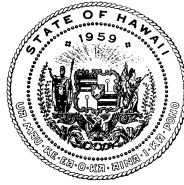


SB 1527



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony COMMENTING on SB1527
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Hearing Date: FEBRUARY 4, 2019 Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown

2 **Department Testimony:** This measure proposes to ban the sale of beverage containers
3 connected to each other with plastic six-pack rings.

4 The Department of Health (Department) understands the urgency surrounding efforts to
5 reduce the impact of plastics on the environment. Bans such as this which focus, at least in part,
6 on litter are logical for placement in HRS Chapter 339 "Litter Control." However, the program
7 responsible for enforcing these provisions was eliminated in the late 1990s. Unfortunately,
8 programs such as this do not fit neatly into any of our existing regulatory programs.
9 Furthermore, our existing programs already operate under constrained resources.

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

12 **Offered Amendments:** None

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.
14
15
16
17

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 Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, February 4, 2019
1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1527
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Senate Bill 1527 proposes to ban the sale of beverage containers connected to each other with plastic connecting devices and establish fines. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of 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. Marine debris degrade land and ocean-based habitat through smothering and abrasion and impact a variety of wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial) through ingestion and entanglement. Hawai'i has the highest reported debris accumulations in the United States' Pacific Ocean Coastlines.

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. Senate Bill 1527 would help reduce the plastic debris load entering Hawaii's shorelines and contribute to the improved health of our wildlife and their habitats. Fines deposited into the Conservation and Resources Enforcement Special Fund would be used to benefit natural resource conservation and management.

The Department however recognizes that Chapter 339, Hawaii Revised Statutes, falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health, and shares their concerns regarding administration and enforcement of this initiative.

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
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
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Executive Officers

Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Chair*
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Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Past Chair*
Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Barry Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 4, 2019
TIME: 1:20pm
PLACE: Conference Room

RE: SB1527 Relating to the Environment

Position: Oppose

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA opposes this ban, as it is an unnecessary mandate on certain drinks that will negatively impact Hawaii consumers. In 1994 the EPA mandated that all beverage ring holders sold in the U.S. must be degradable. Most manufacturers meet this standard by using photodegradable rings that break down when exposed to light. This means that even if six pack rings are disposed of improperly they will begin to break down after just a few days of exposure to sunlight.

The currently available alternative to plastic connecting devices for canned beverages is cardboard storage boxes. Cardboard is not manufactured in a vacuum; it also uses resources and ends up as waste that must be managed. These types of holders can be several times more expensive than normal connective rings. Plastic connective devices allow for efficient transport, stocking, and display of beverages. If these are no longer allowed in our state beverage companies will most likely either have to switch to more expensive alternatives and raise prices, or simply stop offering their products for sale to Hawaii consumers.

Single product bans like this fail to address the underlying causes of things like international marine debris, or local littering and poor waste management. The state should pursue more comprehensive litter reduction and waste management measures to protect our environment. Unnecessarily targeting individual products, and raising prices or limiting choices for Hawaii consumers is not the right choice for our state. For these reasons we ask that this measure be held. We thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
February 4, 2019**

Re: SB 1527 Relating to the Environment

Good afternoon Chairperson Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) 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.

We are opposed to SB 1527 Relating to the Environment. This bill would ban the sale of beverage containers connected to each other with plastic connecting devices and establish fines.

It is our understanding that currently all 6 pack rings are already manufactured to be 100% photodegradable to federal standards and will begin to disintegrate in just a few weeks, allowing animals to easily free themselves from the brittle and crumbling rings. Furthermore, 6 pack rings are a relatively minor contributor to marine litter and wildlife mishaps.

Bans are not the simple answer. There are only a handful of product options that are available at a more substantial cost. This cost would be passed onto the consumer making Hawaii even MORE EXPENSIVE TO LIVE. Retailers are already operating on thin margins and have to work extra hard to compete with online vendors.

Hawaii should not be focusing on bans, but on comprehensive litter education and reduction programs. Without litter education and reduction programs in place, the 6 pack rings will only be replaced by its alternative in the environment.

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



February 3, 2019

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
SB1527 Relating to the Environment

Re: **IN OPPOSITION OF SB1527**

Aloha Chair Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Senator Ruderman and members of the Committee,

My name is Garrett W. Marrero, I live in Kula, HI. We have locations on Maui in Lahaina and Kihei, and on Oahu in Waikiki and Kailua. We distribute across the Hawaii, 23 States, and 13 countries. We began in 2005 with 26 team members and have added more than 500 to our team. My wife and I were selected as the National Small Business Persons of the year in 2017 for our work at Maui Brewing Co. I am writing on behalf of myself and our local family-operated business in opposition of **SB1527** which bans the sale of beverage containers which use “plastic connecting devices” aka “rings”.

Maui Brewing Co. has long been a local leader in authentic local manufacturing and a global leader in sustainability. We will be Hawaii’s first grid-independent manufacturer later this year when we complete installation of our 1.2-megawatt smart micro-grid. This will produce 100% of our electricity at the brewery without the use of any fossil fuels. We have continually searched for various packaging options and new or developing technologies to reduce our footprint. This began in 2007 as the first brewery in the State, 10th in the USA, to package craft beer in locally made aluminum beverage cans and the very first to pioneer the use of the PakTech handles we currently use.

While we support the intent of the bill in reducing plastic in the environment and protecting our oceans and marine life, we cannot support this bill. We believe it to have been proposed without careful consideration of the impacts to the State’s manufacturers, options, or even basic understanding of packaging in general.

Further this bill is clearly fueled by a viral social media article regarding “edible” six pack rings. I know the gentlemen that are developing this technology personally and have been in regular contact with them regarding this potential option; it is simply not ready for commercial use. Here are a few reasons why: they have not been properly tested in various environments, available in the proper sizes for locally produced cans, available in any configuration beyond 6-pack, not produced in scale to meet demand, high costs of production, and no equipment is currently available to apply these at high-speeds as required by commercial producers. Additionally, marine biologists have proposed that these rings encourage marine life to view trash as food, clearly this is not a positive for the environment. We look forward to such time that these, or others, may be an option to properly consider.

Current options for packaging of cans include “traditional rings”, PakTech Handles (as MBC uses), cardboard, and glue. We have found that the handles we use are the most appropriate at this time for our purposes. A few initial thoughts on the options follow. Traditional rings such as “High

Handcrafted Ales & Lagers Brewed with Aloha
605 Lipoa Parkway, Kihei, HI 96753
808.213.3002

Cone” rings are not an option under any circumstance and should not be used. Cardboard doesn’t always hold up well in our humid environment and can contribute to mold growth inside the package as well as deforestation and high footprint that paper manufacturing and inks contribute to the environment. Lastly so-called “Edible” rings are covered above.

We believe the single most important change we could make would be to eliminate or at least significantly reduce the world’s use of PET bottles. We have a local aluminum can plant and should focus on this as a primary package for beverages in Hawaii.

Lastly, the State should consider implementing real change to our recycling initiatives. For example, glass bottles could be pulverized locally into a resource that could be used as a soil amendment or in concrete versus using sand from our lands.

We oppose SB1527 until such time that a suitable alternative is available and local manufacturing and environmental leaders such as ourselves can take part in a conversation to shape the future together. I have mentioned a few initial thoughts as part of a greater conversation to be had. I offer my service to Hawaii and our representation at the Capitol to form a more sustainable vision for Hawaii. Maui Brewing Co. is committed to our community and the environment, we can assure you that we will continue to lead in sustainable manufacturing.

Sincerely,



Garrett W. Marrero
CEO/Founder

SB-1527

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 9:31:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
gyuyun kim	Testifying for Mid-Pacific Institue	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair Committee on Agriculture and Environment
<Gyuyun Kim>

Friday, February 4, 2019

Support for S.B. No. 1527, Relating to Banning of Plastic Rings

Our 10th grade STEM and Humanities classes at Mid Pacific Institute have been learning about ecology and civics through our work with Heeia Fishpond. We strongly support S.B. No. 1527 relating to the environment; it aims to ban the sale of beverage containers connected to each other with plastic connecting devices, establishes fines, and takes effect 1/1/2023.

I highly suggest banning plastic rings because it protects our precious water around us. We are all privileged to live here in this paradise called Hawaii. It is not a privilege we should abuse. We have to be responsible for the environment around us so that we can keep our reputation of being a paradise. What would the tourists think when they see plastic pollutants in water and an animal stuck to it? It will certainly ruin the image that they had of Hawaii. As the plastic pollutants in water increases, the more we ruin our image. We are known for our clean water around us, and how disappointing would it be to see plastic pollutants floating around in our water? Kamilo Point, a far-flung beach in the rural Ka'u district of the Big Island is known as one of the dirtiest beaches in the world. Some people call it the plastic beach. This is a warning sign to us that we should not ignore. There's a news on "The Washington Post" with a head line that says "Hawaii's beloved beaches are covered in huge amounts of plastic survey finds". It is time for us to own up to our mistakes and start fixing them. Banning plastic connecting devices is taking a step closer to keeping our ocean life safe, and our water clean to defend our reputation of being a paradise

In banning the plastic connecting devices, we are taking the next step in protecting our environment, especially our ocean and sea life, from the harmful effects of plastic debris. Hawaii boldly banned plastic bans and is considering banning plastic straws. This measure would only strengthen our commitment to our environment. We urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 1527. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



February 1, 2019

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

From: Tim Shestek, Senior Director
State Affairs

RE: SB 1527 - OPPOSE

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose SB 1527, legislation that would ban the sale of beverage containers connected to each other with plastic connecting devices. In our view, single product bans often do not address the root cause of litter and/or marine debris and fail to consider the environmental trade-offs associated with the manufacture, use and disposal of likely replacement packaging. Data has shown that replacing all plastic packaging with alternatives would use more energy and create more greenhouse gases.

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 16th 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.

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.



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. You may also contact ACC's Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551.





O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2019

TIME: 1:20 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

RE: SB 1527 Relating to the Environment

Aloha mai kakou Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 1527 relating to the Environment.**

SB 1527 bans the sale of beverage containers connected to each other with plastic connecting devices. SB 1527 establishes fines and will take effect on 1/1/2023.

The Democratic Party of Hawai`i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai`i. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 17, ln. 4-8.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island and to provide integrated approaches, practices, and public policies to create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai`i, OCCLP supports SB 1527 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

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

SB-1527

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 12:35:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lillian Renfro-Robeau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing to strongly support SB1527 and all it encompasses. Our oceanic environments have already been severely polluted by non-biodegradable plastics and we must take strong action to prevent further exposure of marine life to these plastic hazards.

Alternatives to plastic already exist and companies will be more inclined to use them when bans like this are in place.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-1527

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 4:39:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Lawmakers,

Please support SB 1527.

Protect our ocean and islands.

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

<<Jack Fukui>>

Friday, February 4, 2019

Support for S.B. No. 1527, Relating to Banning of Plastic Rings

Our 10th grade STEM and Humanities classes at Mid Pacific Institute have been learning about ecology and civics through our work with Heeia Fishpond. We strongly support S.B. No. 1527 relating to the environment; it aims to ban the sale of beverage containers connected to each other with plastic connecting devices, establishes fines, and takes effect 1/1/2023.

<< The impacts of marine debris in Hawaii are particularly apparent because atmospheric and oceanographic forces cause ocean surface currents to converge on Hawaii. In 2014 the NOAA removed 57 tons of marine debris from the Hawaiian islands. 6 out of 7 species of sea turtles are classified as threatened or endangered due to marine entanglement. Personally last year I encountered an event which I will never forget. I was in Waikiki surfing with my friends when I saw a baby turtle afloat the water. When I went up to it I saw that a sick pack ring was stuck around it's neck. I called for help and a lifeguard came minutes later to cut it loose. This sort of experience should not be the type of things that people should see when they come to Hawaii. >>

In banning the plastic connecting devices, we are taking the next step in protecting our environment, especially our oceans and sea life, from the harmful effects of plastic debris. Hawaii boldly banned plastic bans and is considering banning plastic straws. This measure would only strengthen our commitment to our environment. We urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 1527. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

•

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Brooke Johnson

Friday, February 4, 2019

Support for S.B. No. 1527, Relating to Banning of Plastic Rings

Our 10th grade STEM and Humanities classes at Mid Pacific Institute have been learning about ecology and civics through our work with Heeia Fishpond. We strongly support S.B. No. 1527 relating to the environment; it aims to ban the sale of beverage containers connected to each other with plastic connecting devices, establishes fines, and takes effect 1/1/2023.

Plastic poses a big problem to our environment; it affects not only sea life like turtles and fish but also us, the people. Marine life is susceptible to consuming this plastic and there are also high rates on entanglement in smaller sea creatures. Turtles are constantly getting stuck in these plastic rings, resulting in deformations. The plastic in our oceans also finds its way back to us when we eat fish, relating closely to the rising levels of BPA in children. It is true that plastic soda rings are a very small percentage of plastic in the ocean, but this small percentage slowly piles up. Attacking one source of pollution at a time will greatly shape the condition of the environment.

In banning the plastic connecting devices, we are taking the next step in protecting our environment, especially our oceans and sea life, from the harmful effects of plastic debris. Hawaii boldly banned plastic bags and is considering banning plastic straws. This measure would only strengthen our commitment to our environment. We urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 1527. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-1527

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 9:01:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Jacqueline Seki

Friday, February 4, 2019

Support for S.B. No. 1527, Relating to Banning of Plastic Rings

Our 10th grade STEM and Humanities classes at Mid Pacific Institute have been learning about ecology and civics through our work with Heeia Fishpond. We strongly support S.B. No. 1527 relating to the environment; it aims to ban the sale of beverage containers connected to each other with plastic connecting devices, establishes fines, and takes effect 1/1/2023.

Plastics in the ocean are having a huge detrimental impact in the environment and the creatures that live in it. We depend on those animals for food, and for us, the ocean and beaches is a huge source of tourism that we need to thrive as a state. As it stands now, plastic is impeding on the reliability of the natural beauty of the ocean and surrounding areas. Its destroying the lives of the fish we eat, and poisoning us as we eat it. One might argue that banning just plastic rings would not have too much of an impact as there are many types of plastic, and plastic comes from may different places, but you

could also argue that one has to start somewhere. If there is never any change, then nothing can happen. Something has to change for things to get better. Something has to change to ensure the safety and security of our oceans and seafoods. This bill could be the change.

In banning the plastic connecting devices, we are taking the next step in protecting our environment, especially our oceans and sea life, from the harmful effects of plastic debris. Hawaii boldly banned plastic bags and is considering banning plastic straws. This measure would only strengthen our commitment to our environment. We urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 1527. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-1527

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 10:39:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Zen Hiraga

Friday, February 4, 2019

Support for S.B. No. 1527, Relating to Banning of Plastic Rings

Our 10th grade STEM and Humanities classes at Mid Pacific Institute have been learning about ecology and civics through our work with Heeia Fishpond. We strongly support S.B. No. 1527 relating to the environment; it aims to ban the sale of beverage containers connected to each other with plastic connecting devices, establishes fines, and takes effect 1/1/2023.

Plastics, as a man made material never decompose, simply piling up over time without any decrease. Despite the obvious lack of motivation most people have to resolve this problem, it is obvious that it is recognized that the problem has come farther than it ever should have. Plastics have been endangering the environment causing pollution as they melt along with other chemicals, or being consumed by wildlife making them to think they've had their fill of food like a placebo, causing them to starve and die. This ban is more or less specific to marine life, plastic being most prominent in the ocean.

According to the Natural History Museum, 12.7 million tons of plastics enter the ocean every year. There are even islands of just pure rubbish and trash due to the constant accumulation. As the ocean is essentially 70% of the world, as it begins to be more and more polluted, marine life is not going to be the only thing affected. Plastics when being made, or attempting to degrade by the solutions people have attempted to create, such as photo degradable plastics, they emit powerful greenhouse gasses influencing climate change. If we continue to ignore this plastic problem, climate change influenced by plastic pollution will bring the world to an end as we know it, so even starting small as simply a plastic ring will bring us to a better place in creating a better future.

In banning the plastic connecting devices, we are taking the next step in protecting our environment, especially our oceans and sea life, from the harmful effects of plastic debris. Hawaii boldly banned plastic bags and is considering banning plastic straws. This measure would only strengthen our commitment to our environment. We urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 1527. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-1527

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 10:59:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlie Mount	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Charlie Mount

Friday, February 4, 2019

Support for S.B. No. 1527, Relating to Banning of Plastic Rings

Our 10th grade STEM and Humanities classes at Mid Pacific Institute have been learning about ecology and civics through our work with Heeia Fishpond. We strongly support S.B. No. 1527 relating to the environment; it aims to ban the sale of beverage containers connected to each other with plastic connecting devices, establishes fines, and takes effect 1/1/2023.

As part of the MPX program, I have had a lot of time to explore world issues, pollution is one of them. One-time use plastic is definitely one of the top forms of pollution seen today. There is literally a floating island of plastic in the middle of the ocean. Out of all of the different types of plastic, my class decided to focus on plastic beverage connectors like six pack rings. We decided to do this because plastic bags and straws have already begun to be banned and have been banned in Hawaii. Plastic rings may not be the largest portion of plastic pollution but it is one of the easiest to replace as there are

already alternatives. These substitutes include boxes, glue, decomposable materials, etc. and have already been designed and used in many places. Our goal with banning plastic beverage containers is to continue the wave that has already begun. People have realized that plastic pollution is bad and such a belief is spreading fast. It will only be a matter of time until all single-use plastic is banned. All we are doing is helping such a wave spread faster, for the animals, for us, for the world.

In banning the plastic connecting devices, we are taking the next step in protecting our environment, especially our oceans and sea life, from the harmful effects of plastic debris. Hawaii boldly banned plastic bags and is considering banning plastic straws. This measure would only strengthen our commitment to our environment. We urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 1527. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Aloha Lawmakers,

I strongly **SUPPORT SB1527** –

to help protect the delicate ecosystems of Hawai'i.



Mahalo,

**Mary Overbay
Puunene, HI**

Aloha Lawmakers,

I strongly **SUPPORT SB1527–**

to help protect the delicate ecosystems of Hawai'i.



Mahalo,

Brian Murphy
Maui, Hawai'i

SB-1527

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 9:09:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Support

SB-1527

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 12:04:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie and Thomas Pasquale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:18:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taylor Schultz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1527

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:43:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

Who hasn't seen the heartbreaking pictures of birds and turtles and other wildlife with their heads ensnared in one of these plastic beverage collars? By all means let's prohibit them, but do we have to wait until 2023?

LATE

SB-1527

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:30:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalamakahi Crabbe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Kalamakahi Crabbe a 7th grader at SEEQS public charter school would love to support SB 1527 because if this bill does pass it could help Hawai'i and make a really good impact towards environmental protection and encourages life to thrive better. No more plastic beverage lids that will end up in streams, on sidewalks, or in our forest. No more plastics staying for 100's of years. We could help our marine life and land animal life better survive. We won't crowd their home with plastic, they won't eat plastic. If we could get this bill to pass we could make Hawai'i, Hawai'i again restoring it's natural environment and giving our home a chance to recover all the garbage we put it threw. We could see Hawai'i's beauty come alive again. This is what I see and want to see happen for my future. Mahalo, and I hope you consider my opinion. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Kalamakahi Crabbe

LATE

SB-1527

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:50:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I clean the beach in Punaluu twice a week with my husband and many of the things we pick up are "new" single-use objects that should have been banned a long time ago here in Hawaii. We have our hands full just with the old plastics that wash up, and would like some help. The small stores have been helping us clean, and have been converting to non plastic containers. What are the big stores doing to control the garbage they create? There seems to be a dire need for enforcement and a new public service push to educate people and make it socially unacceptable again to litter. I would like to know how many tickets are issued for littering each year? It is not just any one group, as I have seen many diverse groups litter. We have illegal camping, wrecked cars, illegal dumping, people driving right on to the beach, and lots of plastic connectors. Maybe we could solve this one small problem?