



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 195 / HR 176
CONVENING A WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS LOCAL ISSUES
SURROUNDING WASTE REDUCTION

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Hearing Date: March 19, 2019 Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** This measure proposes a legislative working group to discuss local
3 issues surrounding waste reduction.

4 The Department of Health supports this measure as we recognize the need for public
5 discussion on the role source reduction can, and should, play in the management of Hawaii's
6 solid waste.

7 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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



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Tammy Fukugawa, Vice Chair – TS Restaurant **Dirk Koeppenkastrop, Secretary** – IL Gelato Hawaii
Michael Miller, Treasurer – Tiki's Grill & Bar **Tyler Roukema, Past Chair** – Outrigger Canoe Club

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

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Lead
Hawaii Restaurant Association

Subj: HCR 190 / HR 176 Convening A Working Group To Discuss Waste Reduction

Date: March 16, 2019

The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing over 3,600 Eating and Drinking place locations in Hawaii support HCR 190 / HR 176 about convening a working group to discuss local issues surrounding waste reduction.

We are honored to be included as a member of this working group and look forward towards positive solutions.

Thank you.





March 18, 2019

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

From: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

RE: **HCR 195 – Comments**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) is writing to offer the following comments on HCR 195, which seeks to convene a working group to discuss local issues surrounding waste reduction. ACC and its members certainly support efforts to reduce waste; however, we think this resolution should take a material neutral approach and focus on the recycling and recovery of all waste, not just single-use plastics.

We would request this resolution be revised with the below suggested language to include all materials and technologies in the discussion of waste reduction. Focusing on one material type or solution will not lead to meaningful reductions in overall waste, but merely shift the composition of waste to alternative materials.

- (1) Potential efforts to increase waste reduction and recycling programs; source reduction techniques, including plans to eliminate single-use plastic packaging from the Hawaii waste stream and phasing out the use of single-use plastic beverage containers;

Attention is rightly turning to the overall volume of consumer waste generated by the way in which we use products, and many are looking for ways to reduce or eliminate wasteful uses of products. Any discussions on this issues should be informed by scientific data, reflect input and expertise from the packaging industry, food service providers, and others and ensure meaningful recovery of all packaging materials.

Plastics are often used because the material can do more with less. Plastics help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, require less energy and water to produce, require less fuel to transport, and help significantly reduce food waste.¹ 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.

Some key questions the Legislature should direct the working group to consider in their development of recommendations include:

- Will the recommendations and any accompanying proposed 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?

¹ <https://www.plasticpackagingfacts.org/plastic-sustainability/sustainable-packaging-design/>



Making significant progress towards reducing waste will require 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.

Thank you in advance for considering our views. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at Tim_Shestek@americanchemistry.com. You may also contact ACC's Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551.



HCR-195

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:44:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/19/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

LATE

HCR-195

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 4:09:09 AM
Testimony for EEP on 3/19/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION. WE SEEK AN AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE A MEMBER FROM THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY, WHO IS A RECOGNIZED CULTURAL PRACTITIONER, WHO WILL AID THIS TASK FORCE IN UNDERSTANDING HISTORICAL KĀĒNAKA MAOLI BEST PRACTICES IN THE CREATION & MAINTENANCE OF OUR AHUPUA`A SYSTEM. MAHALO.