam, school cafeterias still serve our kids their lunch out of polystyrene food containers, risking their health simply because polystyrene is the cheapest choice. Polystyrene together with single-use plastics is one of the most littering materials on hawaiian beaches but cannot be recycled, so the only option we have in Hawai'i is to burn it. This results in greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide) and air polluting fumes such as styrene which is known to be carcinogenic to humans and animals.

The main argument that this bill has not passed in the past decade was usually that it would be a financial burden for the business owners that provide take-out containers. I agree, polystyrene is cheaper to buy (5 cents per 8" clamshell) compared to plant-based options (22 cents per 8" clamshell), but would you intoxicate your guest just to save 17 cents. There is always the option to pass this extra expense down to the consumer that needs a take-out container, and a lot of restaurants already do so. If you consider the millions of dollars that the state has to spent to clean up our beaches from styrofoam litter, then polystyrene food containers are more expensive in the long run. Once this bill has passed there will automatically be a higher demand for compostable food-containers and more demand leads to competition among the many distributors and therefore to a lower price per unit of paper containers.

Most people indeed are not aware of the negative impact that polystyrene foam containers have on health and the environment. Therefore it is our duty, yours and mine, to educate

and protect those who do not know about those facts and those who trust in the honorable decisions that are made by you to protect their health. It is simply not acceptable if a committee on consumer protection and health would not support this bill just to please businesses that knowingly use toxic food containers.

Maui and the Big Island are already foam free and so should the rest of the islands. The islands and our health should be our highest priority and it is our role to protect it. I am very optimistic that the State of Hawai`i can play a leader role in protecting our environment from such health and environmental hazards by doing little changes like banning EPS foam food containers.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to testify and mahalo for your time.

Aloha nui loa,  
Natalie Wohner

Contact: [natalie.wohner@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.wohner@gmail.com)

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:02:28 PM

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

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

Comments:

**HB 850**

Relating to Polystyrene Foam Containers

**In Strong Support**

Hearing Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019

Committee: [Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection](#)

Dear Chair Lowen and members of the House EEP committee,

I strongly support HB 850, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers on the Hawaiian islands. This material might be cheap and convenient for the users, but is everlasting and toxic for our planet and everyone's health. Polystyrene desintegrates until we are not able to even see it, never the less, our marine life eats it, eventually we do too. Is almost impossible to clean from the environment what has already been dumped, but we can stop this madness. Also, most comes from the turistic industry, why we have to deal with so much garbage. Is time to rise up our values and protect our resources. Enough we have with all the rest of the trash. Pleas please please! Be brave and act PONO, we need to change. Hawai'i can be a world leader in sustainability and green practices easy, as we are islands. Let's be great, there are so many options to the current use of polystyrene, sorry, abuse. I really wish you hear our future, our kids, our teachers, our kupuna, we all want to protect our islands. Aloha! Carla Gimpel, human.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:05:57 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen and members of the House EEP committee,

As an Hawaii Pacific University student, I am in support of HB 850, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers.

Studying a bachelor in environmental studies at HPU, I learned that polystyrene is one of the main objects found in the ocean and on the beach, and that it has important negative impacts on the ecosystem. Researches demonstrated that polystyrene foam is killing aquatic animals and adding to plastic pollution. Indeed, around 8 millions tons of polystyrene a year are said to end up in the ocean.

There are several eco-friendly alternatives to polystyrene food containers that would protect the environment without affecting the profit of restaurants.

Today, there is the need to act and prevent more polystyrene foam of killing our ecosystem. Hence, I am asking you today to support this bill, on the behalf of our planet and our future.

Mahalo,

Zucchini Elena

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:10:50 PM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen and members of the House EEP committee,

I am writing in support of HB 850, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers. These items end up in the ocean far too often. I see them on my beach walks. This negatively impacts the environment and marine animals.

I understand the concern for cost to the businesses but they will figure it out. It is best for our environment and for Hawai'i.

Thank you. Kathleen Elliott, PA-C, RN, Waialae Nui

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:16:31 PM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen and members of the House EEP committee,

I am writing in support of HB 850, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers. This is important to our environment. As a physician surfer, I support this bill. I see too much plastic and polystyrene waste in the ocean.

Please pass this bill.

Aloha, David R Jones, MD



**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:27:32 PM

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

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

Comments:

Please support the reduction of styrofoam in our environment by encouraging food providers to serve food/take away in environmentally friendly containers that are either reusable or biodegradable. It is minimally more expensive than styrofoam but can make a huge impact on our environment and oceans and beaches. We see so much styrofoam washed up on the beach...and when it breaks down so small, all our fish are eating this toxic substance which is causing the depletion/destruction of fish populations as well as their health and ultimately ours. Thank you!

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:29:18 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am in support of HB 850, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers.

I hate that even though I choose to boycott restaurants using them (as I don't want their toxic chemicals leaching into my leftovers), their toxic ash and smoke are still released into the air I breath, and I have no control over this!

I try to make smart, healthy choices for my lifestyle, yet this is not a choice I make myself and I suffer because others make the misguided choice to still use these containers.

I also hate the mis-information out there that guides people to make these misguided choices. There is one restaurant that even brags about using these products claiming they burn at the highest temp at HPower and therefore produce reusable energy we use in our homes. This couldn't be further from the truth. The hot "flash" burning temperature of EPS Foam means when it burns, it does not create as much energy as a compared to a compostable substitution. If burned at HPower, one compostable clamshell produces 1.76 times greater energy compared to one EPS Foam clamshell of the same size.

I also hate how it is NOT recyclable!

It does not biodegrade. It may break into small pieces, even minuscule pieces. But the smaller EPS gets, the harder it is to clean up. Then it ends up on our beaches and in the mouths and stomachs of our animals.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:32:38 PM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen and members of the House EEP committee,

I am in strong support of HB 850, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers. It is absolutely vital that the state of Hawaii ends the use of polystyrene food containers so that our children and all subsequent generations may enjoy Hawaii's oceans and beaches as we do. Also, so that fragile marine species may thrive in an ocean that is not polluted with polystyrene pieces which persist for an incalculable amount of time.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Laurel Perun

UH Manoa Undergraduate Student

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:44:20 PM

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

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:55:10 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>               | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Kimiko<br>LaHaela Walter | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:55:18 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support a total ban on polystyrene food containers. There are more than enough safe, biodegradable, ocean friendly alternatives. The impact of a ban to retailers and restaurants will be negligible but the impact on our marine environment will be felt forever.  
Please pass this bill!

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:58:38 PM

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

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

Comments:

My name is Marvin Heskett and I am a resident of Palolo. I am writing in full support of HB850 to prohibit the use of polystyrene foam containers by food vendors. Polystyrene foam is one of the most littered and least recycled forms of plastic.

As a life time advocate and participant in beach cleanups, it pains me to consider how many Styrofoam clamshells and plates, discarded by residents and tourists, intentional or by accident, that I've picked up off of our leeward coasts. We have become painfully aware of the marine debris issue the coastal globe is currently facing. What pains me worse than the knowledge of how many hundreds of items I've personally removed, is all of those that I, and other concerned members of our community, missed. Hawaii shamefully currently contributes significantly to the growing garbage patch of the north Pacific Gyre. One of our greatest exports to the gyre is the lightweight, flyaway Styrofoam single use containers. We're sacrificing the Ocean environment that we love so much for a few moments of added convenience. Hawaii State Department of Transportation (DOT) just produced a trash plan that shows Styrofoam and plastic bags as the top two contributors to the waste stream. The plan says that banning these wasteful single-use products could save the state millions of dollars.

Not only are we shamefully sending off unsightly rubbish, to our pristine life support system, but we are poisoning her inhabitants as we do. On a recent work trip to the northwest Hawaiian Islands, I bore personal witness to the remains of once grand albatross, withered with body cavities full of single use plastics, especially light small pieces of Styrofoam. The mangled corpses were not insignificant in numbers. They lay by the hundreds, dead or dying along the ground on these atolls, ironically suffering from starvation as their stomachs were filled with this mildly convenient artifice we use to feed ourselves from quickly and conveniently. Any person both privileged and cursed, to view this sight understands quickly why a global ban on these products is needed immediately. Hawaii, of all places, can understand and feel the pain this pollution is creating right here at home and needs to help lead the cause to eliminate them.

For producers of these plastics to blame the end users for the fate of the pollutants is no different than the same excuses the same petrochemical companies made for Agent Orange or PCBs. The people of this nation demanded change. We demanded a ban

on these chemicals for the knowledge of their inevitable fate was too much for any of us to bear. As we necessarily, demanded through federal law, to do away with these pollutants that were wreaking havoc on our health and the environment, we must too, ban the use of these acutely toxic killers of marine life.

I graciously ask you to consider the larger picture, to avoid being influenced by the very few who stand to gain by continuing to produce and sell these petrochemical products at the cost of our Ocean's health and support this bill. Future generations will surely thank you for having the courage to do so.

Mahalo nui loa,

Marvin Heskett



**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:59:30 PM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen and members of the House EEP committee,

I am an avid ocean recreational user and advocate. Polystyrene foam is detrimental to the health of the ocean. I support this bill for banning polystyrene foam on Oahu.

-Phil Schlieder

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:10:07 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT a statewide polystyrene ban. Our Maui County bill recently took effect and has been supported by a number of restaurants and businesses. A statewide bill is important and the obvious next step for Hawaii to take to protect our ocean, waves, beaches, environment, and communities from the negative impacts of single-use plastics.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:21:38 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:24:40 PM

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

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:25:22 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members,

I strongly support this bill as a key reform for environmental protection and sustainability. With other alternatives available, there is no reason for establishments to continue using polystyrene foam food service containers that do such harm to our planet. Please vote YES.

Mahalo,

Joey Brown, Kailua, HI

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:31:20 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:36:11 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB 850, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers for a variety of reasons. These containers leach chemical carcinogenic toxins into our food and drinks. These chemicals are also released into the air when burned at H-power and can be inhaled. Furthermore, EPS foam flash burns, meaning it does not create as much energy in H-power as compostable material alternatives of the same size. EPS foam does not biodegrade and only breaks up into smaller pieces that are harder to clean up and easier to pollute the environment and be ingested by marine life. This can kill sea life through choking, starvation, or chemical leaching. Polystyrene food containers cannot be recycled and are not designed to be used more than once. Thus, these containers are unsustainable and unreasonable. There are much better alternatives to polystyrene that are more ecologically friendly, economically feasible, and socially just. As a representative of the youth in Hawaii, I demand that our future and the health and well-being of the next generations be taken into consideration when decisions like these are being made. There is no reason for restaurants to continue to use such harmful materials when there are far better alternatives available. Mahalo for your time and consideration and I hope that you understand my strong support of this bill. Aloha.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:36:52 PM

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

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

Comments:



**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:53:43 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am in support of HB850, the statewide phase out of polystyrene food containers. These containers are damaging to the environment in many ways. Being non-biodegradable itself is a major issue and should be enough for a ban. This combined with the toxic emissions when burned, the documented tendency of sea life to ingest it to the creatures detriment and the general unsightliness of polystyrene trash in the streets, on the beaches, in the mountains and in the ocean supports plainly that this ban is necessary in the now. Thank you for reading my testimony, I hope I have made my position clear, please ban polystyrene food containers in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

John Fairbairn

1334 Hala Dr. #2

Honolulu, HI

96817

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:58:48 PM

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

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

Comments:

support HB 850, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers. I want foam banned because I want to avoid unnecessary toxins. Foam is entirely environmentally Unfriendly! It is not good for us, it is not good for animals that may mistakenly eat it and it is not good for our environment. Please BAN foam!!!! There are so many better options!!! Foam is outdated and unnecessary!! Thank you.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:01:06 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:02:26 PM

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

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

Comments:

Please do the right the thing and pass this bill to prevent the use of single use polystyrene. This should have been passed a long time ago.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:06:04 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB 850 and believe that by banning the use of polystyrene containers we will greatly reduce the amount of landfill and pollution in the ocean and impact on wildlife. Please do the right thing and move us forward !

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:06:34 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please stop poisoning our food by putting it in polystyrene.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:09:16 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:11:06 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:15:33 PM

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

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:16:25 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am in support of this bill to ban styrofoam because it's our kuleana to take care of our environment that we inhabit and protect the animals and wildlife living in it. Contributing to the plastic pollution problem when there are better alternatives is wrong and irresponsible.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:16:38 PM

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

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:20:51 PM

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

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

Comments:

This bill is based on a proven, working county ordinance. There is no reason to allow the continued use of polystyrene. Maui county has shown that the conversion to biodegradable materials does not present economic hardship. Hawaii's environment is its economy and a failure to address this will create economic hardship.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:27:32 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB 850 because the polystyrene containers do not biodegrade and I frequently find them when picking up litter in my neighborhood. I support HB 850 because polystyrene is made from petroleum and is full of dangerous chemicals that could be hurting our keiki.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:33:07 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:39:57 PM

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

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

Comments:

Not only is it known that polystyrene foam poses a threat to human health, especially when heated, which is most of the time it is being used for take-out food. Polystyrene foam is also a form of unbiodegradable plastic that is contributing to our plastic pollution that could end up in the ocean and threaten the health of our ocean and it's wildlife.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:44:51 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a outdoors enthusiast, I would love to see bill HB 850 passed. Not only is this measure long overdue on Oahu, it would drastically improve the environment and help protect it for future generations.



**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:48:55 PM

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

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

Comments:

This is an easy call, a no brainer. Let's get going on fixing what we've been doing wrong too long! Thank you!!

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:55:23 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Polystyrene is very harmful to us an our environment. I really hope we can pass this state wide and not just on Maui and big island. I was very upset this didn't pass last year. Please do our state a favor and get rid of these harmful products.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:00:31 PM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen and members of the House EEP committee,

I am in support of HB850, the statewide phase out of polystyrene (PS) food containers. Anyone living in Hawaii has seen the impact these containers have on our aina, and the blatantly visible impacts are only a small part. PS never breaks down completely, but it does break down into miniscule pieces that invade every part of our ecosystem, especially the sea life so crucial to and intertwined in Hawaii's culture. This bill represents a step in the right direction.

Malama aina.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:07:53 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support the banning of polystyrene food containers because they are making our island ugly! The clamshell food containers are so lightweight they often blow out of the trash can and end up on the beach and into our oceans. The white foam breaks into smaller pieces making it harder to pick up and easier for animals to eat. Just like plastic, polystyrene particles move up the food chain and eventually enter our bodies through our island's favorite protein source: fish! So polystyrene is not just bad for the environment, it is bad for our health! Polystyrene contains the toxic substances Styrene and Benzene, which are suspected carcinogens and neurotoxins, which means they are hazardous to humans!! Styrene is a petroleum byproduct that has been linked to cancer, vision and hearing loss, impaired memory and concentration, and nervous system effects. In addition, Oahu burns it's trash. So if polystyrene is toxic to the ocean, and the fish we eat, and our bodies, burning it surely means that we are polluting the air as well!

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:10:39 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB 850.

- EPS adds unwanted toxins to your food and drinks, which you then, unknowingly and never asking for it, ingest. They are made from synthetic chemicals that leach when they come into contact with hot, greasy, or acidic food.
- Those unwanted chemicals are released into the air we breath in the form of toxic ash or smoke when burned.
- It does not biodegrade. It may break into small pieces, even minuscule pieces. But the smaller EPS gets, the harder it is to clean up.
- Animals sometimes eat it. Turtles and fish seem to mistake EPS for food. Hawaii should be the vanguard for making steps to protect our ocean resources.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:15:26 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Cara and I am in full support of HB 850, the state-wide phase out of polystyrene food containers. I am a middle school teacher born and raised here on Oahu, and our students and staff are constantly talking about how to take action to make sustainable change for our communities and for the world. If our students can already understand that we are running out of time to fix our current environmental issues on this planet, then it's imperative that we internalize this and take the necessary steps to address our environmental impacts. Phasing out polystyrene is a crucial change that tackles the already overwhelming issue of plastic pollution directly from one of its sources. There is already an incredible amount of polystyrene out in our environment that is there to stay (as it doesn't biodegrade) - let's stop adding more.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:20:01 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>           | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| danielle shemesh    | sustainable Coastlines Hawaii | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

It leaches chemicals, bad for our health, cause cancer by using it and its bad for the environment. Its ban on Maui, California and Europe! its time we ban it as well.

**LATE**

TESTIMONY to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

HB 850 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, January 31, 2019 8:30 AM

State Capitol Conference Room 325

Submitted in **OPPOSITION** by: Mary Smart, Mililani, HI

Chairman Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and Members:

1. Vote NO on HB850.
2. Over a year ago Marco J. Castaldi [wrote](#) in the Honolulu Star Advertiser: “Waste to energy (WTE) is a reliable and safe technology. Polystyrene that goes to HPOWER contains more energy than coal and any emissions must meet the most stringent environmental requirements anywhere in the U.S. The ash that is generated is rendered mostly inert through the combustion process and is tested to meet Environmental Protection Agency safety standards.
3. A recent study concluded that combustion of polystyrene and other plastics produce little to no ash when done properly as in modern WTE facilities. The ash is generated from other wastes such as wood, textiles and paper.
4. Public policy decisions should be based on the best available science and information, not misleading rhetoric. “
5. The Hawaii Legislature should stop wasting their and our time and funds on needless initiatives like the attack on polystyrene foam food containers. If you cared about the litter, you would enforce litter laws – not ban each product that is strewn throughout the community. There would be nothing left for consumers to use if we banned everything that individuals dispose improperly. What you should care about is the tons of garbage that homeless communities accumulate and that “litter” is much more dangerous and unhealthy to the community than plastic bags and polystyrene containers. Solve the homeless problem first.
6. This bill is make-work measure with required reporting and adds cost to the residents and community, and a nuisance to the food industry and the general population. Just because other cities have banned a product, we don’t need to blindly follow them. There is no good reason to pass this bill.
7. We don’t need another roadblock to businesses achieving success by having them threatened by costly fines when there only “crime” is providing customers with a product in a container that is most convenient, inexpensive, and practical for their customers.
8. End the needless attack on the food industry and VOTE NO on HB850.



**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:43:14 PM

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

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

Comments:

We should be doing all we can to take care of our precious island and it's resources and people. We need to keep these toxic plastics out of our water, landfills, and out of our bodies!

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 12:27:44 AM

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

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

Comments:

.polyethylene foam is ruining Hawai'i and the planet. I support banning polyethylene foam. It's killing us, animals, and the planet.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 2:11:10 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am in support of HB850, the statewide ban on styrofoam. Styrofoam has been proven to cause numerous environmental detriments and should be phased out of use immediately.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 3:54:14 AM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen and members of the House EEPcommittee,

I am submitting testimony in support of HB 850, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers.

Mahalo for your time and efforts.

Edgar Espero

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 5:12:30 AM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing this in support of HB850 because of how far we have come, and the potential that lies ahead. I was poorly educated about the affects of what we do as humans to the environment. And when I think of a typical plate lunch, it's always been in those styrofoam, polystyrene packages. It doesn't have to be that way. The next generation can have a different memory than I did, along with being more educated about the impacts we have on our environment. I believe HB850 is another step in the right direction and, especially with the progress we've made so far, am extremely proud to call Hawai'i my home.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 5:55:15 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha!

I support this bill to decrease and hopefully abolish the use of styrofoam in Hawaii as it is not biodegradable and is often accidentally ingested by the beautiful marine life that we love so much. It pollutes waters near and far from our shores and we must do our part to stop this process. This starts with not using it in the first place. Many other less harmful and biodegradable solutions exist, so styrofoam should become a thing of the past.

Thank you!

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 5:16:28 AM

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

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:25:16 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 1:16:28 AM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:30:58 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my view. I'm very much in support of this bill. I work in Tourism and food and beverage and I can't express how gravely important it is that we pass this bill to protect the Tourism Industry. Styrofoam can't be recycled. It clogs up trash cans on our beaches and tourist attack actions. Being in the hotel and tourism industry, I've had visitors complain about the amount of styrofoam on Oahu and say how shocked they were to see such an outdated product being used. We must remember we have visitors coming for many other places that expect quality and an environmentally friendly area. Burning styrofoam is toxic to the air we breath. We must do everything we can to move towards an environment ally friendly tourism so we have jobs. Please phrase out styrofoam.

Thank you!

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:02:07 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am in support of HB 850, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers .These products need to be banned . They are adding to our already polluted oceans and earth. Creating a hazardous toxic environment for all humans,creatures,soil,air,ocean,etc.... The polystyrene food containers can be easily and readily replaced with recycled and bio degradable options.. There is not any reason to allow these products to be used.. only continuing the detriment to our precious environment and health.

Mahalo

Andrea

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 12:15:45 AM

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

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:40:44 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

A styrofoam ban is long overdue. Is is the right thing for an island state to do.

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:19:31 AM

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

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| nat bletter         | Madre Chocolate     | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

There is no reason we need polluting Styrofoam especially in such a fragile island ecosystem and with so many compostable cheap alternatives. The Pacific garbage patch is already way too big without us adding to it every day with plastic waste like Styrofoam. We strongly support this bill and hope the representatives will do the right thing and eliminate Styrofoam from our waste stream.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:32:01 AM

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

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

Comments:

My time for testimony is very limited so I will make my statements brief. I am in full support of HB850. Through my volunteer activity with Surfrider Oahu and my career at Dolphin Quest, both my personal and professional life is dedicated to educating others about our world oceans. HB850 is a bill that would make great strides in reducing the overwhelming amount of marine debris in our oceans by eliminating it at the source. "If the bathtub is overflowing, you don't reach for a mop. You turn off the faucet." Please support this measure that would stop one source of the flow of debris entering our oceans.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:37:23 AM

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

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

Comments:

Hawaii needs to reduce unnecessary waste to be leaders in the green revolution! Let's reduce our dependence on single use plastics and rise above it. We are better than that. We need to be protectors and stewards of our beautiful island paradise. Plastics are currently vilified and need to be minimized before they hurt our number one industry, tourism. Approve this bill for the tourists, for the 'Ā• ina , or because you care, but let's push forward!



**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:41:49 AM

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

**LATE**

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

Comments:

I am in support of HB 850, the statewide phase out of polystyrene food containers . They add unwanted toxins to food and drinks, release chemicals into the air forming toxic ash, and pollutes our oceans harming native species.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:42:54 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB850. As a longtime volunteer at the Waikiki Aquarium and participant of many beach clean ups, I understand the importance of education and keeping our beaches clean for everyone to enjoy. However, it is through Bill's like these where we can create unified change. Styrofoam is created with synthetic chemicals which we unknowingly consume. It doesn't biodegrade, but breaks into smaller pieces which are consumed by fish which we eat. As Hawaii continues to lead the nation in protecting the aina and natural resources, passing this bill would continue to demonstrate those values we hold. Mahalo for your consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:46:08 AM

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

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

Comments:

My name is Danna Olsen. I wholeheartedly support of HB 850, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers. I have a masters degree in public health from the University of Wisconsin- Madison School of Medicine and Public Health focusing on environmental health.

I moved to Oahu one year ago. I live in Kailua and work in Honolulu (I spent my first three months living in Waikiki). Prior to moving to Hawaii I lived in Madison, WI for 22 years.

When I moved to Hawaii in some ways I feel like I moved back in time. I love Hawaii. However, my biggest disappointment has been seeing the way many people treat the environment with their lifestyle decisions. It's so sad and shocking to see how much single use styrofoam is used here! I have a hard time getting lunch downtown without styrofoam. As a customer I avoid places that use it. It upsets me when I accidentally receive my food in styrofoam because I know it's a terrible for the environment. I feel so lucky to be in Hawaii and I want to have a positive impact on environmental health. I don't want to watch as we trash this incredibly special place.

Madison has the most restaurants per capita than any other US city. Although they don't have a ban, our community was more environmentally conscious and customers typically demanded more sustainable options. I ate out a lot and I noticed much less styrofoam take out containers. Our businesses generally cared more about being "sustainable" and "green." As customers many of our citizens cared and supported with our dollars the businesses who were good environmental stewards.

Also, especially in Honolulu, you have a lot of litterbugs. I'm so tired of seeing styrofoam litter. This is an especially bad litter item as it doesn't break down. Last year when there was a similar bill I walked from where I work (near Punchbowl and Queen) to the Capitol collecting the litter I saw on my way... even on such a short walk I easily collected severage plastic bags (the typical plastic take out bags often given out by food vendors) styrofoam clam shells, plastic cups and straws and plastic utensils). What our food vendors give their customers matters. Much of it is littering the streets and making the city dirty.

There are much better options available- reusable, compostable, or recyclable! It's completely feasible. Let's do this! Please show that you care about environmental sustainability- it's time to make big changes so the next generation can live in a beautiful, healthy world.

Mahalo,

Danna

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:48:56 AM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen and members of the House EEP committee,

PLEASE ban foam and plastic. I am tired of picking it up everywhere I go. I don't want to but I do not want to wait to push the problem on someone else who does not want to either. The only pro is the convenience which is supporting another epidemic of laziness and rushing. Banning waste is going to save everyone time and money in the long. Be the example America needs.

Mahalo,

Cailey

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:58:18 AM

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

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

Comments:

The use of styrofoam by restaurants should absolutely be banned, it feels like a no brainer. The amount of styrofoam ending up on our shorelines and in our waters is at all time high. Not only are our precious coastlines and oceans suffering but the iconic "paradise" image we portray to the tourist industry is suffering. We must change this and be a leader in proactive change for the environment.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 8:09:42 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stuart Coleman      | Surfrider Foundation | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger & Committee Members,

Surfrider's Hawaii Chapters strongly support this bill to reduce polystyrene foam containers. Mahalo for your consideration and support of this bill.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman, Hawaii Manager

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 8:19:04 AM

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

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

Comments:

Utilizing alternatives to polystyrene makes sense from an environmental, business, and common sense standpoint. The fact is it does not even begin to biodegrade until 500 years from now, it's not as efficient when burning trash as alternatives, and it emits toxic chemicals. Not to mention it's littering our beaches and oceans which ties into our states tourism Industry and our whole economy. There are over 200 Ocean friendly restaurants who don't use this product and do just fine if not better by choosing more eco-friendly options



**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 8:34:08 AM

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

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 9:01:38 AM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ray Aivazian III    | Seed                | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Why do we need testimonys for this when you know the repercussions this is currently having on our home and health. These issues will only continue to amplify as time goes on.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 9:28:24 AM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB 850. Protecting Hawaii's environment is of utmost importance. We must ban the use of styrofoam to protect Hawaii's ecology and its citizens.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 9:33:36 AM

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

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

Comments:

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 9:50:58 AM

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

**LATE**

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

Comments:

I am writing to you as a resident of Kaneohe and a member of Surfrider Foundation's Oahu Chapter, in strong support of HB 850, relating to the phasing out 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.

â€‹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.

â€‹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.

â€‹As the leading non-profit in Hawaii's Ocean Friendly Restaurants Program, Surfrider and its partners have certified over 175 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.

â€‹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.

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

#### Cleanup Costs & Economic Benefits

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

- Hawaii State Department of Transportation has produced a trash plan that shows styrofoam and plastic bags as the top two contributors to the waste stream.
- The Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) created a plastic cleanup valuation study for 90+ counties in California:
  - o CA taxpayers are paying \$428 million per year to clean up plastic through storm drain management, street sweeping, and cleanups.
  - o 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.
  - o 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
  - o According to cleanup hours recorded across Hawaii's beach cleaning organizations and volunteer hour base rates, we spent \$750,000 - \$1 million on beach cleanups in 2016 alone.

## Environmental Impact

- It is argued that styrofoam is acceptable because we can incinerate it for energy. However, this approach is not without significant impacts. According to the Hawaii DOH Clean Air Branch the Covanta H-POWER plant emits 0.15 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (a potent greenhouse gas) annually. Although touted as a "clean energy solution" for Hawaii, H-POWER only generates about 3% of Oahu's energy needs while still emitting greenhouse gases through burning plastic.
- Further, for each ton of polystyrene not produced, 2.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions are avoided. This directly supports Hawaii's greenhouse gas reduction goals as stated in the Aloha + Challenge and as mandated by the US EPA.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Reduction Model (WARM) report shows that burning polystyrene emits more carbon dioxide equivalent than other plastics. For each ton of polystyrene incinerated, 1.64 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent are emitted.
- If burned at HPower, one compostable clamshell burns 1.76 times greater energy compared to one EPS Foam clamshell of the same size. And burning compostable

products comes without the toxic ash or smoke that EPS foam creates in the burning process.

- Fiber clamshells are also less than half the volume of EPS, so a restaurant could fit about twice as many clamshells on the same amount of shelf space or have more space for other things.
- The material for fiber containers can be grown and then made here in Hawaii, so more jobs and sustainable ones, not jobs that are exposing workers directly to large amounts of toxic chemicals. EPS can also be made here, but raw, toxic source chemicals need to be shipped to Hawaii.
- EPS is designed to be used once, and according to the US EPA less than 1% of foam is recycled nationally. 0% of EPS Foam is recycled locally.
- According to the EPA Waste Reduction Model Report, 7% of plastic waste generation in US is polystyrene. Of our total plastic recovery, polystyrene makes up 0.7% of recycled plastic

#### Human Health

- Air pollution from polystyrene
  - o 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)
  - o When combusted, styrene produces benzaldehyde (US EPA classifies this as a hazardous substance), acetophenone (Group D carcinogen by US EPA, causes chromosomal damage on hamsters, but hasn't been tested in humans), styrene oxide (main metabolite of styrene, which is known as carcinogenic).

I deeply appreciate your time and energy in considering these important matters in the spirit of malama aina.

Joy Bitonio



**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 9:54:49 AM  
Testimony for EEP on 1/31/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'm in support of HB 850, the statewide phase-out of polystyrene food containers. The polystyrene food containers contain unwanted toxins which can be a risk to your health. It also does not biodegrade, and can be hazardous for the environment if not recycled properly.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 10:00:52 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB850 as it shows that the State of Hawaii is committed to being a part of the solution to plastic pollution. As a high schooler, I am very concerned about my generation's future due to climate change and plastic pollution, and believe that this bill will help to address this concern. Mahalo for hearing this bill.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 10:35:14 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB850.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 10:36:16 AM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB850.

**LATE**

**HB-850**

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 10:39:54 AM

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

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

Comments:

Hawai'i is at the epicenter of the world wide plastic pollution crisis. Plastic bans are being passed all around the world. By not passing HB850 Hawai'i is ignoring the effects that plastic pollution is having on the oceans, the beautiful coastlines of Hawai'i and the ever increasing presence of microplastics in the food chain. It's a step in the right direction to end the use of any "single use disposable plastic", such as polystyrene "styrofoam". Mahalo!