

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

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 522 SD2 HD1  
RELATING TO PLASTIC**

REPRESENTATIVE ROY M. TAKUMI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: March 20, 2019

Room Number: 329

**Fiscal Implications:** Estimated \$1.2M per year expenditure increase from the Deposit Beverage Container (DBC) Deposit Special Fund to support the operation of the Plastic Source Reduction Working Group; any proposed plastic source reduction and solid waste prevention measures, including the proposed single-use plastic prohibition; and the proposed Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator. Estimated \$20M per year revenue decrease for the DBC Deposit Special Fund.

**Department Testimony:** This bill proposes to: (1) prohibit the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, plastic bags and straws by state and county agencies, and any businesses or individual by an unspecified date; (2) create a Plastic Source Reduction Working Group; and (3) create a Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator, all to be funded by the DBC Deposit Special Fund.

The Department of Health (Department) opposes this measure. The proposed use of the DBC Deposit Special Fund to support all the activities under this bill will create financial instability for both the DBC program and the proposed single-use plastic reduction program. With the proposed ban on the sale and distribution of plastic beverage containers, the DBC Deposit Special Fund will see a significant decrease in revenue. Portions of the container fee and the unredeemed deposits are utilized to administer the program. The elimination of plastic beverage containers will not decrease the level of effort needed to administer the program, as the Department anticipates overseeing the same number of redemption centers, distributors, and

1 retailers. In addition, the proposed plastic source reduction program will require more than just  
2 one person to implement this ban on a statewide basis. We estimate that at least six full-time  
3 employees, in addition to the Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator, will be necessary to carry out  
4 this new program. This reduction in revenue and the proposed increase in expenditures with the  
5 inclusion of the proposed plastic source reduction and solid waste prevention program will likely  
6 set both programs up for failure.

7 In addition, as mentioned in our previous testimonies, we are concerned over the  
8 duplication of effort when resources are limited. The proposed bans for plastic bags and  
9 polystyrene containers duplicates existing county bans on these materials. Hawaii County, Maui  
10 County, the City and County of Honolulu, and Kauai County each have a plastic bag ban in  
11 place; while polystyrene food container bans are active or about to begin in Maui County and  
12 Hawaii County.

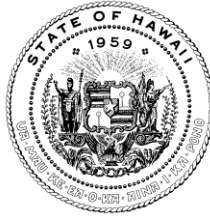
13 While the Department supports the concept of a working group, we prefer the proposal  
14 under HCR195 and have supported that measure.

15 If this bill moves further, there is a need for clarification and certain exemptions. For  
16 example, as noted on pages 5 and 6, no business or individuals shall purchase, use, sell, or  
17 distribute plastic bags. It is unclear whether the plastic bags are limited to food carry out bags  
18 and in-store packaging (meat and produce plastic bags), or includes pre-packaged items such as  
19 bread, salad mixes, granola, trail mix, candy, apple, cookie, and chip bags; and whether  
20 individuals are prohibited from using zip-top bags for food storage. Based on testimony from the  
21 healthcare industry, clarification is needed in specifying whether the proposed plastic ban is  
22 limited to food or includes all businesses or individuals that use the specified plastic items. In  
23 addition, the bill should provide accommodations for emergency preparedness or emergency  
24 response. The distribution of food and water to displaced people or emergency workers are often  
25 necessary during times of emergency. Bottled water is preferred, as sanitary conditions are not  
26 always available.

27 **Offered Amendments:** None.

28 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 Committees on  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE  
and  
JUDICIARY**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 522, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO PLASTIC**

Senate Bill 522, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to 1) prohibit the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, plastic bags, and straws by state and county agencies, restaurants, standard bars, and any other businesses or individuals on a certain date; 2) create the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging; 3) establish the Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator; and 4) appropriate funds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following concerns, comments, and proposed amendments.**

The Department recognizes the deleterious impacts of plastic debris on wildlife and their habitats as a primary natural resource issue throughout the State. Plastic debris degrade land and ocean-based habitat and impact a variety of wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial) through ingestion and entanglement. Senate Bill 522, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 would help reduce the plastic debris load entering Hawaii's environment and contribute to the improved health of our wildlife and their habitats.

The Department however has concerns that this measure, as written, would adversely affect critical departmental operations, where bottled water is the only practical option in emergency situations. For example, the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is statutorily mandated by the Land Fire Protection Law, Chapter 185, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to be the primary responder for wildfires on lands managed by DOFAW, which accounts for 26% of the land statewide. DOFAW co-responds with county fire departments and federal agencies to an additional 32%. Other emergency response agencies would be affected as well.

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

The Department requests that an exception be added to this measure to allow for agencies to purchase and use single-use plastic beverage bottles in situations of emergency response and public safety. The Department suggests adding a new subsection (c)<sup>1</sup> to the proposed new statutory section in PART II, SECTION 2 of the measure to read as follows:

(c) This section shall not apply to the purchase and use of single-use plastic beverage bottles in the following circumstances:

- (1) Public health and safety preparedness, emergencies, investigations, and extended deployments or activations of the office of hazard evaluation and emergency response of the department of health, the department of defense, or the department of land and natural resources;
- (2) Situations where there is high risk of cross-contamination with non-potable or contaminated water; and
- (3) Situations where there are no reasonable alternatives to beverages in plastic bottles or rigid plastic containers, such as when large quantities of beverages may need to be distributed for health and safety reasons.

The Department also has concerns about the language that would ban the purchase and use of plastic bags by state and county agencies. The Department purchases and uses plastic bags for waste disposal in our offices, labs, restrooms, and other facilities. The Department would be extremely challenged to find a way to sanitarily and effectively dispose of waste in the absence of reliable alternatives to plastic bags. Other state and county agencies would face similar challenges. The Department requests that an exception be added to the measure to allow for

---

<sup>1</sup> The proposed subsection (c) is similar to language in Senate Bill 1543, Senate Draft 1

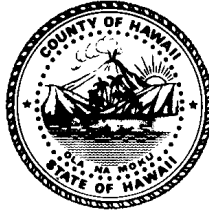


agencies to purchase and use plastic bags for waste disposal until reliable alternatives to plastic is developed.

Finally, the Department recognizes that this sweeping initiative would fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health, and shares their concerns regarding implementation and enforcement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

REBECCA VILLEGAS  
Council Member  
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267  
FAX: (808) 323-4786  
EMAIL: [Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov)

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

March 18, 2019

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS  
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON SB 522 SD 2 HD 1, RELATING TO PLASTIC  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Committee on Judiciary  
Wednesday, March 20, 2019  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329

Aloha Chair Takumi, Chair Lee, and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 522 SD 2 HD 1, relating to plastic. My testimony is submitted by my individual capacity of a member of the Hawai'i County Council.

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws by state and county agencies after July 1, 2021, by businesses selling food and beverages by July 1, 2022, and ban the distribution of sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023.

Though SB 522 SD2 HD 1 has been amended to reflect that the effective date will be March 15, 2050 to encourage further discussion on this matter, I believe we need to be more proactive. It has been reported that most polystyrene foam and plastic bags are the top two contributors to the local waste stream and must be regularly removed from storm drains. These pollutants are in the seawater and freshwater, and can and is being transferred to fish, other seafood, and salt that is eventually being consumed by humans. Prohibiting the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws is in the environmental, financial, and public welfare interests of the State of Hawai'i.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, and the Committee on Judiciary to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas  
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

*Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*



**Testimony to the House Committees on Consumer Protection and Commerce,  
and Judiciary**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 2:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol**

**RE: SB 522 SD2, RELATING TO PLASTIC**

Chairs Takumi and Lee, Vice Chairs Ichiyama and San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes** SB522 SD2 HD1, which requires that no state or county agency, restaurant, standard bar, or any other business or individual shall purchase, use, sell or distribute single-use plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, plastic bags or straws after an unspecified date. SB522 SD1 HD1 would also create the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging and creates the Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator.

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

We oppose SB522 SD2 HD1 because it will raise the cost for both business and consumers and will impact jobs in the local manufacturing industry of FDA approved, food-grade food service containers. Creating a mandate for the use of compostable and other plastic containers stifles the free marketplace, where businesses and consumers have the right to choose among the various types of safe, FDA-approved food service containers.

However, the Chamber is not opposed to the section in this bill that would create a plastic source reduction working group and bring in all sides of this issue to begin discussions. Businesses across the state have already begun to voluntarily ban polystyrene containers and recently the counties have begun to introduce and pass legislation. Through this working group, we can look at the results of these legislative actions to see how we can help to support a coordinated and comprehensive litter reduction program that is not just focused on plastic, but other forms of waste as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 4:39:56 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

We hope that this legislation will help to stop the toxic refuse that currently threatens the health of the oceans and its denizens- as an island state, we should do everything we can to protect them.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 5:55:40 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sylvia Dolena	Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 7:21:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Moran	Kihei Community Association (KCA)	Support	No

Comments:

We support all actions to reduce or eliminate any single use or limited use plastic items

**Written Testimony of  
Blaine Tasaka  
Paradise Beverages Inc.**

**Before the House Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
and Judiciary  
Opposition to S.B. 522 S.D. 2, H.D. 1– Relating to Plastic  
March 20, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.**

Good afternoon Chair Takumi, Chair Lee and members of the committees. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition to S.B. 522 S.D. 2, H.D. 1 – relating to plastic.

I am Blaine Tasaka, Key Account Manager for Paradise Beverages.

Plastic Beverage bottles are a significant part of our overall business, and a ban would be devastating to not only our business but also hugely devastating for the retailers (both big and small) that we service.

Additionally, the consumer needs and demands a cost-effective packaging which there is currently really no substitute. Importing glass bottles is very cost prohibitive, and aluminum cans are not resealable. Many consumers find that resealable feature makes the plastic bottle more re-usable than other packages.

I hope that you will realize the result of the ban would be significantly less beverage offerings available, higher cost to consumers, and would severely hamper ability of retailers and beverage distributors to cover expenses.

If S.B. 522 S.D. 2, HD 1 is passed, we will definitely need to cut employment positions in our company, and the effect would be so devastating that I would expect retailers to do the same.

Sincerely,  
Blaine Tasaka

Paradise Beverages Inc.  
Key Account Manager, Non-Alcohol Division  
94-1450 Moaniani Street  
Waipahu, Hawai'i 96797  
808-678-4000  
blaine.tasaka@parbev.com  
www.paradisebeverages.com

**Written Testimony of  
Fred Sylva, Operations Manager  
Pacific Allied Products**

**Written Testimony of  
Fred Sylva  
Pacific Allied Products**

**Before the House Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
and Judiciary  
Opposition to S.B. 522 S.D. 2, H.D. 1– Relating to Plastic  
March 20, 2019; 2:00 p.m.**

Good afternoon Chair Takumi, Chair Lee and members of the committees. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition to S.B. 522 S.D. 2, H.D. 1 – relating to plastic.

My name is Fred Sylva I am the Operations Manager for Pacific Allied Products. We are a small manufacturing company located in Kapolei, Hawai'i. We manufacture Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) into single serve containers and is used for both water production and carbonated soft drink production (CSD).

We are one of the very few remaining manufacturing companies in the state of Hawai'i. I oversee 70 employees most with local roots and families. I myself am a local boy born and raised on the Island of Oahu and live on the Westside.

Our industry helps create jobs for many of Hawai'i residents and is an economic contributor that does not rely 100% on tourism. Pacific Allied, Hawaiian Isles, Menhune Water and Aloha Water are our Oahu's main water manufacturers that have provided the state of Hawai'i with clean drinking water for the people of Hawai'i not only on an everyday basis but during some of Hawai'i's most tragic times dealing with hurricanes and other natural disastrous events.

In many cases I have started up our plants within eight hours after a major storm because we knew how important it is for our state. Many of my employees will leave their families during these times to run the plant. Coca-Cola Hawai'i, PepsiCo Hawai'i are two major beverage industry giants. They too have done their part – instead of shipping product in from the mainland they have been manufacturing their products here in the state of Hawai'i creating job for Hawai'i's people. Aquafina is Pepsi's brand of water and Dasani is Coca-Cola's brand – both waters are manufactured here in Hawai'i.

All of us in the plastic manufacturing industry are environmental stewards that practice recycling method to minimize our impact to the environment. My company for example has a measurable objective of 3% or less of waste scrap as a target. We recycle 100% of our PET scrap to our local reclamation companies to be shipped off and recycled into new products avoiding contribution of PET scrap into our landfills.

We have a bottle redemption program that has put a value on another empty container that would normally end up in the trash is now recycled. Instead of a ban of single serve containers I would recommend an educational campaign launch to educate all of the people of Hawai'i on the environmental impacts that not only plastics, but all discarded items not disposed of



properly. Perhaps, we should have stiffer fines and penalties for people who litter all over our beautiful island. We could look at expanding Hawai'i's ability to having a close loop system, remanufacturing plastic waste into new products creating more jobs for the people of Hawai'i.

In conclusion, I would like you to consider the effect of having this ban that would eliminate over 3,200 jobs state wide from one of Hawai'i's last industries and humbly ask that you do not pass this ban Senate Bill 522.

Mahalo,

Fred Sylva  
PAP Operations Manager

91-118 Kaomi Loop  
Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707  
808.791.0546  
Freds@pacallied.com  
[www.pacificalliedproducts.com](http://www.pacificalliedproducts.com)

**Written Testimony of  
Jason Donovan  
Hawaiian Water and Packaging**

**Before the House Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
and Judiciary  
Opposition to S.B. 522 S.D. 2, H.D. 1– Relating to Plastic  
March 20, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.**

Good afternoon Chair Takumi, Chair Lee and members of the committees. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition to S.B. 522 S.D. 2, H.D. 1 – relating to plastic.

Aloha, my name is Jason Donovan. I am strongly opposed to S.B. 522 S.D.2, H.D. 1 relating to plastic beverage bottles in its current form.

My wife Channon and I are 20 year residents of Kauai. We have an 11 year old son named Finnegan who was born and raised on this beautiful island. We are also the founders and majority owners and operators of [www.hawaiiivolcanic.com](http://www.hawaiiivolcanic.com) which is our natural, healthy, environmentally responsible beverage business that has been successfully in business here in Hawaii for more than 5 years. We currently employ 10 full time employees and an estimated several hundred more Hawaii employees are indirectly involved with our business operations - (Distributors, truck drivers, demo companies...)

We started the business to make a positive difference for Hawaii, the people who live in Hawaii, and for people around the World who do not have access to clean drinking water. For more than 12 years I have personally travelled the World learning all I can about the most viable sustainable packaging options that exist including bioplastics made from plants, and even algae. Our core mission and vision is simply to Be Pono and do what's right.

I have invested substantial time and money into this extensive research. I am very passionate about this important topic and would love to offer my experience and knowledge to those who are responsible for making the major decisions here in Hawaii that affect us all. When we first purchased our bottling plant in Hilo it was set up to bottle beverages in normal plastic PET bottles. We removed those machines and replaced with a more eco friendly re-usable glass bottle production line. We launched our business and bottled exclusively in this re-usable glass for 3 years, with pride. Unfortunately, we eventually learned that only approximately 1% of all bottled water sold in the World is sold in glass bottles. We could not sell enough volume to stay in business with just glass bottle offerings.

We then attempted to be one of the first beverage brands in the World to bottle in the new plant sourced plastics. With plant bottle prototype trials, and by watching other beverage brands try and fail, we learned that these bioplastic materials do not yet work for beverage bottles that must be sealed for consumer safety, and have a 2 year shelf life. The very exciting "plant bottles" we

see on social media are made from a material called PLA (Polylactic Acid from plants) which cannot withstand the heat in shipping containers, so the bottles actually begin to melt when transported. Bioplastics such as PLA, are also non-recyclable so if too many of these items (Including cutlery, cups, to go containers...) are put into the normal PET plastic waste stream for recycling, it will actually contaminate the PET recycling stream. Therefore, we have concluded that Bioplastics are not yet perfected or viable for any beverage bottle on a commercial scale. The good news is that all of the major beverage industry companies including Coke & Pepsi are working hard in their labs to crack the code and perfect plant/algae biodegradable and recyclable bottles. From what I understand, they are very close. This will eventually happen, but not yet today unfortunately.

We ended up adding new products to our offerings in plastic bottles that are made with a percentage of the plastic being RPET (Recycled plastic that was once another bottle) and the rest from regular virgin PET. This move not only saved our business but has also enabled it to grow into becoming the #1 premium water brand in Hawaii.

I believe the immediate solution for not only the plastic waste problem, but also for all packaging waste including aluminum cans, glass bottles, and cartons (milk and juice cartons) is not a ban, but is instead a group effort needed by Government, Industry, and communities to actually Recycle the bottles and packages that we consume in Hawaii.

Recycling does work and it is amazing. All trash should not be looked at as "Trash" but instead as a Resource because it is a resource that can be used over and over in a cradle to cradle loop.

Our company has now partnered with this amazing new environmental company in LA.

[www.rplanetearth.com](http://www.rplanetearth.com)

Please take a few minutes to review their very informative website and the link below to a short video that gives a tour of their new \$150 million cradle to cradle 100% RPET (Recycled PET) facility they just finished building in LA, California. I toured the facility 2 months ago as it was just going online for the first time. It's awesome and it is the first of its kind in the Continental USA. There is another one of these operating successfully now in Canada.

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x73yspi>

An IMMEDIATE solution to plastic bottles in Hawaii is for us to better collect the bottles and sort them and bale them to be shipped to LA where RPlanet Earth can right now process them into RPET flakes which can then be shipped back to Hawaii and used by companies like mine to make 100% RPET bottles, again, and again forever.

Longer term we should look at building a smaller scale RPET recycling plant on Oahu in the Campbell Industrial area right next to Pacific Allied Inc. which is the company that produces PET plastic bottles now for many bottled water brands in the State including ours.

The great news is that solutions do exist and we can together implement them right now. I am also a surfer. Interestingly, when I am able to take the personal time to explain all of this to the leadership at great environmental groups in Hawaii they all end up understanding and agreeing. We are on the same team.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this email. We must all work together and quickly for the greater good of Hawaii, the people of Hawaii, and the Earth / Aina.

Much Aloha,

Jason Donovan  
Founder & CEO  
[www.hawaiiivolcanic.com](http://www.hawaiiivolcanic.com)  
[jason@hawaiiivolcanic.com](mailto:jason@hawaiiivolcanic.com)

# *Island Plastic Bags Inc.*

TO: Chair Takumi; Vice Chair Ichiyama; and Committee

Chair Lee; Vice Chair San Buenaventura; and Committee

FROM: Adrian Hong, President of Island Plastic Bags, Inc.

RE: SB 522 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO PLASTIC

POSITION: STRONGLY OPPOSE

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of SB 522 SD2 HD1. My name is Adrian Hong and I am the president of Island Plastic Bags Inc., a second-generation, family business in Halawa Valley that manufactures plastic trash liners and food grade bags. If passed SB 522 SD2 HD1 would create a public health crisis, increase pollution in the state, and lead to loss of many jobs on the island.

This bill would prohibit the sale of any plastic bags. That means my company would no longer be able to sell biohazard bags and trash bags to nursing homes and hospitals across Hawaii. We would no longer be able to sell our trash liners and food grade bags to restaurants, janitorial cleaning services, hotels, bars, bakeries, etc. In addition, grocery stores would be prohibited from selling trash liners, Ziplocs, and other plastic bags to consumers. This would create a public health crisis.

The chances of patients in nursing homes and hospitals catching infectious diseases would dramatically increase if the nursing homes and hospitals could not purchase biohazard bags and trash liners. This would put the most vulnerable people in Hawaii at risk. Restaurants, bakeries, and other food establishments will become much more unsanitary places as there would be no easy way of containing trash carrying food borne illnesses like salmonella. Without food grade bags, chefs would be hard pressed to prevent food from coming into contact with all forms of contaminants. The same thing would happen in consumers' homes. Without trash liners, people won't have any easy way of containing trash that could make them sick. They would be forced to continually clean their trash cans. The water and chemicals used to do so would go down our storm drains, increasing water pollution.

Not only would water pollution increase but without the trash liners we sell to the State of Hawaii and the counties used for collecting trash at state parks, beaches, airports, etc., the beaches and other parks would be covered with litter. This would have a detrimental environmental impact. Instead of decreasing pollution, you would be increasing pollution by getting rid of trash liners and food grade bags.

Without the ability to sell our products to our customers, we would have to shut down our business and lay off our fifteen workers. This bill would most likely trigger layoffs in other local manufactures as well (ex. other trash liner manufacturers, plastic bottle manufacturers, and expanded polystyrene

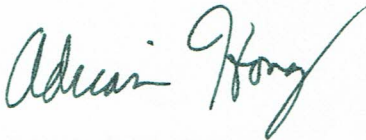


# *Island Plastic Bags Inc.*

manufacturers) and layoffs in companies that depend on the sales of those manufacturers. These employees depend on their pay and benefits to provide for their families.

Given the great economic and social harm this bill could do, I oppose SB522 SD2 HD1 as written. I request that plastic bags be removed from this ban as there is no viable alternative for plastic bags in all their applications. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions or comments about my testimony you can contact me by email at [ahong@islandplasticbags.com](mailto:ahong@islandplasticbags.com) or by phone at 808-484-4046.

Sincerely,



Adrian K. Hong, CPA\*

President

Island Plastic Bags, Inc.

[www.islandplasticbags.com](http://www.islandplasticbags.com)

Email: [ahong@islandplasticbags.com](mailto:ahong@islandplasticbags.com) | Phone: 808-484-4046 | Fax: 808-488-8505

\*Not in public practice



**Kelii Gouveia, Chairman** – Duke's Waikiki      **Tom Jones, Incoming Chair** – Gyotaku  
**Tammy Fukugawa, Vice Chair** – TS Restaurant      **Dirk Koeppenkastrup, Secretary** – IL Gelato Hawaii  
**Michael Miller, Treasurer** – Tiki's Grill & Bar      **Tyler Roukema, Past Chair** – Outrigger Canoe Club

**Sheryl Matsuoka**, Executive Director      **Leila Morinaga**, Executive Assistant      **Holly Kessler**, Director of Membership Relations

**2018 - 19 Board of Directors:**

Ben Dowling  
Chris Lee  
Don Murphy  
Elisia Flores  
Frank Nagamine  
Gary Manago  
Greg Maples  
Harold Watanabe  
James Aptakin  
Jim Hamachek  
Kahau Manzo  
Mariah Brown  
Michelle Brumblay  
Nick Roschi  
Pat Kashani  
Paul Yokota  
Rede Eder  
Rob Mora  
Scott Mackenzie  
Tambara Garrick  
Tiffany Tanaka  
Wade Hashizume

**Allied Members:**

Anne Lee  
Biff Graper  
Dan Pence  
Doug Harris  
Gerda Tom  
Jason Wong  
Jim Cremins  
Matt Rose  
Michael Griffith  
Naomi Azama  
Sharon Shigemoto

**Advisory Board**

Aurora Saulo  
Christian Ferrer  
Derek Conselva  
James Baloalao  
Jerry Agrusa  
Jon Muranaka  
Jonathan Youngs  
Justin Yoshino  
Kehau Giles  
Ku'ulei Williams  
Leianne Pedro  
Lisa Tomihama  
Liz Xu  
Peter Bellisario  
Richard Turbin  
Sidney Higa  
Tina Rogers  
Victor Lim

To: Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members of Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair  
Rep. Joy A, San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members of Committee on Judiciary

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Lead  
Hawaii Restaurant Association

Subj: SB 522 SD 2 HD 1 Relating to Plastic

Date; March 11, 2019

The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing over 3,600 restaurants here is very concerned about SB 522 SD1 HD 1 that prohibits Plastic food packaging, Plastic bags, single use beverage containers, and creates a Plastic Source Reduction Working Group.

Many major chains like McDonald's and Starbucks have made announcements in 2018 on their Commitment that by 2025 all of the guest packaging in their restaurants will be fiber based and will come from renewable, recycled or certified sources with a preference for Forest Stewardship Council (FRC) certification. The food industry and their supply chains are working but the 2023 as was in the bill last week, the deadline is not reasonable and achievable.

We do support the bills and initiatives that state that straws should be given out only upon request at full service restaurants similar to the California State law that was passed in 2018. How beverages are consumed varies greatly from the sit down restaurants to the quick service restaurants with drive-thru where many food and beverages are consumed on the go. This also applies to special needs individuals. Alternate straws made from paper, bamboo, metal are all being tested around the world with limited success due to its performance, durability, after-taste, and costs. Supply chain is seeking and working towards an alternate product.

NextGen Consortium. This is a partnership initially set up by Starbucks and McDonald's to fund research now joined by Nestle, Coca Cola and Yum and Wendy's for food service containers that will be both environmentally green and meet performance needs of the food and beverage industry. Each of the parties contributed millions for this to help us find a workable solution.

The alternate industry is in its infancy and that why we at the Hawaii Restaurant Association urges you, our representatives to be patient with these aggressive deadlines for implementation.

We do agree with the creation of a Plastic Source Reduction Group and look forward to participating.

Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity to share the Restaurant Industry's perspective on this very important issue.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 7:55:05 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Luque	Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter	Support	No

## Comments:

Single use plastics are nothing but a poison to our oceans and our wildlife. There is no excuse for purchasing a plastic bottle for water, a bottle that you use once. Since recycling is a mess right now and there is no guarantee that the recycling system will recover from the change in Chinese policy anytime soon, our #1 goal should be REDUCE.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 6:35:37 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
robert brower	surfrider foundation kauai	Support	No

Comments:

the 10 members of our executive committee strongly support this Bill; we have 1500 members and followers on Kauai. Mahalo



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

#### Executive Officers

**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Chair*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Vice Chair*  
**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 Consumer Protection & Commerce, and Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Roy M. Takumi and Rep. Chris Lee, Chairs  
Rep. Linda Ichiyama and Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 20, 2019  
TIME: 2pm  
PLACE: Conference Room 329

RE: SB522 SD2 HD1 Relating to Plastic

Position: **Oppose**

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

HFIA is in opposition to this measure.

**This bill would ban most beverages including a large number of locally made, and locally bottled products. As such, it would result in a loss of employment for many local people. This bill would ban most bottled water, which can have serious negative consequences for health and for disaster preparedness.**

Solutions are being developed to address issues relating to plastic. However, at the current time the quantity of alternative packaging available is not enough to cover the demand set in this bill.

Our businesses that are trying to transition to alternatives like paper straws are finding that the demand outpaces the supply.

A local water company that formerly bottled exclusively in glass was forced to make the switch to plastic bottles in order to stay in business. Beverage manufacturers that tried to use bio plastic bottles have found that they melted in higher temperatures during transportation. Melted bottles leak product.

There is not infrastructure in the state currently to allow for glass bottles to be re-filled. If that is the intent of the bill, that infrastructure should be provided prior to any ban bill being passed. Currently, the state is not recycling glass on island and is losing money shipping the glass elsewhere. Much of our glass is ending up at HPower (where it causes problems) or landfills.

The portion of this bill relating to plastic bags would ban many products. **A few examples of banned products are any products packaged in plastic bags such as ice cream sandwiches, frozen fruits and vegetables, chocolates or cookies that are in individual plastic bags, cereal bags, ice bags, and many more. Most Hawaii residents buy staple foods like rice and bread in plastic bags.** There are not safe sanitary packaging alternatives available at this time that meet the specifications set in this bill. It's unclear how this bill could be enacted without having disastrous repercussions for the food supply in this state.

Businesses seek packaging that is affordable but most importantly that is safe. That means keeping food and drinks clean and protected from bacteria, keeping food at safe temperatures, and protecting food workers and customers from hot food and drinks.

The food and beverage industry is working hard and investing millions in creating alternative packaging that adheres to health and safety requirements and meets customers' needs while being ecologically friendly. However, the supply of alternatives currently available does not meet the demand set in this bill.

The waste management options that our State offers also do not meet the standards set in this bill. No county has an industrial composting facility. Counties currently ship all our recycling out of state. Some counties are landfilling recyclables. **We need to work on a way to reuse and recycle materials in the state.**

**This most likely means that we need to aggregate recyclables statewide to meet the tonnage range that would warrant the purchase of expensive reuse/recycling equipment.** A statewide solution to recycling is needed. There are new and exciting technologies that may help move our state forward on recycling or reusing our packaging resources. Let's work together on that.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:14:30 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tien phan	Stadium Pho	Oppose	No

## Comments:

my name is tien Phan i am a member owner of Phan LLC (DBA Stadium Pho)

i oppose the Ban of using styrofoams material container and any plastice utensil ,straw for foods services because i am a small Restaurant owner and we rely on them serve our customer need as far Dining in customer and carry out. Banning the use of such material will lead to use of other alternated that cost much higher and bring up the cost for our services. We as small business oner work extra hard , we do most of the work our self and even do work for our employee that often dont carry out their job correctly and on timely mater. so it is hard to have to spend that extra money to cover the new expensive to use the alternated material. Maybe one will challenger my believe by saying i should pass that new expense to customer . But by doing so will also scare customer away and not wanting to buy our foods and risk putting our business out of business. and most of our customer are also hard working men and women that have family driving up cost for meal does not help any one. While i understand the use of styrofoam and plastice like material is bad for the environment at the moment. we are not big business like Mcdonald Jackinthebox and Cheese Cake Factory that can hire as many employee as they please and lay on the beach enjoying that hawaiian sun. We work hard to make a living. please consider Us 90% of Citizen that is not mega richs in considering your dication on these ban of material being use for foods serives.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:20:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina Adolpho	Waiahole Poi Factory	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha State Representatives,

I am the General Manager of Waiahole Poi Factory. We offer traditional Hawaiin plate lunches and are one of three restaurants on the island owned by native Hawaiians.

We are extremely concerned about the amount of pollution that ends up in our beautiful environment and how it affects wildlife. BUT, I question whether a ban on styrofoam containers at restaurants is the best solution.

First, these types of bans only hurt the little guys, the mom and pop restaurants. I work seven days a week, sometimes as long as 12 hours a day. Think about that, we are not a huge restaurant with a lot of staff. Our profit margins are thin. We use styrofoam containers for a few reasons, but cost efficiency is a big one. Looking at the alternatives, we will suffer a big hit with our profit if this ban were to be passed.

Second, I don't see how replacing one piece of trash with another will keep trash from going into the ocean.

I am interested in hearing ideas from you that support our beautiful Hawai'i while also supporting small institutions like ours that contribute to our culture.

Thank you,

Christina Adolpho

Waiahole Poi Factory

48-140 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe, HI 96744

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:54:16 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Ushijima	the Hibachi	Oppose	No

Comments:

Wed. March 20, 2019 - Hearing

House Committees Judiciary and Consumer Protection and Commerce

SB 522 and SB367 - Oppose

Members of the Committees:

My name is Mark Ushijima and I am a partner in the Hibachi Kailua. I am strongly against a ban on styrofoam containers in Hawaii. This will truly impact the small businesses in Hawaii. We already have high overhead costs (labor, electricity, taxes, fees, lease rent, etc...) that adding to our cost of goods would be very detrimental.

I also have a small business with my friend in Washington State. Washington State did not impose a ban on styrofoam but they strongly discourage styrofoam. They understand the importance of small businesses in Washington.

State legislators should review the Honolulu City Auditor's Study (which I participated in) about Single Use Polystyrene Food Containers and Plastic Bags.  
[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)

The City Auditor finds that the majority of litter observed was miscellaneous items, and food service items mainly of non-polystyrene material that would remain unaffected by a ban.

Since there are no reusable alternative food containers, the ban will only change the material of the container, and that substitute container will become litter. Customers sometimes bring in personal reusable containers but many do not know that is against the law due to safety and hygiene reasons.

Focusing on styrofoam and only one type of plastic, that is not a big part of the waste stream, doesn't make sense. Someone should look at all the plastics from retail chips to juice pouches to frozen food bags—just walk through a grocery store. Some of these like potato chip bags are littered on streets, parks and beaches far more than foam food containers. I don't understand this. There are so many other plastic litter why go after a economical, useful product that's not even a major part of the litter problem.

Please do not pass this law. Not only will it affect the business owners but it will also affect the employees who work tirelessly for higher wages.

Thank you,  
Mark Ushijima  
the Hibachi  
515 Kailua Road  
Kailua, HI 96734  
thehibachihawaii@gmail.com

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:56:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gwen Alejo-Herring	Queen Street Cafe & Grill	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB 522 and SB367— Oppose Ban Relating to Plastics and Foam Food Container

House Committees on Judiciary and Consumer Protection and Commerce

Aloha Representatives,

My name is Gwen Alejo-Herring. I am the owner and operator of the Queen Street Cafe & Grill in the Aiea Town Square.

My cafe prepares and sells plate lunches like kiawe grilled steak, firecracker chicken, ahi Belly and more. All entrees come with a choice of two scoops rice, garlic mash or brown rice, along with a choice of potato, mac or tossed salad.

We use foam food containers because it can handle the weight, moisture and retain the heat of our foods. My customers and I believe foam food container bans don't make sense because here on Oahu, foam food containers and even compostable containers all go to HPower for energy production. If there were a biodegradable/compostable plant, it then makes more sense for paying more for biodegradable containers.

I also provide lunch for schools. One school requires biodegradable plates, which I find to be flimsy and I worry about if and when a child may get burned from hot lunches. Another school that I work with uses the foam plates. I notice that the biodegradable plates are double or more the price of the foam plates.

If a foam food container ban becomes law, I will need to raise prices and I worry about losing customers. Everyone is very price-conscious.

Please do not support these foam container ban bills.

Sincerely,

Gwen Alejo-Herring

Queen Street Cafe & Grill



99-080 Kauhale Street Aiea,

HI 96701

[galejoherring@gmail.com](mailto:galejoherring@gmail.com)

March 18, 2019

Before the House Committee on Consumer protection and Commerce, and Judiciary  
Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

March 20, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

RE: Opposition to SB 522 SD2 - Relating to Plastic

Chair Roy M. Takumi, Chair Chris Lee and members of the committees. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 522 SD2 – relating to plastic.

My name is Leighton Horiuchi, and I am Vice Chairman of ITO EN (Hawaii) LLC. We are a local beverage manufacturer and distributor of soft drinks doing business in Kalihi since 1987. We currently employ 85 local workers. Our product line includes Aloha Maid fruit drinks and iced teas and Royal Mills iced coffees. We also distribute many other soft drinks throughout the state, including our Aloha Wai brand bottled water which is manufactured out in Kapolei.

I strongly oppose SB 522 SD2. The beverage industry is a very important part of Hawaii's economy – and one of the few remaining industries still manufacturing in the Islands. Unlike most consumer products, many of our beverages, aluminum cans and plastic bottles are manufactured and distributed in Hawaii by local employees.

Plastic beverage bottles are not “single-use” products. Like aluminum cans, plastic beverage bottles are 100% recyclable, and can be collected, recycled, and made into new plastic containers or used in the manufacturing of other consumer goods such as carpets and clothing. For the past 14 years, the state Department of Health has operated Hawaii's Deposit Beverage Container program which has assisted businesses and residences to recycle over 7 billion beverage containers, including plastic bottles. Our industry businesses and community residences continue to support the state's recycling program whether through recycling centers or curbside recycling.

Our beverage industry is working with recyclers, governments, and environmental groups nationally and globally to reduce the amount of virgin plastic used to make beverage bottles, recycle more and recover more plastic for manufacturing, reduce our carbon footprint and keep the world litter free. This innovation and investment continues, and more leaders need to support and foster a positive recycling approach to overcome this worldwide issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,  
Leighton Horiuchi

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:48:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Ishida	ABC Stores	Oppose	No

## Comments:

ABC Stores opposes SB 522, SD2, HD1 Relating to Plastics. This measure would prohibit the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws by state and county agencies after July 1, 2021, and businesses selling food and beverages after July 1, 2022, and bans the distribution or sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023.

We have been in support of environmental measures like the call for the customer to request the use of single use plastic straws. We also recognize that a state law would be more uniformed for business operations and maybe more beneficial than a diverse array of county ordinances dealing with this issue.

A mere substitution of polystyrene type containers, plastic straws, beverage containers and bags to another type will NOT result in reduced trash as more than likely the substitution product would be discarded in the same manner. The alternative products often creates more waste in volume and energy as well as increased air and water pollution – in the manufacturing of and in the transportation of these alternative products to businesses. We need to be looking into comprehensive solutions like public trash cans that are designed to keep its contents from flying out. We agree that a plastic reduction working group that has a fair balance of government, business, and the community is a step in the right direction. We urge you to hold this measure. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 12:21:48 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Ngyuen	Pho Tri Restaurant	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: Hawaii House of Representatives

Judiciary and Consumer Protection and Commerce Committees

From: George Nguyen

1307 Kalakaua Ave

Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Date: March 20, 2019 Hearing

To whom it may concern:

I am a small business owner. I am a single dad and am putting my daughter through college. My family relies on my business, Pho Tri Vietnamese Restaurant. We use styrofoam to-go containers for our customers because they are the most affordable and they also work the best. I spend \$23 on a case of 200 styrofoam containers. Other containers cost \$52 for 200 containers. We use about 200 to-go containers per day. I work in my restaurant every day. I am not rich, but I am proud to have a small business that I started when I immigrated to this country. Banning these containers and making business more expensive will make it harder for other immigrants like me.

Please think about how this ban will affect small immigrant businesses like mine.

Also, compostable utensils are nice, but they are more expensive too.

George Nguyen

Pho Tri Vietnamese Restaurant

1307 Kalakaua Ave

808-341-6012



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI  
PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
March 20, 2019  
Re: SB 522 SD2 HD1 Relating to Plastics**

Good morning Chairperson Takumi, Chairperson Lee and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on Judiciary. 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 SB 522 SD2 HD1 Relating to Plastics. This measure prohibits the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, plastic bags and straws by state and county agencies, restaurants, standard bars, and any other businesses or individuals on a certain date; creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging; and establishes the Solid waste Prevention Coordinator. Appropriates funds.

This measure would ban items like eggs shipped in Styrofoam cartons, meat trays, Cup of Noodle, storage & garbage bags, doggie waste bags, juice boxes and pouches with straws, reusable tote bags made out of recycled plastic, reusable cups with straws to name a few items. We also question if this measure would violate interstate commerce by banning the sale of these items and more.

Bans are not the simple answer. We need to maintain a fair balance regarding food service containers, bottled beverages, bags, straws and other products and look at coordinated litter reduction programs. Furthermore, determination should be made if the litter is coming from our state or from other states or from other countries.

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. We also look for cost effective products that protect items from breakage such as eggs Styrofoam cartons and present appetizing products like meats on Styrofoam trays.

We have been in support of environmental measures like the call for the customer to request the use of a single use plastic straw. We also recognize a state law would be more uniform for business operations and maybe more beneficial than a diverse array of county ordinances dealing with this issue.

A mere substitution of polystyrene type containers, plastic straws, beverage containers and bags to another type will NOT result in reduced trash as more than likely the substitution product would be discarded in the same manner. The alternative products often creates more waste in volume and energy as well as increase air and water pollution – in the manufacturing of and in the transportation to the business.

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 agree that a plastic reduction working group that has a fair balance of government, business and the community is a step in the right direction.

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



**March 20, 2019 at 2:00 pm**  
**Conference Room 329**

**House Committee Consumer Protection and Commerce**  
**House Committee on Judiciary**

To: Chair Roy M. Takumi  
Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama

Chair Chris Lee  
Vice Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
Director of Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

**Re: Submitting Comments**  
**SB 522 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Plastic**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **comments** on this measure. While we appreciate the intent of this legislation, we have concerns that this bill could cause serious patient and environmental safety issues. In particular, we are concerned with Section 2, which would prohibit any company from purchasing, using, selling, or distributing any single-use plastic product, including bags. As written, this legislation would likely prohibit any medical supply provider from selling plastic bags to hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, assisted living facilities, urgent care centers, free standing ambulatory surgical centers, physician offices, or any other patient care setting where medical or other hazardous waste is disposed of. Any prohibition on the sale of bags to medical providers could create serious patient and environmental safety concerns for the disposal of critical waste, with no clear remedy. The lack of safe disposal equipment would also result in penalties from state and federal regulators, who set high standards of cleanliness in facilities to ensure patients receive safe, effective care.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 1:58:48 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doora Shin	Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Members of the Committees,

My name is Doora Shin, and I am testifying in support of SB522 on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation O'ahu Chapter, which has hundreds of members and volunteers, with several campaigns and programs to ensure clean water and healthy beaches here in our island home.

I first got engaged with plastic/waste issues in 2012 as a college student at UH Manoa, where we passed a policy to phase out polystyrene foam from campus foodservice operations. As a campus made up of both small and big food establishments that are all required to have affordable prices for students, there was no impact on the many vendors serving food at UH Manoa and the switch from foam to the many other alternatives was smooth.

With recent Maui & Hawai'i County ordinances that ban polystyrene foam, and with over 200 counties in California, and many more areas around the country and world passing effective policies to reduce single-use plastics, there is a global movement gaining unprecedented momentum to address single-use plastics and transition to more sustainable materials. Even the plastics industry is preparing for the switch, and policies like this are inevitable in the wake of recent science and consumer awareness about the great issue of plastic pollution and overconsumption.

**Our Goals**

This bill will help the State of Hawaii reach its goals of waste reduction / landfill diversion, and it also helps us align with at least 5 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (#11, #12, #13, #14, #15).



As an island community, we have an important responsibility to take care of our lands and our oceans. This is the essence of kuleana and of mālama 'āina that makes



Hawai'i the pristine and special place that it is. With the mass culture of convenience depending upon single-use plastics for foodservice and packaging, we see large consequences to our land and our economy that will only worsen if we take no action.

### The Problem With Plastics

Plastics are made from petroleum, never truly breaking down and instead becoming increasingly pervasive in the environment over time, entering our food chain and harming animals. So, the environmental impacts of plastics are clear and require no debate, but the impact on our local tourist industry is one that is not discussed. With plastics being so lightweight, easily blowing out of trash cans and into the environment, and lasting forever in our environment, our ability to showcase our pristine environment to visitors becomes threatened. Even when disposed of properly, plastics pose more harm than its eco-friendly alternatives both in the extraction/production processes as well as in the disposal processes.

### Alternatives are Abundant!

The good news is that myriad alternatives exist to single-use plastics, with every major distributor in Hawaii offering equivalent paper, compostable, and bio-compostable alternatives to traditional plastic-ware and with a wave of foodservice establishments voluntarily choosing to go plastic free in their operations. This bill affords ample time for businesses to prepare with a diverse working group to plan and assist in the next 3 years to make the implementation of this bill successful.

### Protecting Small Businesses

With one concern being the potential impact on small businesses, we can include a financial hardship exemption to ensure any businesses that cannot make the switch without undue hardship, can be exempt from compliance. Additionally, alternatives to plastic are just a small percentage more if at all, and they are becoming increasingly available and affordable, with Costco now even selling compostable to-go ware on multiple island locations.

The Ocean Friendly Restaurants Hawai'i Program has over 200 restaurants certified across the State of Hawai'i that have no polystyrene foam on site, straws upon request, no plastic bags, and reusable tableware for those dining in, to name just some of the requirements they fulfill. This in itself shows that a whole wave of restaurants of all sizes are voluntarily making the switch and finding that instead of hurting their businesses, it actually helps, because of the consumer trend towards eco-friendly choices.

Having worked with restaurants, hotels, businesses, and events that have gone plastic free and made efforts to minimize waste, we are happy to act as resources for the State and for businesses to have a smooth transition.

### Composting

Although we do not yet have commercial composting facilities for eco-friendly alternatives that may replace single-use plastics, this bill still solves the problems that single-use plastics cause in the extraction, production, and disposal process, because compostable alternatives are plant-based, which means less toxins released to workers and the environment in all steps of the process, including in burning trash and if items were to end up in the ocean. For example, a plastic container versus a compostable container flying into the ocean are clearly not the same. If an animal were to ingest or get stuck in the plastic, it would suffer health consequences with plastic lasting forever in its body and/or the ocean, while a compostable container would effectively breakdown and be a non-toxic presence in the ocean and natural environment. At the same time, we are excited for commercial composting facilities to come to the various counties in the future to properly dispose of compostable items in the most sustainable way possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and please do not hesitate to reach out with any further questions ([dshin@oahu.surfrider.org](mailto:dshin@oahu.surfrider.org)).

Mahalo,

Dooraee Shin

Surfrider Foundation

O'ahu Chapter Coordinator



March 18, 2019

In Support of SB522 SD1 Relating to Plastic  
House Committees on Judiciary (JUD) & Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC)  
Mar. 20, 2019, 2:00pm, Room 229

Aloha, Chairs Lee & Takumi, Vice Chairs Buenaventura & Ichiyama and Members of the Committees:

As the Hawaii Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, I am writing in strong support of SB522 SD1 to phase out single-use straws, utensils, stirring sticks and polystyrene food containers. With the support of Surfrider's five Chapters and thousands of members across Hawaii, we are committed to reducing the litter and environmental hazards of polystyrene foam and other single-use plastics as part of our popular Rise Above Plastics campaign. We are also part of Zero Waste Oahu and the Hawaii Reef & Ocean Coalition (HIROC), a group of coral reef scientists, environmental groups, businesses and educational groups, and this Zero Waste bill is one of our top priorities this session.

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

Industry lobbyists will also say that phasing out polystyrene food containers and other single-use plastics will hurt small businesses, but there are many restaurants that have dropped these products and are doing just fine. In fact, the new Ocean Friendly Restaurants Hawaii program has registered more than 200 restaurants that are foam-free in the last 24 months! They have also committed to only offering straws on request and not using plastic bags, plates, cups or utensils onsite. Here's a partial list of all the restaurants in Hawaii: [www.oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org](http://www.oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org).

During our monthly beach cleanups around the state, EPS foam products are among the top items we find every single time. In fact, as part of International Coastal Cleanup Day, 17,383 cups, plates and pieces of EPS foam were removed from Hawaii's beaches in a single day on Sat., Sept. 19, 2015! But plastic straws, utensils and stirring sticks are high on the list of the most littered items that we remove from our coastal areas. That's why we need this bill, which would help reduce these litter problems and environmental issues by requiring restaurants and food service vendors to stop using toxic EPS foam containers.

Hawaii has one of the highest per capita rates of take-out food in the country. Locals and visitors tell us they are shocked by the number of polystyrene food containers they see in restaurants and later find on the beaches. The same goes for single-use plastic straws, stirrers and utensils.

The amount of testimony for these bills was overwhelmingly in favor of reducing polystyrene food containers. Though it's tempting to be swayed by the exaggerated claims of lobbyists for a few local foam producers and distributors, these same companies already carry and distribute more eco-friendly recyclable and compostable products because they see the writing on the wall.



Scientific research and public sentiment have created a compelling case against polystyrene and plastic products, and more than 110 cities and counties have already enacted successful foam bans. Polls show that most people in Hawaii support banning foam food products and other single-use products. A recent study in *Science* showed that plastics are a major cause of coral reef disease and decline, and our Islands are dependent on our coral reefs for seafood, ocean recreation and tourism.

We appreciate that Hawaii's legislators have been environmental leaders in moving forward policies like the bills to ban plastic bags and create smoke-free parks & beaches. Now, we ask you to assert that same leadership on this issue. Because polystyrene food service products and single-use plastic bags, straws, and utensils are toxic to the environment, their use should be phased out gradually. There are many affordable alternatives that are non-toxic, biodegradable and not damaging to the environment or human health. On top of that, it will cost the counties less to clean up.

The state needs a consistent policy of eliminating these and other single-use products. Protecting our land and people should be our top priority, not allowing a few companies to profit from outmoded products that harm the environment and our wildlife. Mahalo for your consideration and leadership on this issue.

Aloha,

**Stuart Coleman**

Stuart H. Coleman, Hawaii Manager

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:44:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robyn Smith	Aloha Hemp Company	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I very strongly support this bill and believe it is necessary for the sustainable future of the islands. Please do not let us down.

Robyn Smith

Aloha Hemp Company

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:11:12 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John & Rita Shockley	FREE ACCESS COALITION	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

Please pass this bill to protect the State from plastic pollution.

We are an island. Our people and our sea life are counting on all of us to be responsible and eliminate non-degradable plastics. We have alternate packaging--let's use it.

Mahalo for your time.

John & Rita Shockley [www.freeaccesscoalition.weebly.com](http://www.freeaccesscoalition.weebly.com)

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:46:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel Wacker	One oncean conservation	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:50:30 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Martin	Sail Hawaii International LLC	Support	No

## Comments:

The situation with plastic trash littering our beaches, killing our sea life and making us sick has gotten out of hand. The State of Hawaii must take this issue seriously for the sake of our future. Please pass this bill!





## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Judiciary

From: Paula Yoshioka, Vice President, Government Relations and External Affairs, The  
Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 15, 2019

Hrg: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and Committee on Judiciary  
Joint Hearing; Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. in Room 329

Re: Comments with Serious Concerns on S.B. 522, S.D.2, H.D. 1, Relating to Plastic

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a not-for-profit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, 66 health care centers and labs, and more than 1,600 physicians statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to comment with serious concerns on S.B. 522, S.D.2, H.D. 1 relating to plastic. While we appreciate the intent of this measure, we have serious concerns with regards to the potential impacts on patient and environmental safety. Part two beginning on page 5, lines 16-20, and continued on page 6, lines 1 and 2, would prohibit any business from distributing, selling, or otherwise providing single-use plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, plastic bags, or straws. As written, this measure could prohibit our ability to acquire plastic bags for trash disposal, ziplock bags for containment of medical supplies, and bags for containment of biohazardous waste. We would request that health care facilities, providers, and our suppliers be excluded from the provisions of this bill to ensure patient and environmental safety.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*

Federal agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)<sup>1,2</sup>, and the State Department of Health<sup>3</sup> (DOH) regulate many aspects of medical and infectious waste, including management of sharps, requirements for containers that hold or store medical/infectious waste, labeling of medical/infectious waste bags/containers, and employee training. Infectious waste is required to be contained in non-soluble plastic bags, red in color or clearly labeled with the Universal Biological Hazard symbol. Under the DOH, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 58.1, Infectious waste is defined as "...any waste which may contain pathogens capable of causing an infectious disease..." This would include but is not limited to infectious isolation waste, human pathological waste, contaminated sharps, animal waste, and blood, blood products and other bodily fluids.

In addition to the many requirements and regulations for the management, treatment, transport, storage and disposal of infectious waste, Hawaii also operates under the occupational safety and health (OSHA) program. OSHA requires<sup>4</sup> the management of sharps, regulates the containers that hold or store medical/infectious waste, labeling of medical/infectious waste bags/containers, and employee training. This ensures that our employees are protected from exposure to biohazardous waste.

The prohibition of distributing, selling, or otherwise providing plastic bags on health care providers puts our patients and community at risk. We respectfully request exclusion of health care facilities, providers, and our suppliers from these prohibitions to ensure that our patients and community continue to have access to a safe care environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

---

<sup>1</sup> United States Centers for Disease Control, "Recommendations for Prevention of HIV transmission in Health-Care Settings, MMWR 1987"; <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00023587.htm>

<sup>2</sup> United States Centers for Disease Control, "Update: 'Universal Precautions' for prevention of transmission of HIV immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B virus and other blood borne pathogens in health-care settings MMWR June 1988"; <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/universal.html>

<sup>3</sup> Hawaii Administrative Management and Disposal of Infectious Waste (Title 11, Chapter 104); <http://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/files/2015/06/11-104.1.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration; Part 1910, Occupational Safety and Health Standards, Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart Z, Toxic and Hazardous Substances; [https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_id=10099&p\\_table=STANDARDS](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=10099&p_table=STANDARDS)

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:24:27 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina Robbins	Plastic Free Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:37:10 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

It about leading by example. How do we expect to have the public to care if our government doesn't? I encourage you to do the right thing in supporting SB522 SD2 HD1.





**SB 522sd2,hd1, Relating to Plastics**

**House CPC/JUD Hearing**

**Wednesday March 20, 2019**

**2:00 Pm – Room 329**

**Position: Oppose**

Chairs Takumi and Lee, and Members of the House CPC/JUD Committee:

While this bill focuses on the elimination of a variety of single use plastic packaging, KYD Inc. dba: K. Yamada Distributors' opposition testimony is specific to proposed ban of polystyrene food foam containers.

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 SB 522sd2,hd1, which is based on the assumption that polystyrene packaging materials are major contributors to marine debris, litter and greenhouse gas emissions (Part I); Creates a law that bans a wide range of single use plastic packaging (Part II) and then creates a working group to formulate a plan for eliminating single-use plastic packaging from Hawaii's waste stream (Part III). A general comment: It seems that a work group should come first with its recommendations for realistic sustainable practices. :

A ban of FDA Approved<sup>1</sup> food-grade PS containers does little to reduce litter or ocean debris harmful to marine life and the environment. Litter is litter; there is no such thing as environmentally responsible litter.

- PS foam food containers are no more harmful to fish and ocean wildlife than other manmade materials, and are not likely 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)

<sup>1</sup> FDA Regulation Title 21 CFR 177.1640



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.

- Critics of food-grade PS foam products often cite the Department of Transportation trash study ranking of PS foam as one of the top two litter items. However a closer look shows that PS Foam ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the Department of Transportation trash management Study

**Table 5. Trash composition in volume (x 10<sup>-3</sup> cy/ha-yr) per sample site.**

SITE #	PLASTIC BAGS AND PACKAGING	POLYSTYRENE FOAM	CIGARETTE BUTTS	METAL	PAPER	RECYCLABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS	MISCELLANEOUS
1	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	31.15	0.90	0.55	0.39	5.98	0.99	12.92
3	63.28	4.64	0.01	10.53	39.32	7.86	30.33
4	29.97	1.37	1.66	0.47	7.23	1.27	0.29
5	43.67	1.17	0.03	2.72	37.06	1.87	85.04
6	0.23	0.04	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	43.68	0.81	0.00	0.00	2.39	2.50	12.75
8	4.80	1.40	0.00	0.41	1.69	0.00	0.00
9	18.01	0.10	0.00	1.35	3.27	8.81	8.00
10	146.99	0.48	0.09	0.00	34.82	25.26	7.20
	# 1	#6	#7	#5	#3	#4	#2
T	381.97	10.91	2.34	16.17	131.76	48.56	156.53

- 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



**KYD, Inc. dba k. yamada distributors**

***An independent leader in packaging and wholesale distribution***

P.O. BOX 29669, Honolulu, Hawaii 96820 Phone: (808) 836-3221 Fax: (808) 833-8995

---

Anecdotally, we have heard that some Big Island food operators have made the switch to alternative containers ahead of the July 1, 2019 ban implementation date. Plate lunch prices in Hilo have gone up to \$12.00 - \$15.00 range. In Kona, plate lunches are at \$14.00 to \$18.00. In addition to the increase in plate lunches, residents complain that there's less food served.

- Supply Chain Disruption and Impact on Business and Residents:

Different customers are not necessarily looking for the same replacement container. They are looking for containers that are price sensitive and a good fit for their product.

The ban on foam food containers and increasing consumer demand for take-out foods increases the burden for packaging products, no matter the material

- There is no history of movement of alternative containers. There is uncertainty about how much to stock and when it will be needed.
- It takes a minimum of 4-5 weeks before supplies are shipped to Hawaii
- Warehousing of inventory is a costly expense and capacity is limited throughout the islands.
- Maui distributors are facing this problem and want to push the carrying of inventory to Oahu distributors
- Shortages of alternative food service containers will occur

We respectfully request policy makers to pause and assess the true impact of bans imposed on Maui and the pending Big Island Ban before implementing a statewide policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.





**Young Democrats of Hawaii**  
Democratic Party of Hawaii

**Testimony presented before the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and  
the Committee on Judiciary  
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329**

**Senate Bill 522 SD2 HD1**

Dear Chairs Takumi and Lee, Vice Chairs Ichiyama and San Buenaventura, and members of the Committees:

Senate Bill 522, SD2 HD1 prohibits the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, plastic bags and straws by state and county agencies, restaurants, standard bars, and any other businesses or individuals on a certain date. This bill also creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging and establishes the Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator.

In January 2019 the Young Democrats of Hawaii conducted a member survey to identify and prioritize important issues facing young people today. Taking action on climate change was identified as one of the top three issues. YDHI members recognize that the impacts of climate change are already being felt throughout the world and in the State of Hawaii, and that actions must be taken immediately to ensure a viable future for all of Hawaii residents. The Young Democrats of Hawaii **strongly supports** the passing of Senate Bill 522, SD2 HD1 for the following reasons:

- 1) Single-use plastic products including bottles, utensils, polystyrene foam containers, bags, and straws make up nearly half of the plastic pollution floating in the world's oceans and waterways. While often providing use for only a short time before it is thrown away, these plastics do not biodegrade and will continue to exist for at least another 450 years. By 2050 there may be more plastic products than there are fish in the ocean.
- 2) Businesses can now find competitive prices for eco-friendly products that do not harm the environment. A growing number of customers are becoming more accustomed to selecting eco-friendly alternatives and bringing their own reusable ware when dining out.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Executive Committee  
Young Democrats of Hawaii

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:15:14 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
danielle shemesh	Catering Company-Gazoz	Support	No

Comments:

Every plastic ever made still exists somewhere.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:33:39 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edwina Moscatelli	Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:41:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaitlin Mann	Wipeout Crew	Support	No

Comments:



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

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

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CPC & JUD

March 20, 2019      2:00 p.m.      Room 329

**In SUPPORT of SB 522 SD2 HD1:** Relating to plastic

---

Aloha Chair Takumi, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Buenaventura and members of both committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB 522 SD2 HD1**, which seeks to prohibit the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, plastic bags and straws by state and county agencies, restaurants, standard bars, and any other businesses or individuals on a certain date. Creates the source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging. Establishes the Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator. Appropriates funds.

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

We are currently experiencing a plastic pollution epidemic here in Hawai'i. 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 massive large collections of trash, such as The Great Pacific Garbage Patch which is currently twice the size of Texas and growing. This patch is located between Hawaii and California, but close enough to Hawaii where we see and feel the significant effects of this plastic trash on even the most remote of beaches that can be found in the state. The toxins and heavy chemicals found in plastics are not compostable or biodegradable and can take 500 years or more to decompose. They create an overabundance of waste that continually overflows local landfills and our beaches.



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

We have been trying to pass these bills for years now, and this is the year to do it. Companies will be able to make this transition as they have had many years to understand the movement away from plastic and polystyrene is happening and that they need to adapt as well. The transition away from single-use plastics is very possible and happening in many places around the world, such as the pacific island nation of Vanuatu where single-use plastic bags, drinking straws and polystyrene food containers have been banned since July 2018. The European Union just approved a ban on single-use plastics by 2021. There are numerous municipalities across the United States that have banned plastic bags, polystyrene, plastic straws or a combination of these, showing that it can be done and that there are alternatives. These alternatives may cost a little more, but the market is changing, people want to be able to contribute to a healthier environment and don't mind the added few cent fee that these new products could bring.

By reducing single-use plastics at the source, Hawai'i will have the opportunity to take on one of the most toxic and widespread of pollutants and showcase its state sustainability goals to the nation.

*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 this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of SB 522 SD2 HD1.**

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

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:32:35 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matt	Gone For Milk.	Support	No

Comments:



## **HOUSE COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE AND JUDICIARY**

March 20, 2019      2:00 p.m.      Room 329

### **In STRONG SUPPORT of SB522 SD1 HD1: Relating to Plastic**

---

Aloha Chairs Takumi and Lee, Vice Chairs Ichiyama and San Buenaventura, and members of the committees,

The HAWAII REEF AND OCEAN COALITION –HIROC– was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawai'i's coral reefs and ocean, including harms from plastics.

#### **We strongly support the passage of SB522 SD2 HD1.**

Polystyrene foam containers are ultra-light, produce litter on land, and often are blown into the ocean, where they harm marine life, including sea birds, fish, mammals and even our precious corals that protect Hawai'i's shorelines. Single-use plastics (straws, bags, bottles, utensils) similarly break into smaller and smaller pieces that choke seabirds and other marine life and carry bacteria that harms many forms of sea life. There are more sustainable alternatives to plastics that would involve only a small increase for consumers, with far less impact on our pristine environment. We must act now to protect our environment by reducing and even eliminating plastic use!

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support of SB522 SD2 HD1.**

Kimiko LaHaela Walter on behalf of the Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 6:25:55 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael A Nobriga	Maui Soda & Ice Works, Ltd	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

We are opposed to the discriminatory language presented in SB 522.

We are not comfortable with recommendations that single our beverage plastic containers and does not address the multitude of other single use plastic containers being used by food establishments and the government in general.

We are also very concerned that this measure would remove all forms of 'Cup of Noodle' products.

We believe in Free-Enterprise. We are America. We need to support the efforts of business to meet the demands of our consumer. The public has a right to choose what they eat and what they drink from.

Further our industry has promoted recycling, providing consumers with containers made from recycled product. Our plastic bottles currently contain 30% plant based product. The industry does not have or will it have a suitable replacement for single use containers other than glass.

With the current collections of Hi-5 deposit and fees, there is a huge balance in that fund that does little to support or encourage further recycling, reuse or alternative application of consumed packaging.

I respectfully request we postpone enactment of this measure to study the total ramifications of the legislation.

Mahalo

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:24:17 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kamryn Conway	Wipeout Crew	Support	No

Comments:



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS		DIRECTORS		MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President		Melodie Aduja	Ken Farm	P.O. Box 23404 Honolulu Hawaii'i
Alan Burdick, Vice President		Guy Archer	Chuck Huxel	
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer		Juliet Begley	Jan Lubin	
96823				
Dylan Armstrong, Secretary		Gloria Borland	Jenny Nomura	

March 17 , 2018

TO: Honorable Chairs & CPC/JUD Committee Members

RE: SB 522 SD2 HD2 Relating to Plastic

Support for hearing on March 20

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

We support the intent of SB 522 SD2 HD2 as it would ban plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, plastic bags and straws by state and county agencies, restaurants, standard bars, and any other businesses or individuals on a certain date. It also creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging. We find plastics to be nefarious polluters of our land and sea. The more we can reduce single-use plastics the better.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel President





# sustainable coastlines Hawaii

---

SB 522: Strong Support  
Hearing: March 20, 2019 2PM  
Committees on CPC/JUD

Aloha Chairs Takumi & Lee and Members of the House CPC & JUD Committees,

I am writing as the Executive Director of Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i and on behalf of our thousands of dedicated volunteers who spend their lives caring for our coastlines. Mahalo for your time, effort and energized focus on a series of bills that are addressing plastic pollution and its associated effects on our environment, climate change, waste generation, and of course on our livelihoods in Hawai'i. **We are in strong support of SB522** – a phase out plan for single-use plastics and mechanism to continue to find solutions for other forms of plastic packaging pollution. While many similar bills exist this session, we believe this to be one of the most comprehensive. The problem is dire as the story and data that follow illustrate.

**Before reading our comprehensive testimony below, we offer these comments/amendments:**

- 1) We believe that Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii, as the leading beach cleanup and plastic pollution educator in the State, should be added to the working group so that we can help work with our community on solutions to these pressing issues.**
- 2) We support amendments that water bottles should be allowed by State agencies in the event of emergency (this bill was not intended to put anyone at risk, but rather to decrease unnecessary waste). We would encourage that any bottles being used for this purpose be larger than 1 liter (again to reduce waste, even in cases of emergency).**
- 3) We are willing to compromise with some industry leaders on plastic bags and include exemptions for the sale of waste bin liners/ trash bags with the hopes that in the source reduction working group we work towards innovations in this sector as part of a 10 year plan to phase out these items as technologies and alternatives become more viable. The inclusion of plastic bags was meant to be at point of sale – bags used for carrying out purchased goods at restaurants, retail shops, farmers markets, etc.**

Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i and our extended community is deeply concerned about plastics on our beaches, in our nearshore waters, and now found in marine life that calls these areas home. Over the past decade our community has cleaned almost half a million pounds of

debris from our shorelines. That number is staggering and each year the onslaught of plastic to our shores increases exponentially. While we devote many of our resources to education & outreach, having reached thousands of students statewide with in-class presentations, the situation has become dire and action to curb our plastic production at its source is necessary immediately.

As a country, our citizens produce more than double per capita plastic waste of China and five times that of Indonesia, while (with Europe), housing 95% of the companies, lobbyists, and industries in the plastic economy (WEF 2016). By centering our eye on, Hawai'i, the U.S. state with the highest rates of waste generation (doubling the national average) and the beaches inundated with the Pacific Gyre's rapidly increasing plastic pollution (CNN 2016) we are at the heart of the global plastic problem. Up to 80% of the plastic in our oceans comes from land-based sources, estimated at 5-13 million tons of plastic. Hawai'i is uniquely positioned to focus the narrative of plastic solutions and our State has the opportunity to lead the world in a progressive movement that cultivates change at the source.

The United States environmental protection agency (EPA) outlines a waste pyramid in which reduction and re-use stand as the pinnacle to effective waste management. Our Cities, Counties, and State need to rethink the way they create, handle, and discuss waste. Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i believes 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 straws, polystyrene foam, plastic cutlery, bags, and water bottles 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.

To date, the majority of dialogue regarding solutions to the plastic problem revolves around how we clean up our how we focus attention on regions of the world that have poorer waste management. These solutions may help slow the flow of waste into our oceans or clean up what is already there, but do not help solve the underlying issue. As our ocean fills with more plastic by weight than fish (Washington Post 2016) by 2050, as we have seen a 610% increase in raw plastic production since 1975 (Jambeck 2015), and as 95% of plastic packaging globally (resulting in \$80-120 billion cost) is lost after a single-first use (WEF 2016), the solutions must be more geared towards a shift away from the fossil fuel based, greenhouse gas creating industry of plastics. Alternatives derived from compostable materials are widely available now as a stop-gap effort as we shift our economy back towards a system of reuse that is at the foundation of both Hawaiian culture and the ethic that this country began on.

### **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

Plastic pollution reduction and movement away from a single-use economy are directly tied to the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) that our Senate has adopted and correspond to our Aloha + Challenge:

- Goal 12 = Responsible Production & Consumption - "Sustainable consumption and production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. Its implementation helps to achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty." If our state aims to work on this goal, removing

unnecessary materials from our waste stream is paramount in holding both producers and consumers responsible for their choices.

- Goal 13 = Climate Action - See the climate change section of this testimony
- Goal 14 = Life Below Water - Countless studies globally have assessed the dire impact of plastics on marine life from whales to corals. Many of these studies are referenced in this testimony.
- Goal 15 = Life on Land - Calculations of cleanup costs (See above section) on land for plastic pollution are astronomical as they affect our stormdrains, freshwater systems, and beaches. Not only are their direct costs from cleanup of polluted resources, but their will be mounting indirect costs to our tourism industry should pollution trends continue.

### **Plastics & Climate Change (SDG #13):**

Plastics are made from fossil fuels. The proliferation of plastic production and the current projected increase will mean that plastic production will account for 20% of the global fossil fuel budget by 2050 (United Nations 2018). A recent study from UH Mānoa researchers, published in PLOS One, illustrates that not only are plastics contributing to greenhouse gases in the production & transportation sectors, they are also releasing methane and ethylene as they degrade in water and sunlight. This has shed light on the full cycle consequences of plastic from production to disposal as major contributors to the climate crisis.

### **Cost of Plastic Pollution (SDG #12, 13, 14, 15):**

The costs of plastic pollution are mounting in multiple sectors - financially, ecologically, and socially. Plastic is costing cities, counties, states, & countries millions of dollars and our global economy billions. Costs are passed to the taxpayers by burdening our stormwater management systems with the need for expensive best management practices and the costs of cleanups. Hawai'i State Department of Transportation (HDOT) has produced a trash plan that shows polystyrene foam and plastic bags as the top two contributors to the waste stream, while in California, the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) created a plastic cleanup valuation study for 90+ counties in California. The study concluded that CA taxpayers are paying \$428 million per year to clean up plastic through storm drain management, street sweeping, and marine cleanups. San Diego County (with population of 1.3 equivalent to Hawaii) spends \$14 million alone on plastic cleanup. In late 2018, San Diego passed a sweeping prohibition of polystyrene foam and reduction of other single-use plastics, joining hundreds of municipalities across the globe in stemming this plastic tide.

"The economic damage caused by plastic waste is vast. Plastic litter in the Asia-Pacific region alone costs its tourism, fishing and shipping industries \$1.3 billion per year. In Europe, cleaning plastic waste from coasts and beaches costs about €630 million per year. Studies suggest that the total economic damage to the world's marine ecosystem caused by plastic

amounts to at least \$13 billion every year. The economic, health and environmental reasons to act are clear.” (UNEP 2018)

### **Harm to Reefs & Marine Life (SDG #14)**

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 chemical properties that allow for microbial colonization of pathogens. In other words, 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 points below.

The effects to marine life in our oceans are mounting. 50 to 80 percent of dead sea turtles have ingested plastic. Plastic bags, which resemble jellyfish, are the most commonly found item in sea turtles’ stomachs. Worldwide, 82 of 144 examined bird species contained plastic debris in their stomachs; and in some cases, 80 percent of the population had consumed plastic. Researchers found that 66 percent of Giant Petrel shorebirds regurgitated plastic when feeding their chicks. Commercial fish, such as Opah and Bigeye Tuna, consume plastic, which could significantly reduce global populations. A University of Hawaii study reports “[i]n the two [Opah] species found in Hawaiian waters, 58 percent of the small-eye opah and 43 percent of the big-eye opah had ingested some kind of debris.”

On a recent field trip visiting with the Marine Mammal Research Program, we were guided through the facilities where beached and dead Pilot Whales had been examined. The stomach contents of the three animals found on O’ahu, Lana’i, and Kaua’i revealed between 15-30 lbs of plastic in the gut. Plastic does not breakdown like organic material and as marine animals continue to ingest the plastics their stomachs eventually fill to a state in which they can no longer consume enough food to address proper nutritional maintenance. This is similar to the problem widely shared with Laysan Albatross in Papahānaumokuākea.

### **HPower and the problems of incineration (SDG #12):**

Many arguments against polystyrene foam bans and other single-use plastics contend that keeping these products is helpful for our incineration and energy production. In direct interviews with Covanta, the operators of O’ahu’s HPOWER, they have stated that plastics are some of the least efficient forms of waste to burn. Given their chemical composition, they burn fast and at high heat. While this may seem advantageous, the boilers are most efficient when running at a more consistent temperature. Covanta stated that it actually takes them adding other material to even out these “hot-flashes.” When looked at objectively this is very easy to imagine. If you were creating a fire in a fire pit or place imagine throwing oil or a plastic bottle into the flames - you would see a burst of flames which quickly dissipated after leaving a toxic smelling fume. Now think of burning a more organic material from paper or cardboard to a log; in this scenario you would notice a much slower, more controlled burn that put out a longer-lasting and more efficient source of heat (energy).

Additionally, incineration is a poor choice altogether for dealing with plastic waste. Just based on simple emission calculations on kilowatt/hour, HPOWER produces almost triple the GHG emission of our oil burning plant and just slightly less than coal. This places incineration as one of the dirtiest forms of energy production. In places like Copenhagen, their reliance on incineration actually caused them to go well over their agreed upon Kyoto protocol limits for GHGs. With the State of Hawai'i institutionalizing the Paris Climate agreement and also agreeing to net-zero emissions, incineration should be phased out of any energy production goals. Finally, as noted in a BBC News article in 2018, plastics in a landfill are mostly inert, as they don't break down when buried in the landfill and are thus not emitting anywhere near the emissions that come with incineration. While we understand that Hawai'i is limited in its space as a unique piece to this discussion, it needs to be noted that the environmental consequences of incineration are far greater than advertised. Thus, the emphasis needs to be a continued to push towards reduction of waste.

Ultimately, we have to reduce the problem at its source. Single-use plastics are an unneeded convenience that our society must learn to move away from. The alternatives exist and we must exercise some sort of ethic over our consumer behavior. Our kuleana is to protect our public trust resources like our shorelines for all generations into the future and currently we are not fulfilling that leadership role. Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i strongly urges the State Legislature to pass SB 522, creating a phase out plan for detrimental single-use plastics and beginning the deeper look into our problems surrounding packaging.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Rafael Bergstrom  
Executive Director, Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i

---



## Images from Hawai'i



*Figure 1: Ala Moana Beach - while marine debris has traditionally been limited to the windward shores, changes in wind direction now are bringing the microplastic soup to our most used south shore beaches*



*Figure 2: Polystyrene foam collected from one cleanup in just 2 hours in Kewalo Basin. Polystyrene breaks easily into smaller and smaller pieces before becoming unrecognizable in microplastic form in our oceans and streams*





*Figure 3: Microplastics infecting the shorelines of Molokai*



*Figure 4: Small sample of Straws collected in a waste audit at UH Manoa - from only 3 buildings in 2 days of trash.*

---

## **References:**

C. Anela Choy & Jeffery C. Drazen, Plastic for Dinner? Observations of Frequent Debris Ingestion by Pelagic Predatory Fishes from the Central North Pacific, 485 MARINE ECOLOGY PROGRESS SERIES 155 (2013), at 161

California Ocean Protection Council. [An Implementation Strategy for the California Ocean Protection Council Resolution to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter](#). 2008. 3.

Christiana M. Boerger et al., Plastic Ingestion by Planktivorous Fishes in the North Pacific Central Gyre, 60 MARINE POLLUTION BULLETIN 2275, 2277 (2010).

Geyer, R. , Jenna R. Jambeck and Kara Lavender Law, Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made, Sci Adv 3 (7), e1700782, DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.1700782

Imam, Jareen. "Hawaii has a serious trash problem — and it's coming on ocean waves". CNN. June 3, 2016

Jambeck, J.R. Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into Ocean. Science. Feb 2015: Vol. 347, Issue 6223, pp. 768-771.

Kaplan, Sarah. "By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans, study says". Washington Post. January 20, 2016.

Lamb, J.B. et al. "Plastic waste associated with disease on coral reefs." Science. Jan 2018: Vol 359, pp. 460-462

Mrosovsky, N. Leatherback Turtles: The Menace of Plastic, 58 MARINE POLLUTION BULLETIN 287 (2009).

Royer S-J, FerroÂn S, Wilson ST, Karl DM (2018) Production of methane and ethylene from plastic in the environment. PLoS ONE 13(8): e0200574.  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0200574>

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel—GEF (2012). Impacts of Marine Debris on Biodiversity: Current Status and Potential Solutions, Montreal, Technical Series No. 67, 61 pages.

UNEP (2018). SINGLE-USE PLASTICS: A Roadmap for Sustainability

World Economic Forum. The New Plastics Economy. Rethinking the future of plastics. 2015



March 20, 2019

To: The Honorable Chair Roy Takumi (Consumer Protection & Commerce) and  
The Honorable Chair Chris Lee (Judiciary)

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

RE: SB 522 SD2 HD1; Relating to Plastic; **In Support**  
March 20, 2019; Room 329

Kona Brewing Company offers our **support** of SB 522 SD2 HD1, which prohibits the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws by state and county agencies, restaurants, standard bars, and any other businesses or individuals on a certain date. We are encouraged by the statewide commitment to environmental protection and particularly the growing awareness of the negative impact of the use of polystyrene foam containers. Environmental sustainability is a key value of Kona Brewing Company and a guiding principle for how we operate. To this end, our organization does not use polystyrene or foam products and instead offers readily available environmentally friendly options at our pubs in Kailua-Kona and Koko Marina.

Kona Brewing Company runs our flagship brewery in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii and produces more than 12,000 barrels of beer per year. The company was started by a father and son team who had a dream to create fresh, local brews made with spirit, passion, and quality. Kona Brewing Company is currently in the process of expanding our pub and brewery operations in Hawaii to include a new state-of-the-art, eco-friendly 30,000 square-foot facility. In addition to creating more local jobs, this will increase our annual production capacity from 12,000 to 100,000 barrels. All the beer we produce in Hawaii is made for Hawaii distribution. For 25 years Kona Brewing Company has been proudly invested in the future of Hawaii and therefore feels passionate about promoting environmental responsibility and sustainability.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and share our strong commitment to this effort.

Sincerely,

Mary Rait  
Kona Brewing Company



3/20/19

JUD and CPC Committees:

My name is Bryce Fujimoto and I am the Vice President and Catering Manager of Shiro's Saimin Haven. We are a family-run restaurant and have been in business for 50 years.

I am concerned with the upcoming state legislation around restaurant to-go packaging. At Shiro's, we use foam to-go containers. I have looked into alternative to-go packaging and there is no alternative packaging for hot soups that is as good as foam containers. Shiro's Saimin Haven uses foam to-go containers for the following few reasons:

1. The cost of doing business in Hawaii is rising at a frenetic pace: minimum wage, insurance, increasing regulation and restrictions, let alone food cost. Green containers are 2-3 times more expensive than foam. Our niche is providing affordable food to customers by making things in-house as much as possible. Forcing us to use green containers is one way to offset our hard in-house work. We would have to raise prices, and would not be able to offer the same affordable, quality food that we have offered for years. I am scared we will lose our customer base who depend on our low prices. It might just seem like one small change in our business to those looking in, but, I can assure you that one small change can affect our business' entire production and profitability.
2. We serve hot saimin soup and it is important for us to serve our customers delicious and hot food in a safe manner. Other containers cannot safely hold hot soup. We are concerned that staff and customers might burn their hands just by touching a take-out paper or compostable soup to-go container.
3. Paper and compostable soup containers leak and can not hold liquids.
4. I have not seen any green 24 or 32 oz squat containers, which is the size of container we need for our soup take-out.

This change to green containers would be more palatable if we had a compost station to process the green containers - unfortunately we do not have this and everything goes to H-power anyways. We are all for protecting the environment but we ask that this ban is not rushed. Right now it just doesn't make sense. Containing trash to trash bins by using lids etc, regulating the transportation of trash might be better. Hopefully we can all work together to find a solution that does not have such a drastic impact on restaurants, especially small restaurants like mine.

Sincerely,

Bryce Fujimoto

VP/Catering Manager

Shiro's Saimin Haven

[98-020 Kamehameha Hwy. #109](#)

808-488-8824

Hawaii State Legislature

I am a restaurant owner and operate a small restaurant here in Hawaii. I hear that the State is considering a ban on plastic foodservice products in restaurants. I am against such legislation and I ask you to consider how this type of legislation will affect businesses like mine. My profit margins are thin, and costs are only rising. I pride myself in offering competitive prices; however, alternatives to plastics are much more costly and I would be forced to raise prices pushing my food out of a reasonable price range. Our business wants to take steps to protect the environment; but I will only support policies that make sense. Studies say that a ban on plastics from restaurants will only have a small impact on the amount of trash on the islands and that a change in food service material would not affect the amount of litter. I don't want to join the growing number of former restaurant owners who have found that they can't stay in business due to rising costs. I respectfully request that the State Legislature consider the positive and negative affects any type of legislation might have on my business and on Hawaiian culture.

1

**BUSINESS NAME** Shiro's Saimin Haven  
**BUSINESS ADDRESS** 98-020 Kamehameha Hwy Ste 109 Aiea, HI 96701  
**NAME** Linda M. Matsuo **SIGNATURE** Linda M. Matsuo  
**PHONE** 808-488-8824 **EMAIL** lmatsuo12@hotmail.com

2

**BUSINESS NAME** Shiro's Saimin Haven  
**BUSINESS ADDRESS** 91-919 Fort Weaver Rd Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
**NAME** Gavan M. Lee **SIGNATURE** Gavan M. Lee  
**PHONE** 808-689-0999 **EMAIL** Gavan.Shiros@gmail.com

3

**BUSINESS NAME** Five Star Noodle Factory  
**BUSINESS ADDRESS** 94-1388 Moaniani St #309  
**NAME** Joshua Lee **SIGNATURE** Joshua Lee  
**PHONE** (808) 232-4754 **EMAIL** kawakam.jensaitensai@gmail.com

4

BUSINESS NAME

Cajun King

BUSINESS ADDRESS

98-020 Kam Hwy Area, HI 96701

NAME

Tony Schidman

SIGNATURE



PHONE

808 551-2388

EMAIL

cajunkingtony@gmail.com

5

BUSINESS NAME

DINK E20G/KU

BUSINESS ADDRESS

98-020 KAM HWY 96701

NAME

DING CHANG HUANG

SIGNATURE



PHONE

(808) 488-9850

EMAIL

yuanchang95@gmail.com

6

BUSINESS NAME

Infinitea

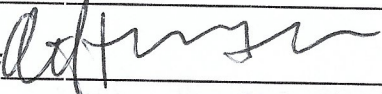
BUSINESS ADDRESS

98-020 KAM HWY Area, HI 96701

NAME

Armielle Talavera

SIGNATURE



PHONE

808-212-8076

EMAIL

talaveraarmielle@gmail.com

7

BUSINESS NAME

Ohana BBQ SUSHI

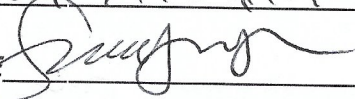
BUSINESS ADDRESS

98-042 Kam HWY Area HI 96701

NAME

SEUNGHO HYUN

SIGNATURE



PHONE

(808) 487-6689

EMAIL

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:59:15 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Lee	Cooke Street Diner	Oppose	No

## Comments:

House Committees of Judiciary and Consumer Protection and Commerce,

Aloha. I am the General Manager of Cooke St Diner in Kaka'ako. We serve working class people food. We serve a lot of construction workers and port workers. All of our food is served in styrofoam to-go containers because most people take their food to go. We are not a fancy fine dining restaurant. We provide breakfast and lunch to the regular person who is on the go. Our customers rely on cheap, quality food that will fill them up. Our customers have fixed budgets and we already struggle to keep costs low with so many rising costs.

This ban does not affect rich people, it affects working class people like me and my customers. Sure, I want to work on taking care of the environment. But, why should we pass policies that hurt the little guys?

Thank you,

Karen Lee

General Manager

Cooke St Diner

605 Cooke St

Honolulu, HI 96813

[kar.lee.2007@gmail.com](mailto:kar.lee.2007@gmail.com)

(808) 597-8080





**Written Testimony of  
David Thorp  
American Beverage Association**

**Before the House Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
and Judiciary  
Opposition to S.B. 522 S.D. 2, H.D. 1– Relating to Plastic  
March 20, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.**

Good afternoon Chair Takumi, Chair Lee and members of the committees. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition to S.B. 522 S.D. 2, H.D. 1 – relating to plastic.

I am David Thorp, senior director of government affairs for the American Beverage Association (ABA). The American Beverage Association is the trade association representing the non-alcoholic beverage industry. ABA represents hundreds of beverage producers, distributors, franchise companies and supporting businesses that employ more than 239,000 people across the country.

**Beverage industry’s local impact on Hawaii’s economy**

The beverage industry is an important part of Hawaii’s economy – and one of the few remaining industries still manufacturing on the Islands. Unlike most consumer products, many of our beverages, aluminum cans and plastic bottles are manufactured and distributed in Hawaii by local workers.

Non-alcoholic beverage companies in Hawaii provide more than 1,050 good-paying jobs across our state. The industry helps to support thousands more workers in businesses that rely in part on beverage sales for their livelihoods and, such as grocery stores, restaurants and theaters.

**Plastic beverage containers are not single-use products**

S.B. 522 S.D. 2, H.D. 1 seeks to address the environmental concerns about the increased use of “single-use” food ware and packaging such as plastic straws, plastic bags, plastic stirrers, plastic utensils and polystyrene food containers. However, S.B. 522 S.D. 2, H.D. 1 incorrectly defines plastic beverage containers as a “single-use” consumer product. Taken together with aluminum cans, our packaging portfolio represents the most recyclable and highest value recyclable material of arguably any consumer product.

The beverage industry produces aluminum, glass and plastic beverage containers that are 100% recyclable – even the plastic caps are recyclable. All of these beverage containers can be collected, recycled and made into new beverage containers – and the plastic beverage containers can be recycled and used in the manufacturing of other consumer goods such as carpets and

clothing. The recycled PET (rPET) from our plastic containers is in great demand all over the world. Global markets for these high-value plastics remain robust as companies as diverse as Nike and Ford Motor compete with our members for use of this material as an input to production.

**Beverage containers – including plastic bottles – are recycled in Hawaii**

Hawaii residents have various opportunities to recycle their beverage containers, including their plastic beverage bottles. Since January 2005, the state Department of Health has operated Hawaii's Deposit Beverage Container program (HI5) which has assisted residents to recycle over 7 billion beverage containers, including plastic beverage containers. Also, Honolulu offers many of its residents with curbside recycling which provides an easy way to recycle plastic containers while other counties offer community recycling drop-off centers.

**Conclusion**

The beverage industry is working with recyclers, governments, and environmental groups nationally and globally to reduce the amount of virgin plastic used to make our bottles, recover more valuable plastic for remanufacturing, cut our carbon footprint in packaging and transportation, and keep the places we live and work litter-free. Our member companies will continue to innovate and invest to lessen our environmental impact.

**Plastic beverage containers are 100% recyclable, should not be defined as a “single-use” product nor prohibited for purchase by Hawaii consumers.**

Sincerely,  
David Thorp

To: Hawaii House of Representatives  
Judiciary and Consumer Protection and Commerce Committees  
From: Tsukenjo Restaurant

Aloha Committee:

I am writing to you as the owner of a small plate lunch restaurant. We had the great fortune to be able to move from Kakaako to Downtown last year. Normally I am the only person working in the restaurant, but we have had success in Town and we were able to hire a part-time kitchen help. Before we moved, and on the days when the kitchen staff doesn't come in, I wake up at 3am to open the restaurant on time by 5:30am. I am the cook, cashier, dish washer, handle all maintenance and cleaning, and manage the books. This is not a glorious job, but I love it. Running this business is my passion and I love being self-employed. However, with high costs, we are considering moving again because it is so hard to make a profit and to stay in business while maintaining sanity.

I am very concerned about this proposed ban on styrofoam containers.

Of course I care about the environment and I love our beautiful island. But, I already work so hard and our profits are so thin. It frustrates me to no end that I work hard, and try to move up and then I hear about these laws that only affect the small mom and pop restaurants.

Why can't you create environmental laws that don't only hurt the little guys? More trash cans won't hurt small businesses, but helps the environment. Better recycling is good too. Maybe instead we can have a law where customers have to ask for bags or utensils? Or we can encourage customers to bring their own to-go containers. All of those ideas do not hurt business.

Tsukenjoes has been around since 1959. Plate lunch is important to our culture. Why do you think so many restaurants that serve plate lunch use styrofoam? Are you willing to vote on something that 100% impacts all plate lunch restaurants? This law is just not fair. I really do struggle and work so hard to stay in business, provide for my family, and provide for customers. I hope you can see this and you will reconsider this unfair idea.

Aloha,  
Deborah Dombrosky  
HNA Food Service LLC dba Tsukenjo's  
1148 Bishop St  
Hon, HI 96813  
808-779-4328  
tsukenjo705@gmail.com



We are customers who enjoy dining out at many favorite local restaurants—some small take out places and some sit down places. We oppose bills that want to ban polystyrene foam plate lunch containers, saimin bowls, foam cups. We notice that when restaurants serve food in compostable containers our food sometimes leaks when we take it home and it tastes funny from sticking to the container. We seem to pay more for less food in these containers. Hawaii is a beautiful place and we need to do our part in keeping it clean. Bag your trash and make sure you are not a litter bug!

Email /Phone Number

...

(805) 778-4324

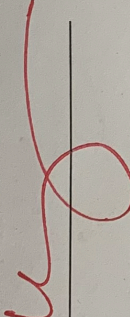
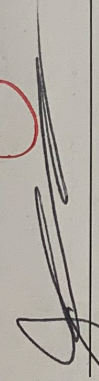
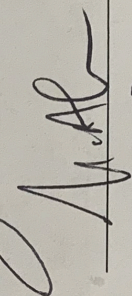
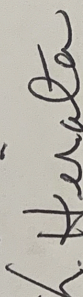
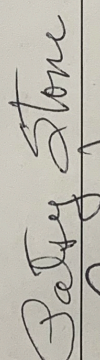
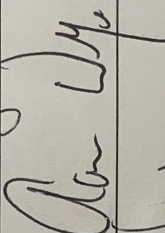
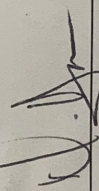
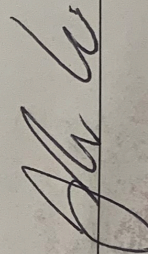
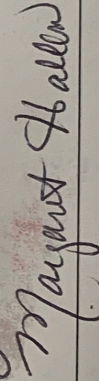
808-285-9698

802 266-8866



# Legislators: We Oppose Foam Container Ban Bills

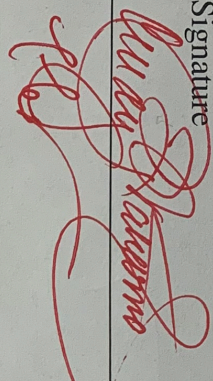
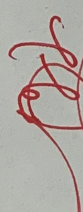
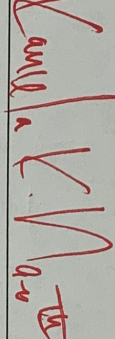
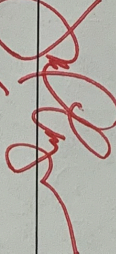
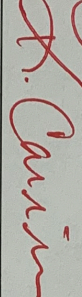
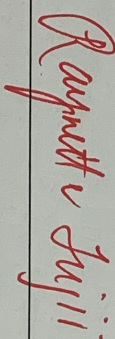
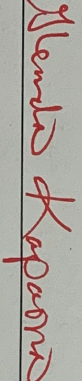
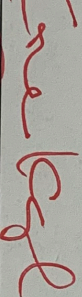
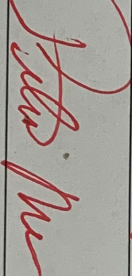
We are customers who enjoy dining out at many favorite local restaurants—some small take out places and some sit down places. We oppose bills that want to ban polystyrene foam plate lunch containers, saimin bowls, foam cups. We notice that when restaurants serve food in compostable containers our food sometimes leaks when we take it home and it tastes funny from sticking to the container. We seem to pay more for less food in these containers. Hawaii is a beautiful place and we need to do our part in keeping it clean. Bag your trash and make sure you are not a litter bug!

Name (Print Clearly)	Signature	Home Address	Email /Phone Number
<u>Deanna Damersing</u>		<u>1148 Bishop Street</u>	<u>delb1074@yahoo.com</u>
<u>Jonie Quimino</u>		<u>1088 Bishop St.</u>	<u>jonq@pacificbasin.net</u>
<u>MATTEN AHN</u>		<u>48409 Puu Inua St.</u>	<u>dunhired808@gmail.com</u>
<u>Kathy Hirata</u>		<u>1412 Kunitake St.</u>	<u>keitra1@yahoo.com</u>
<u>PATSY STONE</u>		<u>1253 S. BRETANIA #2800</u>	<u>808 7213604</u>
<u>Aaron Wae</u>		<u>1148 Bishop St.</u>	<u>vaiderwolke@yahoo.com</u>
<u>A.M.H ZABALA</u>		<u>1136 Union Mall, 310</u>	<u>nicholasaliioharapm.com</u>
<u>John Usui</u>		<u>477394 Ahimama Pl</u>	<u>usuij081@icloud.com</u> <u>usuij081</u>
<u>Margaret Hallam</u>		<u>1720 Huna St. #45</u>	<u>marghallam@hawaii.rr.com</u>



# Legislators: We Oppose Foam Container Ban Bills

We are customers who enjoy dining out at many favorite local restaurants—some small take out places and some sit down places. We oppose bills that want to ban polystyrene foam plate lunch containers, saimin bowls, foam cups. We notice that when restaurants serve food in compostable containers our food sometimes leaks when we take it home and it tastes funny from sticking to the container. We seem to pay more for less food in these containers. Hawaii is a beautiful place and we need to do our part in keeping it clean. Bag your trash and make sure you are not a litter bug!

Name (Print Clearly)	Signature	Home Address	Email /Phone Number
Lunay Wakamot		1718 Nolo St Honolulu Hawaii	
Feri Ketii		94-440 Kahuaka O Way.	X
Kaula Nao		1150 Maunakea St.	
Joel Tabangana		94-871 Lumikuke Way	
Kanoa Carrero		914-800 Mauna St.	X
Rayneth Kujii		5064 Kuliouua Rd Honolulu 96821	→
Estelita Kapanaea		91-346 Ewa Beach Rd.	
Kane Kamehika		95 98 1301 Kahala Honolulu HI 96818	→
Peter Ma		3079 Ala Lima	



House JUD and CPC Hearing

SB522 and SB267 - Oppose Bans on Polystyrene Food Service Products

Dear Representatives,

I have a small restaurant in the airport area. Hawaii is a very tough place to own a business. A statewide ban on foam food service products will make it even harder. I try not to pass on too much of my business expense to customers because everything is so competitive and I will lose business if my food prices are raised too much.

I have looked at compostable containers and it doesn't work for my business. The good ones are too expensive. The lower cost ones do not work well; hot rice or other food, and even salad make the containers soggy. Customers don't like it when the rice sticks to the container or tastes like pulp.

Thank you

James Kim

Jets Fast Food

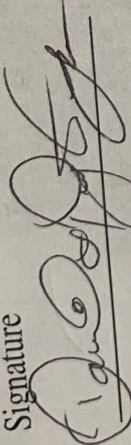
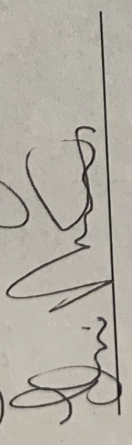
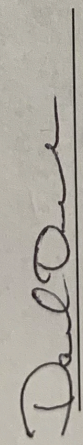
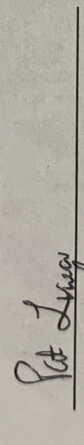
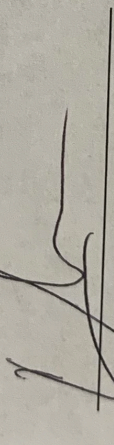
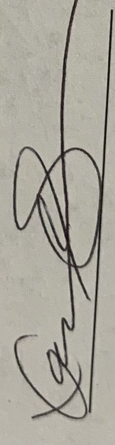
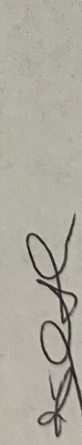
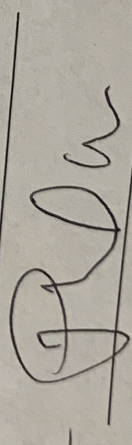
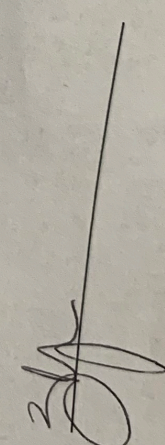
2957 Koapaka Street

(808) 833-7155

more1s@icloud.com



We are customers who enjoy dining out at many favorite local restaurants. We seem to find that you are not a nice person. We want to ban polystyrene foam plate lunch containers, saimin bowls, foam cups. Bag your trash and make sure you are not a nice person. We want to ban polystyrene foam plate lunch containers, saimin bowls, foam cups. Bag your trash and make sure you are not a nice person. We want to ban polystyrene foam plate lunch containers, saimin bowls, foam cups. Bag your trash and make sure you are not a nice person.

Name (Print Clearly)	Signature	Home Address	Email /Phone Number
David Payton		91-1117 Kamaikani St Kapolei HI 96707	realcunami15@gmail.com
Leslie Mendenhall		85-300 A Kaulavaukua Rd Waianae HI 96792	kamakani2013@gmail.com
Daniel Ormelle		2950 KONA Pkwy S T	domelbas@gmail.com
PATRICK LUCAS		914-338 HAWAIIAN PL, MILWAUKEE WI 53204	PATRICAS505@yahoo.com
Chris A. Alvarez		7346 Hualale Pl, Hualale HI	chrisalvarez1016@gmail.com
Xavier Swain		42-106 ALCKA PL KATAMA, HI, 96734	XAVIERKTSWAIN@gmail.com
Kyu Kuro		PO BOX 1066 CAPT. COUNCIL HI 96704	kkyu@bakerconcrete.com
Phil Urvahant		98-402 KOAUKA-601 Aiea HI 96701	808 557-8759
Breneda Yamada		4945-625 Apunapu St Kaneohe HI 96744	bkyamada@gmail.com



**We Oppose Foam Container Ban Bills**

We oppose bills that would require restaurants to use compostable containers. We oppose bills that would require restaurants to use less than 100 percent recycled paper containers. We oppose bills that would require restaurants to use less than 100 percent recycled paper containers. We oppose bills that would require restaurants to use less than 100 percent recycled paper containers.

## Ran Bills

**Legislators:** We Oppose Foam Containers at many favorite local restaurants—some small take out places. We notice that when restaurants use foam cups, foam bowls, foam containers, saimin bowls, from sticking to the container. Bag your trash and make sure you are not a litter bug: We seem to pay more for restaurants that use foam containers than for those that use paper containers. Bag your trash and make sure you are not a litter bug: We seem to pay more for restaurants that use foam containers than for those that use paper containers.

Home Address

Email /Phone Number

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Print Clearly)

alley road @ yaphank - 6000

1862

Dr. 1130 161A

25

lmy.vasquez@jhu.edu

Beau Nisumuro

Q. Vaso - De Cera

868-799-8777

Karlsruhe

Karen Scherker

W. S. Holder

91204 Umao PL

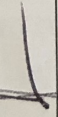
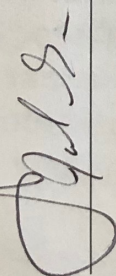
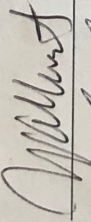
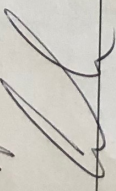
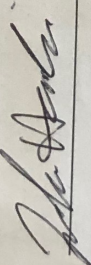
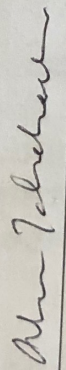
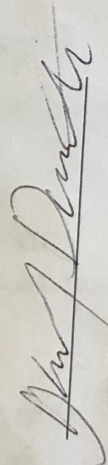
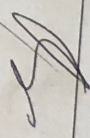
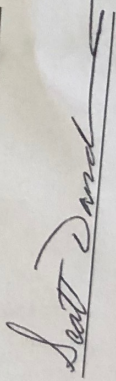
Tasha Sheldon

Nishelden 03 @ 9m



# Legislators: We Oppose Foam Container Ban Bills

We are customers who enjoy dining out at many favorite local restaurants—some small take out places and some sit down places. We oppose bills that want to ban polystyrene foam plate lunch containers, saimin bowls, foam cups. We notice that when restaurants serve food in compostable containers our food sometimes leaks when we take it home and it tastes funny from sticking to the container. We seem to pay more for less food in these containers. Hawaii is a beautiful place and we need to do our part in keeping it clean. Bag your trash and make sure you are not a litter bug!

Name (Print Clearly)	Signature	Home Address	Email /Phone Number
Joshyas		2671- J ANUU PL	
John Schlaff		95-743 KAHIKINI PL	808-3750105
Yorie Albert		649 N Vineyard	808 801-2786
Clinton Smith		46-051 Koaohiki St	608-910-9106
Joshua Hamasaki		99-824 Puawa PI	808 799 5625
Alan Takahashi		1249 E Ioleo Dr.	745-4995
LARRY DUPRE		2218 Tantalus	465-6108
Troy Sparks		98-288 Kaonohi St Aiea	Troy Sparks@aol.net
Scott Dandurant		47-090 Hui Wili St.	808 836-6439

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 9:14:31 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Suehiro	Nabeya Maida	Oppose	No

## Comments:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kevin Suehiro, and I am the owner of Nabeya Maida, a hot pot restaurant in Kaimuki. I work everyday and hardly have time to watch the local news, so it was quite a surprise when I heard about the potential styrofoam ban.

As a small business owner here in Hawaii, our restaurant is constantly faced with increasing food costs, increasing insurance costs, increasing minimum wage, and the ever increasing rent. So when I hear that there is a bill concerning the banning of plastic bags or styrofoam containers, I'm like, give us small businesses a break! For my restaurant, we use the styrofoam containers for our hot soups that the customers take out. We might not do as much volume as some of the plate lunch/bento places, but the alternatives to styrofoam are just too expensive. We would just have to pass those costs on to the customers which might lead them to lost business. I hope that when you folks are deciding these policies, you are taking into account ALL the points of view that are out there. For the people who want to ban styrofoam and plastic bags, I get you. I understand that it is bad for the ocean, that it is bad for the environment, but so are a lot of other things. Yes styrofoam will not decompose and might kill some marine life, but what do you say about oil spills or toxic runoff being dumped into our ocean? They kill marine life too. What I am trying to say is that there has to be some kind of middle ground where all parties can concede something to attain a positive outcome. I go to the beaches all over the island, and I have not personally seen all the trash that they say is flying into the ocean. What I do see are overflowing rubbish cans with no covers, I see homeless people with there worldly possessions in bags trying to live in makeshift tents. Can't the government do something without completely banning styrofoam and plastic bags?

People always talk about being ecologically friendly and "going green". But why is it when I thought of allowing my customers to bring in their containers to take their food home, a friend of mine warned me that the board of health considers that a health safety violation? I thought it would be correct to offer a small discount for customers to bring their own containers to take things home, I didn't think it would be a violation to do something "ecologically friendly". There has to be some give somewhere so we can all get along. You all want to do things black or white, but if you can find a way to meet somewhere in the gray. Find something that you can offer the small businesses as a

viable alternative to styrofoam, and I do not mean viable meaning it can do everything that styrofoam does,,,,,,but at 10x the price. Going with waxed coated containers or compostable containers with waxed paper lining or aluminum foil lining, does that really solve the problem? Waxed paper or aluminum foil flying into the ocean wouldn't seem to be an acceptable alternative either right? And to make all the compostable containers, where are we going to get the wood pulp from, are we going to cut down the trees that the world with climate change needs so dearly?

I don't have any answers for the styrofoam problem except for people trying to be more responsible and disposing of their trash in proper containers. I don't feel that banning styrofoam is the answer. There might be a lot of small shops who might just give up due to the ever increasing costs of doing business in Hawaii, and that would be just a shame. Small businesses with their unique flavor makes Hawaii Hawaii. You take away the small mom and pop, locally owned stores and have it replaced with big corporate businesses and you take away the uniqueness that we call home. I couldn't imagine going to eat and have only big restaurants with their "local" menus, it just wouldn't be Hawaii.

Please vote no on the styrofoam ban, and instead, think of ways that in the future, both sides can meet somewhere in the middle to make a better Hawaii to live in.

Mahalos,

Kevin Suehiro





March 18, 2019

To: The Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair  
Members, House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
Members, House Committee on Judiciary

From: Tim Shestek, Senior Director  
State Affairs

RE: **SB 522 HD1 - OPPOSE**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose SB 522 HD1, which would ban the sale, use, and distribution of single-use plastic beverage bottles, bags, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam foodservice containers and straws in Hawaii. ACC and its members certainly support efforts to reduce litter and marine debris; however, SB 522 HD1 appears to be drafted under the false assumption that alternatives to these products 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 including 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. SB 522 HD1 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

---

<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)



the litter stream<sup>2</sup>. For this reason the California State Water Resources Control Board rejected the use of bans as a compliance mechanism for waterborne trash reduction<sup>3</sup>.

### **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>.

Lastly, replacements for polystyrene products will likely result in higher operating costs for restaurants, food trucks, delis, schools and the host of other food providers covered under SB 522 HD1. 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.

### **Plastic Beverage Bottles**

PET plastic beverage bottles are 100% recyclable and are the single most recycled item nationwide in curbside collection programs and make up only a small percentage of the waste stream. In fact, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data shows that plastic water bottles make up less than one-third of one percent of the U.S. waste stream.

---

<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)

<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>



Additionally, manufacturers of plastic beverage bottles are continually looking for ways to lighten their environmental footprint by reducing the raw materials used in PET plastic through light weighting, redesign, and use of post-consumer recycled materials. Between 2000 and 2014, the average weight of a single-serve PET bottled water container dropped by 51% and bottled water companies are already using up to 50% recycled material in their plastic bottles. SB 522 HD1 will shift consumption to other products that are not as widely recycled and use significantly more resources to manufacture.

### **Straws**

There are many circumstances in which the use of drinking straws will enhance safety and promote sanitary conditions. However, there are also circumstances when a drinking straw is automatically provided in a drink before the consumer has asked for one. ACC's position on straws is designed to help avoid wasteful use by recommending that straws not be provided unless customers ask for them. At the same time, it acknowledges that there are circumstances where straws enhance safety and sanitary conditions. Adopting this type of voluntary policy will help prevent any unnecessary and potentially wasteful use, while ensuring that straws can still be distributed to those who need them.

Instead of banning plastic straws as proposed in SB 522 HD1, we would instead encourage material suppliers, product makers, food/drink establishments and NGOs to work collaboratively to promote the responsible use of straws, such as adopting an "upon request" policy.

### **Plastic Source Reduction Working Group**

ACC and its members certainly support efforts to reduce waste; however, we think any discussion and resulting recommendations should take a material neutral approach and focus on the reduction, recycling and recovery of all waste. Instead of focusing solely on single-use plastics, we would request all materials and technologies be considered in any discussion relating to 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.

### **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.

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.marinedebrisolutions.com>.

Additionally, ACC recently 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

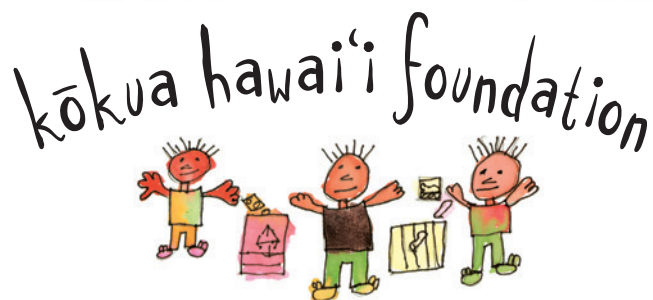


businesses to convert non-recycled plastics into energy, fuels, and feedstocks, or raw materials for new manufacturing. A range of energy recovery technologies are being used to complement recycling in helping to divert more valuable post-use materials from landfills. Some of the most widely used and 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 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.







## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB522 SD2, HD1, RELATING TO PLASTIC

### Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

### Committee on Judiciary

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair; Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

**March 20, 2019, 2:00 pm, Conference Room 329**

Aloha Representatives,

Mahalo for your consideration of SB522 SD2 HD1.

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. Our mission is to provide students with experiences that will enhance their appreciation for and understanding of their environment so they will be lifelong stewards of the earth. One of our many programs is the Plastic Free Hawai'i program. Plastic Free Hawai'i provides resources, tools, and trainings to educate schools, business partners, and community members about the environmental and health benefits of going plastic free to minimize single-use plastics in our islands.

Since the beginning of this program, it has been our goal to inspire the keiki of Hawai'i to make changes in their own lives to eliminate single-use plastics like EPS foam and plastic bags and ask the same change from their friends, parents, neighbors, and community. Working with these youth in beach cleanups, panel discussions, environmental fairs, we hear the same question repeated: "why?" They ask why a product like foam, that we know to be toxic to people, animals, and the entire ecosystem, should still be available. These youth are moved to make change, and we ask the same of our legislators.

The urgency of the plastic pollution crisis calls for us to take bold steps toward removing single use plastics from distribution. Cutting off the flow is the only true way to ensure that these materials never enter our watersheds or further impact human and environmental health. With 99% of plastic coming from fossil fuels, this is also a climate change issue. Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation will continue working tirelessly to encourage behavior change, but we are just one determined group. We need government and state agencies to take an active role in protecting this place that we love.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please support SB522 SD HD1.

Sincerely,

Jack Johnson,  
Co-Founder, Vice-President

Kim Johnson,  
Co-Founder, President

Natalie McKinney,  
Executive Director

[www.kokuahawaiifoundation.org](http://www.kokuahawaiifoundation.org)

P.O. Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI 96712 • Tel: (808) 638-5145 • Fax: (808) 638-0757 • [info@kokuahawaiifoundation.org](mailto:info@kokuahawaiifoundation.org)

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:18:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Norihiko Sakamoto	Pioneer Saloon at Kakaako	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:43:25 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Lamson	Hawai'i Wildlife Fund	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

We are in strong SUPPORT of Senate Bill 522 SD2 HD1.

Plastic in and of itself is not bad, nor good. Since the 1950's it has presented us with many novel innovations in the medicine, technology, and transportation industries. However, our increased dependence on plastic for everyday and single-use items has skyrocketed out of control. Using a product (like plastic) that is designed to last forever for a single-use "one and done" product like utensils, straws, foam take-out containers or water bottles is a clear design failure. We are choosing the thoughtless convenience of plastics over the health of our planet.

Hawai'i has long been the leader in sustainability for the Pacific region. Governor Ige's Hawaii Sustainability Initiative, for example, strives to protect / manage 30% of our marine ecosystems and watersheds by 2030 (the "30 x 30" plan), and commits that Hawai'i will be 100% carbon neutral and relying on 100% renewable energy by 2045. We need to continue along this path in the hopes that other communities, big and small, will follow suit.

Plastic pollution is detrimental to our environment and may potentially be impacting human health. Recent studies have shown that small to microscopic plastic particles are now found in samples of sea salt, bottled water, dust that settles from the atmosphere and even beer.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund is a small (but mighty) non-profit organization that is committed to protecting native wildlife and their ecosystems in Hawai'i since 1996. During that time, we have removed over 300 tons (yep, that's 600,000 lbs.!) of marine debris from the shores of Hawai'i Island, Maui, Midway and the French Frigate Shoals through the help, participation and support of thousands of volunteers, local businesses, agencies and other NGOs. In 2018 and 2019 alone, we have already removed 79,614 lbs. during 78 cleanup events – the majority of this debris (over 90%) is made of plastic – and we are hauling out more today near South Point.

Really, we prefer calling marine debris "plastic pollution" as that is the bulk of what is washing up along our shorelines and getting entangled in our coral reefs. It is a man-

made problem that will take the dedication of everyone to solve, something that Senate Bill 522 is beginning to address. Granted, much of the debris that we see in the plastic-laden beaches like Kamilo on Hawai'i Island and Kahuku on O'ahu does wash in from remote places. However, some of it is local, and other beaches along our leeward coastlines of all islands are more impacted from land-based (local) sources of debris. This gives us hope, as we cannot just point our fingers out to sea and blame others ... but we can take small steps to mitigate and reduce the problem, like SB522 is proposing. Single-use plastics are something that we can do without, they are mindless uses of plastic, and there are already viable alternatives for the items planned for this phaseout.

We strongly endorse and are in FULL support of SB 522 SD2 HD1 and hope that you will join us and vote "AY" and stand for native wildlife, our environment and future generations of keiki and communities here in Hawai'i nei.

Sincerely,

Megan Lamson Leatherman, M.Sc.,

HWF President

Honalo, Hawai'i

Hannah Bernard

HWF Co-founder & Executive Director

Paia, Maui



To:  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
And  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Representative Chris Lee, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
March 20, 2019; 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 329

From: Bruce Iverson, Director of Marketing and Development  
Reynolds Recycling, Inc.

### **Testimony in opposition to SB522 SD2 HD1**

Aloha,

As Hawaii's largest bottle and can recycling company, Reynolds Recycling supports any measure that would enhance recycling opportunities and help to improve the Hawaii Bottle Deposit Law, unfortunately this measure does not meet the above mentioned goals.

The vast majority of beverage containers are collected, and recycled into other products, or into energy. This is because Hawaii has a state-wide Bottle Deposit Law, it has curbside recycling in many areas, and trash on Oahu primarily becomes recyclable material to be used at H-Power.

Please remember that Recycling, is the "right thing to do", and much of everything is recycled one way or another in Hawaii at this time.

Additionally, we use large plastic bags within our operations (and recycle them as well), and while the currently proposed bill would seem to allow that usage, we would not be able to buy bags locally. We are currently having these bags made here on Oahu, and send those jobs and tax base all out of the state.

We are also concerned that the "Working Group" does not have anyone with knowledge of the recycling or waste industries which should critical if the reduction of that is what you are looking at.

As this has nothing to do with the State Deposit Beverage Container Law, it is irregular that the funds for this group are taken out of the DBC Fund.

For these various reasons, while we support your intent to keep Hawaii clean, we oppose this bill.

Bruce Iverson, Director of Marketing and Development  
Reynolds Recycling, Inc.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:50:02 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly	EMCC Hawaii	Support	No

## Comments:

My name is Kimberly De Souza and I support the ban on single use plastics which includes plastic containers and utensils used by restaurants and plastic bottled water.

The culture of Hawaii needs to change and while some businesses may argue that it is expensive to source alternatives to plastic, once the demand changes, the prices will go down which I have seen first hand with the LED industry which use to be so expensive but within 5 years, prices have more than halved. This will be the same with biodegradable alternatives to plastic and Hawaii's legislature needs to encourage a clean an environment.

With the oceans surrounding our islands on all sides, Hawaii cannot run away from this impending problem. We need to be the leader in the clean environment movement so that our beaches will eventually stop being polluted with microplastics. As it is, we have barely any landfills to throw anything "away" to and by now we realize that there is no such thing as "away".

Please pass this bill, this is the first step of many more which society as a whole NEEDS to move towards to combat our incredibly wasteful single use plastic. For a material that can last forever, plastic and styrofoam are being used for the wrong things!!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:03:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
olivier vetter	bean about town llc	Support	No

Comments:





Nicole Chatterson  
Director, Zero Waste O'ahu  
[oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com](mailto:oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com)  
808.561.7730

March 19, 2019

Re: support for SB 522, Hearing March 20, 2019 at 2:00 pm in CPC/JUD

Aloha ChairTakumi and Chair Lee CPC/JUD Committee Members:

My name is Nicole Chatterson, and I am Mānoa resident and Director of Zero Waste O'ahu am writing in **strong support of SB 522 with suggestions for ammendments**. The plan to phase out single-use plastics by July 2025 is a necessary move for Hawai'i. The recommended ammendments include shifting the language to **ban the sales of water bottles that are under 1 gallon in volume**. This would accomodate the potential emergency needs for State Agencies Like DLNR. Hawai'i has access to clean, healthy drinking water and single-use water bottles are a convenience item—not a necessity. Emergency water storage does not require single-use bottles and in may be more efficiently met with larger container sizes. Secondly, the plastic bag ban should not exclude the sales of plastic garbage bags or liners. **The intent should be to remove plastic bag packaging from retail, grocery stores, and restaurants.**

This type of single-use plastic phase-out policy is being seen around the world. From island nations like New Zealand and the United Kingdom to places in the global south like Costa Rica and Ethiopia, communities are saying no single-use plastics on the basis of of climate change mitigation and pollution prevention.

In Hawai'i we have over **200 businesses through the Ocean Friendly Restuarants** program that have already voluntarily made many of the changes required by this bill. These restaurants have not gone out of business, but are instead thriving as the meet the demand from consumers to use products with a lower environmental impact. It is important to remember that the design of our economy is such that consumers are supposed to drive the market—it is the job of our business sector to respond. It is really exciting to see that taking place.

If single-use plastic consumption maintains on the current trajectory, **plastic use will account of 20% of our fossil fuel use by 2050<sup>1</sup>**. While recycling and waste-to-energy are often cited as ways to deal with this plastic waste—we have recently seen that the recycling markets are too unstable to offer a consistent, sustainable solution to our waste. Compounding this, roughly 80% of the Global North's 'recyclable' plastics (exported from places like Hawai'i) are not recycled and instead escape into the marne environment.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> UNEP (2018). SINGLE-USE PLASTICS: A Roadmap for Sustainability

<sup>2</sup> World Economic Forum (2015). The New Plastics Economy. Rethinking the future of plastics.



While we have the option to incinerate plastic for energy locally via H-POWER, this is also a flawed approach. Per megawatt, **H-POWER produces 2-3 times more greenhouse gas emissions than Kahe—O’ahu’s largest oil-based energy plant.**<sup>3</sup> Further, **H-POWER requires 800,000 tons of waste annually** to maintain operations and profit margins. This means that waste production is incentivized, driving more upstream impacts through the extraction, production, and transportation of products-turned-trash. According to the U.S. EPA, **about 42% of the U.S. greenhouse gas footprint results from this production-disposal chain**<sup>4</sup>.

**Lastly, in response to the claims made in previous testimony by Dexter Yamada** (President of KYD, Inc. dba: K. Yamada Distributors) that polystyrene bans are ineffective and cause undue hardship on businesses, I would like to offer the following excerpt from the Hawai’i DOT 2016 “Trash Reduction Plan”. While Mr. Yamada has claimed that polystyrene bans will not make a meaningful impact on litter, the state DOT has identified polystyrene reduction legislation and the second most effective trash reduction measure (just behind plastic bag reduction policy).

CONTROL MEASURE	TIERS OR CONTROL MEASURE DESCRIPTION	REDUCTION CREDIT
<b>Single-Use Carryout Plastic Bag Ordinances</b>	Tier 1 – Prohibit Distribution at Large Supermarkets	6%
	Tier 2 – Prohibit Distribution at Retail Establishments that Sell Packaged Foods	8%
	Tier 3 – Prohibit Distribution at All Retail Establishments (with the Exception of Restaurants)	10%
	Additional Credit	2%
<b>Polystyrene Foam Food Service Ware Ordinances</b>	Tier 1 – Prohibit Distribution at DOT-HWYS-sponsored Events and DOT-HWYS-owned Property	2%
	Tier 2 – Prohibit Distribution by Food Service Vendors	8%
<b>Uncovered Loads Enforcement</b>	Require Municipal Trash Haulers to Cover Loads	1%
	Enhanced Enforcement Program	4%
<b>Anti-Littering and Dumping Enforcement</b>	Anti-Littering and Illegal Dumping Enforcement Program	2%
	Tier 1 – 20-50% of Identified Hotspots Under Camera Surveillance	1%
	Tier 2 – > 50% of Identified Hotspots Under Camera Surveillance	2%
	Tier 1 – Physical Barriers or Improvements Implemented at 20-50% of Identified Hotspots	1%
	Tier 2 – Physical Barriers or Improvements Implemented at > 50% of Identified Hotspots	2%

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nicole Chatterson, Director of Zero Waste O’ahu

<sup>3</sup> <https://ghgdata.epa.gov/ghgp/main.do>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/smm/epa-sustainable-materials-management-program-strategic-plan-fiscal-years-2017-2022>

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:37:25 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzie Wallace	Radford High School & Honolulu Chinese Jaycees	Support	Yes

Comments:

Dear Legislatures,

Hawaii needs to be the first state to ban foam containers. Although businesses will at first pay more for biodegradable/compostable containers not made of foam, this cost will be subject to all businesses using take out containers across the board and, subsequently, consumers in Hawaii equally.

This additional cost is a necessity as we can't continue to pollute our oceans and marine organisms with plastics (this being plastic #6) and the chemicals manufactured into plastics that are not safe for animal or human consumption.

Furture generations will bear the burden of trying to conserve entire marine ecosystems and researching the harmful effects of disposing of these products after their one-time use.

The economic impact later will be much more devastating after the entire marine food chain is disrupted by toxic foam containers. Please do not leave this up to our young leaders of the future to resolve, we need to show them social responsibility today in the form of banning all toxic substances created by man including foam containers.

I look forward to seeing you at the capital tomorrow to give my testimony in person for the hearing on this matter.

Best Regards,

Suzie Wallace

(Marine Science Teacher, Radford High School and 2019 Honolulu Chinese Jaycees Treasurer)



Representative Chris Lee, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: STRONG SUPPORT of SB 522, SD2, HD1 - RELATING TO PLASTIC and  
SB 367, SD1, HD1 - RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Takumi, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of House Committees on Judiciary, and Consumer Protection & Commerce

Dolphin Quest strongly supports SB 522, SD2, HD1 and SB 367, SD1, HD1 as these amended bills have the potential to reduce plastic-based pollution in the State of Hawaii and ultimately help protect our natural resources and human health.

One of Hawaii's greatest assets is its natural beauty. Unfortunately, plastic debris is one of the most common forms of litter found in Hawaii. We have seen this first-hand during Dolphin Quest's decades of participation in beach, stream, and highway clean-ups.

It is well known that plastic has a devastating effect on Hawaii's beaches, the marine ecosystem, wildlife, and human health. There is also growing concern about the negative impact marine debris may also have on tourism. It is essential that we get ahead of these problems through influential legislation just like this.

Ingestion, entanglement, and habitat degradation are just a few of the complex issues related to plastic pollution. Ingestion of micro-plastics has been observed at every trophic level, from large whales to even corals and zooplankton. High levels of plastic-based persistent organic pollutants (POPs) have been detected in the tissues of marine mammals, sharks, and other large predatory animals due to bioaccumulation and the biomagnification up the trophic system as results of this ingestion. Many of these POPs are known endocrine disrupters and there is growing evidence that humans may also be at risk. In addition to this, the plastic monomer used in manufacturing expanded plastic has been classified by the US National Institutes of Health and the International Agency for Research on Cancer as a possible human carcinogen. Unnecessary plastics need to be regulated for the health and well-being of all.

It is our duty and our responsibility to protect the land and water that allow us to thrive. We must safeguard the future of wildlife and our children so that all may have the opportunity to enjoy nature unadulterated. Supporting this measure would keep Hawaii at the forefront of conservation action and leadership.

Dolphin Quest is an organization of marine mammal specialists, animal advocates and ocean stewards with two business locations in Hawaii. We've championed public education, conservation, and scientific study related to marine mammals and our ocean for thirty years. Thank you for all of the work on these bills thus far. This issue remains critically important and we respectfully ask that you support SB 522, SD2, HD1 and SB 367, SD1, HD1.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rae Stone, DVM." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

L. Rae Stone, DVM  
Dolphin Quest



# Environmental Caucus The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 19, 2019

**Re: In Strong Support of SB522 SD1 HD1**

Aloha Chairs Takumi and Lee, Vice Chairs Ichiyama and San Buenaventura, and members of the committees:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i is in **strong support** of SB522 SD1 HD1, relating to the ban of single use plastics and packaging.

The bill very thoroughly outlines the necessity for the ban. Plastic packaging accounts for about half the waste of the world and there are ever decreasing facilities for recycling it. The majority of the contents washing ashore on Hawai'i's beaches is composed of plastic and it is increasingly found in the intestines of whales, seabirds, and other sea life. The cost of clean up is astronomical and outpaces the resources available for such efforts.

We urge you to pass SB522 SD1 HD1 and lead the efforts to rid the world of this blight on our beaches and danger to our collective health and the health of our home.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Lana Olson  
Chair, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:39:38 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ocean Friendly Restaurants HI Coordinator	Ocean Friendly Restaurants HI	Support	Yes

## Comments:

Aloha Representatives Har, Yamane, Tarnas, Thielen, Todd, Brower, Say, Creagan, Takayama, Lowen, Yamane, McKelvey, Thielen, Morikawa, Aquino, Kong, Belatti, Mizuno, Arakawa, Onishi, Cachola, Matsumoto, Eli, Nakamura, Gates, Nishimoto, Hashimoto, Holt, Wildberger, Kitagawa, Yamashita, Kobayashi, McDermott, and Matayoshi,

I am writing to you today to beg you to consider supporting SB367!

We realize a lot of the concern about passing such a bill is around our economy and how it will affect small, local, businesses.

We have worked with those small, local, restaurants around the islands for years. We have helped them to choose more eco-friendly products, while not driving their cost of business up to the point where it would kill their business.

In 2 years we have certified [over 200 restaurants in Hawaii](#) as "Ocean Friendly". To be an Ocean Friendly Restaurant, you must meet a rigorous set of criteria, which we have provided below. Many of which, deal directly with getting rid of single-use plastics.

For a full list of participating restaurants by island, please visit [https://www.oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org/full\\_list.php](https://www.oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org/full_list.php) .

We hear a lot from owners that they want to do more, and are concerned with the costs. This is WHY we need to regulate this space. In doing so, there will be a higher demand.

The higher demand will then cause a great domino effect, saving our small business money.

First, it will generate a need for a greater supply. More sustainable products will be created and this greater supply of more environmentally conscience products will drive their price down.

Secondly, these new demands will CREATE JOBS. It is inevitable. With the creation of new products, green technology, and a greater need, we will see the creation of more local companies to satisfy these needs. We are already seeing this now. [Eco-Utensils](#) launches this month.

There are already new jobs to support this movement!

There will be workforce realignment.

Plastic is bad for us, bad for the ocean, and ends up in the bodies of sea life that we then eat ourselves. You don't have to care about the ocean, or others, you only need to be selfish to know this is a better choice for you.

- STYROFOAM IS CONNECTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND IT POLLUTES AT EVERY STAGE: FROM MATERIALS EXTRACTION TO PRODUCT PRODUCTION TO WASTE DISPOSAL. IT IS A FOSSIL FUEL.
- Plastic is killing more than 1.1 million seabirds and marine mammals every year
- 73% of beach litter worldwide is plastic
- It takes up to 1,000 years for plastic to degrade
- At least 8 million tons of plastic enter the ocean each year
- FACT: Hawaii should be a leader in this space, not a follower!

The city of Hobart has already banned single-use plastics (<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/hobart-leads-way-as-first-australian-city-to-ban-all-single-use-plastics>).

The US State of Maryland is about to become the first State to ban styrofoam, but we could beat them! <https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/13/health/maryland-plastic-foam-ban-legislation-trnd/index.html>

#### MISINFORMATION:

We are fighting A LOT of misinformation. Most notably a report lacking in truth and clarity from the City Auditor.

It is a shame that litter at all ends up in our oceans. However, NOT ALL LITTER IS CREATED EQUAL. Compostable material will first, break down much faster. Secondly, it will not cause harm to our marine life the same way the styrofoam and plastic litter will. This is why we need a comprehensive plan that not only stops the use of styrofoam, but also reduces our waste all together. Hence, the 3 bills, and not just 1 for styrofoam.

Then we must consider our economy. The cost of these safer materials is a bit more, this is correct. However, with more businesses causing a demand for these types of products, the supply will go up and the cost of these compostable materials will come down for all. We are already seeing this. and I have written about it above.



We are also seeing more competition from suppliers in this space, another point which will drive down the price. This month, another LOCAL company is launching to provide restaurants safer, better, and cheaper compostable products - [Eco Utensils](#).

Then there are jobs to consider. As a need for these supplies increases, these more forward thinking, LOCAL, companies will be hiring. Job loss will actually be more of a job transition - a workforce realignment. There will be job creation and we will witness a shift in employment opportunities.

The report also reviews the fact that we have no composting or recycling facilities in Hawaii. This is mostly true. Whereas there are some smaller composting facilities, there is nothing commercially available. HOWEVER, it neglects a very important point.

When H-Power burns styrofoam, the renewable energy created is not what they would like us to believe. Styrofoam burns at a much higher “flash” temperature. And when it combusts in that manner, when the “flash” happens so quickly and so hot, the energy cannot be collected and turned into “renewable energy”.

In fact, when H-Power burns the styrofoam, not only are we unable to make use out of it, but it also harms us by releasing harmful toxins into the air we breath.

Styrofoam also releases these toxins into the food and drinks stored in them. Consumers end up eating and drinking these toxins after storing their leftovers and drinks in these containers.

So, back to my original point, the Aina NEEDS YOU! We NEED YOU!

Please make to correct decision to save us, and create regulations that will drive market demand so that no restaurant/business is paying too much for eco-friendly choices!

Thank you for your time and consideration to this very important matter.

Mahalo,

Ocean Friendly Restaurants HI

Ocean Friendly Restaurants Criteria:

**Restaurants participating must follow the first five criteria:**

- No expanded polystyrene use (aka Styrofoam).
- Proper recycling practices are followed.
- Only reusable tableware is used for onsite dining, and disposable utensils for takeout food are provided only upon request.
- No plastic bags offered for takeout or to-go orders.
- Straws are provided only upon request.

**And choose a minimum of two of these criteria:**

- No beverages sold in plastic bottles.
- Discount is offered for customers with reusable cup, mug, bag, etc.
- Vegetarian/vegan food options are offered on a regular basis
- All seafood must be a 'Best Choice' or 'Good Alternative' as defined by Seafood Watch or certified as sustainable.
- Water conservation efforts, such as low-flow faucets and toilets, are implemented.
- Energy efficiency efforts such as LED lighting and Energy Star appliances, are in place.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 5:29:22 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jaunette Itsuno	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 11:29:01 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daniel Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 8:38:32 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas High	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

My name is Douglas High and although I am not from these islands, I have had the privilege of living here since 2008. I am a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where I obtained degrees in elementary education, special education, and a masters in STEM education. The first 5 years of my teaching career, I worked in Title 1 Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools on both O'ahu and Hawai'i Island. Currently, I hold a position as a middle school science educator at a private institution.

I bring up my experiences, as I'm sure others may, to allow those reading to understand my intent and whom I write this testimony for. I write for those who will live in future times, for those who will come after I am gone, for the students I have met and taught, their families and all those who will come after them. I write for my unborn child and to quote one of my good friends, "the seven generations to come."

I support this bill because it is not about profit margins or keeping practices in place because "that's the way it has always been." This bill is not about forcing others to change their ways or to make situations more difficult or less convenient. I support this bill because it has the courtesy to think for what is to come, using educated foresight based on effects that we are seeing now at an accelerated rate.

My hope is that those who come after us will get to enjoy the land and sea which make these islands so special - which make these islands Hawai'i and coincidentally us as residents of this place, who and what we are. I hope that my child will know what it is like to be able to play on a beach in the sand without feeling bits of plastic under their feet. I hope that for generations the people of Hawai'i will be able to fish from the sea and not worry about plastic toxicity in their food.

While working with students I have cleaned beaches, weighed trash, dissected the bolus of albatross, and lead discussions on the pros and cons of plastic. Nearly every child I have worked with has voiced his or her opinion on the need to reduce our plastic waste. Many are motivated to reduce their plastic usage but one common problem that we have run into is that as children, they are not always able to make the choice. For young people, the choice for them is often made by others.

This bill will help all the residents and visitors of Hawai'i make choices that not only positively impact them but also the land, sea, and creatures on these islands. I agree

with anyone else who will submit testimony about the dangers of plastic for our environment, the effect it has on the endangerment and extinction of organisms, how we may spend millions of dollars on clean up of non-biodegradable substances. However, I have chosen to use my time and words to support future generations of Hawai'i. May they have the opportunity to know this land and sea and its natural beauty, without having to look past the mistakes of those who came before them. I urge for the passage of this bill into law so that we can show the young people of today and tomorrow that we care about them and the ecosystems we are so interconnected with.

Mahalo.

Douglas High

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 3:53:55 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gillian Boss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Elected Officials.

I am writing you today in support of SB522. Our beaches and coastlines on Kauai are covered with plastic marine debris. I am a volunteer with Surfrider Foundation and go out at least twice a week to clean up our beaches. In 2019, Surfrider Foundation removed over 10,000 lbs of debris per month. In 2018, our community cleanups removed about 115,000 lbs of debris off our coastlines, mostly net and plastics. We need to take action to reduce plastics in our oceans.

I support any bill that would reduce single use plastics.

Please support SB 522

I have attached an editorial from my fellow Surfrider Executive Committee members, as they summed up the plastic pollution issues nicely.

Mahalo Nui,

Barbara Wiedner ,1774 Puu Kaa St,Kapaa,HI 96746 808-635-2593

### **Plastics, health and saving the environment**

By Dr. Carl J. Berg, Ph.D, and Dr. Gordon LaBedz, M.D. - Other Voices | Saturday, March 16, 2019

An important recent report issued by the Center for International Environmental Law reviews the toxic nature of plastics to human health, from extraction of petroleum products from the ground through refining and manufacture of plastic, then consumer use, waste management and plastic in the environment. Plastics are toxic.

The Kauai Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation has been thrust into the forefront of plastic waste management by trying to determine the best way to rid the island of plastic marine debris while trying to protect both human health and the environment from global climate change.

Our marine debris program collects and weighs over 50 tons a year of plastic nets, ropes, lines, buoys and miscellaneous trash that we need to safely dispose of.

The deadliest of marine plastic debris is derelict fishing gear that entangles, harms and kills marine animals, and eventually breaks down into microplastics and microfibers that are ingested, which can thereby also harm and kill.

According to Kauai County's 2017 Waste Characterization Study, an estimated 9,595 tons of plastic was disposed of at the Kekaha landfill in 2017. Meanwhile, about 1,255 tons of plastic was diverted from the landfill through recycling and commercial backhauling to the mainland.

We recognize that marine debris plastics comprise a toxic group of chemicals that emit greenhouse gases (GHG) and other substances as they break down under UV radiation and aging; that they



adsorb toxic chemicals from the environment, releasing them later; and that plastic has entered into the food chain of aquatic organisms large and small.

Therefore, we do not support developing a circular economy for plastics. Instead, plastic should be removed from usage, sequestered out of the environment, and new production ended.

Furthermore, we do not support the process of burning plastic products (e.g. at H-Power), or fuel made from plastics, to create energy unless zero toxic gases and minimal GHGs are released into the atmosphere.

Plastics should not be “recycled,” they should be “transformed” and removed from the environment. At the moment, the only solution for Kauai is to bury plastics in the Kekaha landfill. But Surfrider is looking for alternatives.

As Kauai County makes plans for a new landfill and continues their waste-diversion efforts, we advocate for the following conditions:

- GHG emissions are minimized in the transformation process, in transporting the final product, and in the creation of any waste;
- The process minimizes energy consumption, heat released into atmosphere, and is designed to produce only a minimal carbon footprint;
- No toxic chemicals should be used in transforming the plastics, nor produced in the process;
- No microfibers or microplastics are produced in the process, nor are shed from the final product;
- The final transformed product is coated, encapsulated, or otherwise sealed from exposure to the environment.
- The process is local or regional, provides both employment to the local community and a finished product useful to the local community;
- The process is designed to become economically self-sufficient over time.

Surfrider looks forward to working with the county and other community organizations to protect human health and the environment while ridding the island of plastic waste.

...

**Dr. Carl J. Berg, Ph.D.**, is senior scientist with the Kauai Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. **Dr. Gordon LaBedz, M.D.**, is vice chair of the Executive Committee of the Kauai Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 6:38:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 6:40:12 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a 7th grader at SEEQS public charter school in Kaimuki. I am supporting SB522.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 8:14:04 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Takumi and Lee,

My name is Dyson Chee and I am a 17-year-old high schooler living in Ala Moana. I am in support of SB522. I am extremely passionate about protecting and preserving our precious environment for generations to come. I have always been an ocean person, and, in short period of time I have been alive, I have seen the changes on our beaches. I can no longer go to the beach and not expect to see some form of plastic rubbish, whether it be plastic straws, polystyrene containers, or single-use water bottles. Because of this, I recently created a project, called Project O.C.E.A.N., which tackles the issue of plastic pollution. As a part of this project, I conducted a survey of 1,250 people living here in Hawaii, and their opinions on single-use plastic straws. I started this survey on June 16, 2018.

As of March 16, 2019, the following are the results of my project's survey:

Reducing mankind's consumption of single-use plastic straws is important.

3.5% disagree, **88.2% agree**, 8.4% unsure.

The Hawaii State Legislature should implement a ban on single-use plastic straws in the food industry (still available for personal purchase and use).

8.9% disagree, **78.6% agree**, 12.5% unsure

The Hawaii State Legislature should completely ban the sale of single-use plastic straws, in the State of Hawaii, if there are suitable and reusable alternatives to replace them.

7.9% disagree, **83.3% agree**, 8.7% unsure.

It is obvious that the majority of those surveyed are in support of legislative action against plastic straws. I would also like to point out that I was doing my best not to be biased in my survey, and approached people of all ages and professions. Just over 19% of people I surveyed were youth, and around 24% were middle aged adults. Seniors made up 9% of those surveyed. Professions varied from accountants to nurses to scientists. Also, several food establishment managers and owners took up the survey, and 28 out of 34 of them supported a complete ban on single-use plastic straws. Therefore, I implore you to pass SB522. Community members, experts in the field, and local businesses are in support of effective legislation against straws.

If you would like to see more of the raw or processed data and information, or have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at [projectoceanhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:projectoceanhawaii@gmail.com).

Also, I have a challenge which encourages people in Hawaii to stop using single-use plastic straws. Whoever takes up this challenge also receives a reusable stainless-steel straw. So far, I have distributed over 1,000 stainless-steel straws. This shows that there is a demand for reusable alternatives and that many people are willing to use an alternative to plastic straws.

Mahalo for your consideration, and for taking the time to read my testimony in support of SB522.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 6:24:11 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryuko Miura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 8:27:26 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

there are so many alternatives. Hawaii needs to make this change!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 9:09:49 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monika Mira	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I am in support of SB522. It is time to move forward with alternatives to single use containers made out of man-made chemicals that do not break down in our fragile environment. We are a small community on a small piece of land, and on Kauai alone are dealing with an additional tons of plastic waste washing up on shore every month. Additionally with about 1.5 million visitors to our small island and 10 million statewide, if every visitor uses just one single-use water bottle and two personal care items (like shampoo) from a hotel, we are left to deal with an immense amount of waste. Add to that the plastic food containers from eating out and we are buried in trash. It is time to set the precedent, it is time to show the world that this can be done, it is time that Hawaii stops using plastic, single use containers, polystyrene, straws, and other single use plastics. Recycling is not enough, we still have to ship "recycled items" away and of course, much of this plastic (like the lids) is not even accepted for recycling.

Mahalo



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 9:30:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gordon Peterson	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

We are drowning in plastic. With fewer and fewer countries willing to take our waste, it's even more important that we reduce the use of plastic at it's point of use. I support this bill for eliminating single-use plastic packaging and establishes the Solid waste Prevention Coordinator, and appropriates the necessary funding. Please vote FOR this bill. - Mahalo

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:07:08 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is past time to think first of the health and safety of our citizens and eliminate polystyrene from our lives.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 11:50:32 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mason Cawley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha All,

I am writing in regards in my support of SB 522. Our world faces many challenges and pollution in our oceans and landfills are one of our states biggest issues.

It is absolutely imperative that Hawai'i takes the reins and leads the way into a healthier more eco friendly world and not let single use plastic destroy our world any longer. As a resident of Kauai I see the effects of single use plastics everyday and it is undoubtedly time for a change.

Please make the right decision and pass the bill. Mahalo for your time.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 12:37:05 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support this long-overdue bill which make significant strides in helping to stop our island's land and seas from being choked with plastic.

i've been an avid swimmer, surfer and beach-goer in Hawai'i for many decades. i've watched in horror as my favorite beaches and reefs have gone from looking pristine to being spotted and then covered with all shapes and sizes of plastic. My daily beach ritual has become to pick up as many pieces of it that i can in the short time i have. Yet, every day there are thousands and thousands more pieces floating in and out of the ocean onto those beaches and across the reefs that feed us.

i'm sure you've heard all of the reasons why single use plastic needs to be banned. Despite an industry that will continue to say that economic consequences are too great to risk, their claims ring hollow when human and environmental health hang on the precipice of this huge global problem.

There are no reasons strong enough not to take this action NOW to protect your constituents and the environment upon which they depend to survive and have a decent quality of life. Please support SB522 for the sake of our future and keiki's keiki.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

Testimony of  
ELENA ZUCCHINI

Hawai'i resident

Before the House Committees on  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

AND

JUDICIARY

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 522, SD2, HD1  
RELATING TO PLASTIC

Aloha Chair Roy M. Takumi and Chris Lee, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama and Joy A. San Buenaventura and Members of the House Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and Judiciary.

My name is Elena Zucchini and I am an international student at the Hawaii Pacific University. I am here today in order to give my support to the bill SB 522, SD2, HD1, which seeks to prohibit the use of plastic bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and

straws by state agencies as well as the distribution or sale of plastic bags and the sale or distribution of single-use plastic beverage containers.

I decided to come to Hawaii in order to graduate in Environmental Studies. I thought it would be the best location to study about sustainability and the environment. However, when I first came to Hawaii, I saw several things that showed me that there is still a lot of progress to do in order to achieve a sustainable way of living. Styrofoam and plastic pollution are one of the reasons why I think that. Indeed, I do not understand how foam, plastic utensils, straws and plastic bags can still exist knowing that they have environmental and human health impacts as well as cleanup costs. As the president of the Surfrider HPU Club, I often have the opportunity to go to beach cleanups and it always strikes me to see how much plastic and foam are present along the beach as well as in the ocean. According to me, the reason is that people are not enough educated about the environment and its impacts. And because of that, predictions show that by 2050 there will be more plastic by weight in the ocean than fish. However, there are alternatives to foam and plastic. For instance, in France and other European countries we do not use foam and plastic but bio-composite materials as cardboard. These recycled materials do not have any environmental impact and can even provide savings over Styrofoam materials in the long-run.

Hence, Styrofoam and plastic are affecting our environment, and it is our responsibility to change this trend. I do think that each step that we will make in order to ban these products will result in a positive impact on the environment and a chance to resolve our mistakes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 522, SD2, HD1.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 1:18:32 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Binder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

This bill would be a great boon to our environment. Everywhere I go - even in the ocean - I see more and more plastic trash. Most of it is single use articles that are just thrown away without a thought by our less conscientious neighbors and tourists. Please vote for this bill to make sure what they toss is biodegradable!

Thank you

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 1:20:48 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Judie Hoepner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I totally support banning single use plastic in Hawaii. We need to become zero waste on this group of tiny islands!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 1:49:50 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steven Melling	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 3:01:43 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Hershey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 3:04:35 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Please PASS SB522 Relating to Plastic! We need to eliminate single use plastics, they're out of date and completely out of touch with the reality of a sustainable, healthy ecosystem. This bill has been a long time coming and is ever so welcome to hear, our planet and people have enough problems, but we have plenty of green, affordable solutions. Many small businesses have already transitioned, but lets get everyone on board for single use items we can compost and lets get the disgusting, burgeoning plastic problem under control. THANK YOU!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 4:49:48 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Star Carlin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The problem of plastics in our everyday life has become increasingly less compatible with Island life. We do not have landfill space, we can not pay to ship it elsewhere. Our beaches are inundated with plastic trash. Please take this logical next step to reducing plastic trash by limiting the use of single use plastics.

Mahalo for hearing my concerns,

Star Carlin

Mountain View, HI

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 5:08:32 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

We should have stopped using styrofoam a long time ago. This action is long overdue. Take out places will adjust quickly, and we'll wonder why we didn't do this sooner. Any minor increase in cost is small in comparison to the positive environmental impact. Thank you for your attention to this issue. Please make the right choice!



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 5:54:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Time to stop acting like dinosaurs. Foam containers have got to go. Don't be a dinosaur.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 7:11:05 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments: Aloha, My name is Abigail Gray and I work in the airline industry here on Oahu. Like many others on this island I am part of the, constantly growing, 17 million dollar tourism industry here in Hawaii. With an increasing number of visitors flying in each day I believe it is detrimental to our island to ban single use plastic and styrofoam. If our oceans and coastlines continue to be polluted our tourism industry will begin to diminish. Most of our island relies on tourism for sustainable jobs, and with unhealthy marine life and the deterioration of our island's coast we threaten the future of tourism and viable jobs to hard working families. The ban of single use plastic and styrofoam is feasible, and I believe the people of Hawaii are inherently entitled to live in a clean environment.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 9:27:33 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elana Jadallah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Elana Jadallah and I live in Kailua Kona on the island of Hawai'i. I support this ban on behalf of our oceans. The production and distribution of single-use plastic is detrimental to our sensitive ecosystem here in Hawai'i. Because this toxic material isn't biodegradable (taking 500+ years to breakdown) and cannot be recycled, it is not sustainable for our islands to continue using it in any form. By banning single-use plastic statewide, we are moving towards the future of a less wasteful, more regenerative way of business. PLEASE pass this bill. We need it now more than ever.

Mahalo nui loa,

Elana

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 9:44:40 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

Vote NO. This is tyranny, oppression, all the worst words one can use to describe an over reaching government. I have testified over and over giving facts and figures that disprove the need for a bill of this type. Instead of listen to facts and doing research, the UN global Agenda gets a rubber stamp in the State of Hawaii. Stop now. Do not pass SB522 SD2 HD1.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 9:47:30 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Boirum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Member,

As a home owner and resident of Hawaii I am frustrated on a daily basis at the amount of plastic rubbish that ends up on the ground along my walk way and communal path to my home. I live in a low income area and other residents do not take responsibility for their waste. So often I am forced to clean up after them.

I believe this bill will help solve some of the rubbish problems at the source.

I fully support it.

Thank you for considering positive change to make Hawaii a leader in protecting our planet and home.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:12:55 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrew N. Bodnar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:35:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sheena Weller	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I have always been an ocean lover and advocate. Our oceans are the reasons for life on this earth. I am currently in the process of pursuing my masters degree in marine science at HPU and am an intern looking at identifying plastic polymers.

It is heartbreaking to see what washes up on the westside. I tear up when i think of the millions of tons of (micro)plastics already in our oceans and what is added every day. We have a serious issue. A very important issue that needs addressing right now. It is crucial to my future, all of our futures, our children's futures that we take action to make this earth as plastic free as only possible. Not only do we need to reduce, reuse, and recycle - we need to redesign everything that is made from plastic that is harming our environment. And that starts with the ban of single use plastic.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:40:34 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Wheelers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Sirs:

I respectfully request you support this bill to help fix the plastic issue we have. It is beyond critical we take care of this tremendous problem.

With aloha,

Joanna Wheeler

Kapaa

Registered Voter

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:41:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jackson Williams	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I'm 15 and currently visiting the islands, and both of my parents have many ties to Hawaii... my dad finished high school here and my mom would visit quite frequently as a child. Hearing their stories and having my own experiences confirm my belief that this is a very special place, and it's tragic to see things simple as plastic waste begin to impede on locals and visitors' experiences, as well as endangering their chances of potentially forming their own special bond with Hawaii.

I believe that passing this bill would make a great step towards returning the islands to their former pristine conditions as opposed to furthering environmental damages and making our situation more difficult to deal with in ten years. It may even inspire others outside of Hawaii to re-evaluate their own practices; it would be very exciting if this was the first step towards a movement of legislative acts supporting environmental sustainability. Thanks very much for your time.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 11:35:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Urmston	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I work at a food cafe here on Oahu where we serve plastic cups, straws, and utensils. Each day I restock our plastic cup and utensil supply, on average going through about 200 of each. These are single use plastics, so imagine I took those 200 cups, 200 lids, 200 forks, 200 spoons, and 200 knives - and tossed them into the ocean. And then did the same thing again every day. (Not to mention, this is just one tiny little cafe - there are so many more food establishments doing the same thing!). Even if they aren't all ending up in the ocean, it is still undeniably wasteful. It is painful to witness such unnecessary, wasteful behavior that has become so normalized in our society.

I am also a marine biology graduate student at Hawaii Pacific University where I study Hawaiian seabirds. I have necropsied many birds that were found dead locally to identify the cause of death. Almost all of the birds I dissect have some presence of plastic in their stomach. In some cases, the pieces of plastic we find inside birds are still identifiable. Bottle caps, lighters, plastic dental flossers, and fishing line are just a few of the items we find inside the birds. Eliminating single use plastics from food establishments will be one big step in the right direction towards preventing future plastic pollution. Please take a minute to think carefully about how we can provide alternative options that will barely, if at all, reduce human convenience, yet drastically reduce negative impacts to the environment.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:12:28 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Giulia Rossi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:29:20 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:03:43 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
K Elizabeth Matthews	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

We have one guaranteed planet. Earth is the only place humans can rely on. It may become important for us to explore other options in the future, but we need realize the challenges that will come with humans establishing a home on another planet. We need to protect the one we have and focus on sustainability for the next 10,000 years or so. Sustainability might give us time to come up with a good plan for expansion of the human race.

Please support this bill. Please choose the right side of history and raise the bar for sustainability on this planet. Please do this for our children and their children.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Matthews

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 6:53:27 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ken Hughes	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

As an avid bodysurfer and beachgoer, I see the plastic waste at your Kauai beaches every day. Please ban as much plastic as possible, in the meantime, I'll continue to pick it out of the sand.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:39:17 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gabriella Sikorski	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Our family just moved to Hawaii with our 13 month old son. Since we have arrived we have been shocked by the amount of plastic we have seen on the beaches and in the water. It is so important to us that plastics be banned for the future of our son and his generation not to mention the sensitive ecosystems in our oceans. Our kids deserve a better future!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:20:44 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blake Wells	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I fully support this bill. We have to do something about single-use plastics and other garbage associated with a disposable society. If we are a leader in the subject, our message (not our garbage) will be spread around the world through the millions of visitors that come to our islands each year. This is a message we need to be EXPORTING! Please pass this bill!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:54:04 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeri Di Pietro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:09:23 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol bodnar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:52:15 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meg DeLisle	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Single-use plastics may represent the epitome of today's throwaway culture. Most of our plastic ends up in landfills, our oceans and waterways, and the environment. Plastics do not biodegrade. Instead they slowly break down into smaller pieces of plastic called microplastics.

Research shows the effects plastic has on the Earth as well as on humans. It can take up to thousands of years for plastic bags and Styrofoam containers to decompose. In the meantime, it contaminates our soil and water. The toxic chemicals used to manufacture plastic gets transferred to animal tissue, eventually entering the human food chain. Styrofoam products are toxic if ingested and can damage nervous systems, lungs and reproductive organs.

For many animal species, plastic waste is simply a nightmare. Plastic items like bags and straws choke wildlife and block animals' stomachs. Turtles and dolphins, for example, often mistake plastic bags for food.

If this doesn't sound bad enough already, the problem is getting worse. Each year, about eight million tons of plastic waste enters our oceans. That is like dumping a garbage truck full of plastic into the ocean every minute. If this continues, **plastics could outweigh fish in our oceans by 2050**. Unless we take drastic action now, it's expected that the amount of plastic littering the world's oceans will triple within a decade.

Every little bit of plastic reduction can make a big difference. SB 522 is a critical step in moving Hawaii in a safer, healthier and more environmentally friendly direction. There are SO many alternatives to styrofoam and other single use plastics. Merchants and companies can adjust with minimal cost and inconvenience. It's just the right thing to do for Hawaii's future. Malama ka aina!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:53:00 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
trevor howard	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:03:04 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Miller	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Thank you for reading this testimony. I strongly support SB522 because I believe single-use plastic materials have no place in Hawai'i in 2019. As island residents we should understand the vulnerability of our ecosystems and do everything in our power to change our behaviors so that we can have healthy and thriving waters and lands. There are convenient, safer alternatives to plastic containers available to us.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:07:51 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose



Subject: SB522 SD2 HD1 related to plastics, CPC/JUD hearing 3/20/19 2pm

Aloha, Chair Takumi, Chair Lee, Vice Chairs and committee members.

Mahalo for taking the time to consider SB522 . My name is Jennifer Milholen, and I work for Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation as the Waste Reduction Coordinator. Our programs work with schools and communities across the state who envision a plastic-pollution free Hawai'i. We achieve this through presentations, beach and watershed cleanups, community and business partnerships, and modeling waste free events, all engaging 10s of thousands of Hawai'i residents and visitors. The feedback from these programs is overwhelmingly unified: Get Single-Use Plastics Out! This bill address the "low hanging fruit" of senseless, convenience-plastic pollution that can be quickly and effectively transitioned out with massive impact. Other municipalities, like Berkeley, CA are already moving on measures like these with massive public support. The path is defined, we only need the courage of lawmakers to push us forward. SB522, of all of the plastic pollution bills, is the most comprehensive approach to addressing systemic change. With an issue of this magnitude, we will not succeed without a plan, and that's what SB522 SD2 offers us.

The legislature is tasked with considering thousands of bills every session, each taking up matters that impact the health, safety and happiness of Hawai'i residents and visitors. Every single one matters, but I would argue that these bills that address plastic pollution and embracing a zero waste framework for production, consumption, and disposal are THE most important. What is often lost in plastics conversations, is that PLASTIC PRODUCTION = CLIMATE CHANGE.

**"99% OF PLASTIC COMES FROM FOSSIL FUELS.**

When we think about climate change, we typically focus on factories, coal and cars, but rarely on this fact. As plastic activists, we usually talk about downstream environmental impacts or health threats, but only marginally on the connection between the plastics economy and carbon pollution.

**PLASTIC IS CONNECTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND IT POLLUTES AT EVERY STAGE: FROM MATERIALS EXTRACTION TO PRODUCT PRODUCTION TO WASTE DISPOSAL."**

Climate change is the most dangerous issue of our time, and urgent, broad sweeping action is essential. IF we want to truly act as the global environmental leaders that we claim to be, we HAVE to acknowledge that the flood of plastics in our lives are directly contributing to climate change and take local, but impactful, changes to transition away from these single-use convenience plastics.

Specifically speaking to the EPS foam components of this bill, please consider the following: The environmental and health detriments of foam for food vending are established and well-documented. We have known for years that, by design, EPS foam is ultra lightweight and escapes collection and management systems. Once in the environment, the foam fractures into billions of pieces of microplastics, which are consumed directly into the food chain - into us. Countless thousands of marine animals and birds starve to death because of ingesting plastics like foam. This is in addition to the leaching of known carcinogens from foam when used with hot and acidic foods.

1) Public Demand: The Honolulu Auditor office's 2018 report on prohibiting foam food containers determined that foam "bans" have overwhelming public support.

From the Report: "Restaurants want to do what is best for the environment. 95% of respondents said that they believe waste and litter is an environmental problem for our streams and ocean, and 98% of respondents stated that they would be willing to do more if they knew it would be green and protect the ocean. A majority (56%) of respondents stated that they would support (i.e., rating of 6-10 on a 10-point scale) a bill that banned the use of single-use polystyrene food containers.

In the 2018 Legislative Session, a foam ban bill (SB2498) was the most supported bill of the session, and recent memory, receiving well over 600 testimonies in support for a single hearing. Students were excused from classes, people took time off work, and business owners left their restaurants all to come show support for measures like these. It was impossible to even get into the hearing room it was so full, so many of us congregated outside waiting for our chance to show support.

2) Economic Imperative: In 2017, the HI DOT Highways division produced a report on roadway flooding that indicated foam containers and plastic bags were the TOP items found to be clogging up storm drains, leading to flooding. The report also indicated that the prohibition of these items would save the division and the counties multiple millions of dollars in cleanup costs.

3) Established Precedent and Modeling: Maui and Hawai'i Island counties have already vetted these arguments and determined the value of prohibiting foam in food service. Maui's foam prohibition has already begun, and their environmental office will testify to the fact that it is well-supported and the transition has been smooth.

As a final thought, please consider the following amendments:

1) Inclusion of a medical necessity (ADA) exemption for the offer of straws, though this bill still allows for providing straws as long as they are not petrochemical-derived.

2) Consider an exemption on plastic water bottles for natural disaster related emergencies, as requested by DOFAW Fire Management.

3) Under the definition of "plastic," please consider this amendment to ensure the integrity of the definitions used, avoiding technical language grey areas around the term "biodegradable"

"Plastic" means any material made of petrochemical polymeric compounds and additives that can be shaped by flow, including plastic bags of any thickness, but not bioplastics that are biodegradable, certified compostable, and bioactive and are made from biomass or renewable sources such as sugarcane, cornstarch, or cassava root, chips, or starch.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please support SB522.

Jennifer Milholen

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:18:55 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikki Sanderlin	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I support SB522 which prohibits the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, plastic bags and straws by state and county agencies, restaurants, standard bars, and any other businesses or individuals. Single use plastics are detrimental to our environment and should be limited in their use. I support phasing out single use plastics, and this bill (SB 522) will help reduce our local input of marine debris (plastic pollution) and help protect native wildlife and our local island communities.

Mahalo,

-Nikki Sanderlin

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:21:03 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kurt Indvik	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

As an active member and volunteer of the Surfrider Foundation Kauai Chapter, I help fill truckloads of man-made debris that we pull off the shoreline of Kauai every week. Plastic, polystyrene and many other types of waste material from packaged goods products and take-home food packaging are entering our oceans and finding their way into the very fiber of the animals and plants living there. It wasn't until I began volunteering with Surfrider about two years ago that I could fathom the staggering amount of plastic and other debris mankind is dumping into the oceans, the critical environment that surrounds us here in Hawaii. We cannot for the sake of our oceans, and our own health and wellbeing, allow this to continue. Therefore I urge passage of SB 522, to curb the use of plastic in Hawaii. Thank you.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:23:40 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill to phase out single-use plastics over 5 years (or Less!) (including those terrible "reusable" ones that STILL end up in the ocean). The earth cannot sustain the rate at which we are polluting it with plastic. "Save the Earth" is a real and necessary purpose and action. This is a matter of saving ourselves, the human race and our planet. The planet and ecological systems cannot repair itself when we continually pollute it. The reason for taking environmental action is to save us, for our children, and our children's children. We can start by with the simplest, easiest solution, which is to ban SINGLE-USE plastics. I understand plastics plays a crucial part in our daily lives. A great example is the medical industry needing it to save lives. But that is a use of plastic for crucial means. SINGLE-USE plastic is the most gluttonous, obnoxious use of plastic and an insult to our planet. We need to start with legislation that bans SINGLE-USE plastic so that people are forced to make lifestyle changes for the betterment of the entire society. Let's not pollute this beautiful earth for the sake of a small "convenience". The time necessary to biodegrade is not worth the 15-minute transport of my lunch. I'll bring my own container or use quickly biodegrading/dissolvable containers.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:38:06 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Bertoli	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Reducing plastic is an easy and sustainable solution that's good for people and planet: it's not hard to see that Hawaii (and other coastal nations) are witnessing a drastic change to their shorelines from single use plastic containers, and Hawaii has the opportunity to lead the nation (and the world) in the elimination of these unnecessary items. Metal straws, glass straws, or no straws are an easy solution for restaurants and bars, and washable, reusable cups can be instituted and refilled easily. It's so easy to say YES to this bill!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:45:50 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Towl	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I fully support this bill. The elimination of plastics is not only of concern to the health of individuals and communities, but to the health of the environment in its entirety. I have lived in Hawaii for eight years, now in the low income area of Kalihi. It is truly depressing to see the waste, mostly plastic, that is carelessly thrown out of car windows or simply tossed aside by people that have little or no respect for where they live. More than just the visual detriment to our community, science has shown the irrefutable harm the breakdown of these plastics have on our health as they make there way out to the ocean and into our food chain. Despite participating in numerous community cleanups in and around kalihi-palama, plastics litter the streets mere hours after they have been swept clean. The fastest and most efficient way to stem this tide is to stop it at the source, eliminating plastics before they have a chance to make it into the hands of careless or ignorant consumers. Please pass this bill for the health and safety of our communities, now and for generations to come.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:43:34 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathalie Champion	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Banning single use plastics will go a long way in stopping the amount of garbage we are throwing into the environment and our oceans. Please pass SB522!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:48:43 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael A. Wee	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. It's just more overreaching/excessive "feel good" legislation that is fraught with unintended consequences. It will not accomplish anything; it just makes life harder and more expensive for everyone. Do not approve this measure!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:54:37 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Queen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I have been cleaning Lydgate Park and other beaches since I moved to Kaua'i 13 years ago. Plastic eating utensils, plates, etc can always be found under and around picnic tables and around the outer fence at Lydgate Park. Plastic bottles are commonly found in beach litter. Since pictures say more than words, I'll search my file and try to post one or two.

This bill is definitely the direction I want our state to take as soon as possible. I'm heartened that there's already a push for restaurants here on Kaua'i to eliminate plastic and styrofoam. I couldn't find a way to attach a picture, but one had 4 plastic bottles and a throw-away cup from a local business in it. If there's any way for me to send pictures and you'd be interested in seeing them, please let me know how to get them to you.

Mahalo for your time and efforts,

Christine Queen

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:55:37 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Rafferty	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Sarah Rafferty and I am a resident of Kailua Kona, Hawaii. I volunteer with the local Surfrider Chapter, and work full-time for an ocean-based tour operator. I am sharing with you several important reasons why I support SB522.

1) Single use plastics are simply not necessary.

There are many alternative products and materials that businesses can easily use in place of plastic that perform equally as well. Despite false claims, these materials are not cost-prohibitive for businesses to supply and use. Additionally, customers are pleased to see that they are spending dollars with businesses that consider their own ecological footprint.

2) Waste management and marine-debris control *are* necessary.

This archipelago with a deep cultural history of respect for the land and sea happens to lie in the global cradle of marine debris. A massive portion of our local economy (dive operators, snorkel tours, surf instructors, commercial fisherman, aquarists, etc.) depends heavily on the health of our oceans. The company at which I am employed took nearly 20,000 visitors in the ocean in 2018. Guests travel from all over the globe to enjoy Hawaii's natural resources, and our local economy benefits as a result. The trash on our beaches and our reefs- while not always locally produced- is now making national headlines. **We can no longer afford to play a contributing role in the production of litter in our state.** The trash on our beaches will inevitably affect local businesses, and needs to be addressed head-on by our local government. When thousands of pounds of debris wash onto our shores annually, there is no reason for us to spend money shipping more non-biodegradable waste to and from our islands.

3) These islands are worth it.

We are home to countless species, both endemic and endangered. We have miles and miles of untouched coastline and world-class coral reef. Thousands of residents call this place home and would love for their future generations to have the ability to do so as well.

Thank you for making choices that reflect an investment in the health and future of our island and community,

Sarah Rafferty  
Kailua Kona  
sarahrafferty@gmail.com

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:16:59 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Bissell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We NEED to start moving toward mindful future concerning enviroment

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:27:30 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Holly Kersten	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

We absolutely have to eliminate the use of single use plastics. With low cost reusable bottles at every store there is no reason why we would need to purchase a water bottle and throw it out 5 minutes later. There is no reason why we should purchase single use items when environmentally friendly products are easily available at low cost to consumers. As a mother, a business owner, and a community leader.... I feel that we need to set the examples for our future generations. We have the opportunity to become a sustainable community and now is the time to come together and to lead by example. My family strongly supports SB522.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:40:06 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steve Ueda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:40:24 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lena Diaz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:49:00 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

This bill does the right things for the right reasons. Good job on establishing the Working Group focusing on reducing the wasteful use of valuable petrochemicals as single-use plastics; there are so many better things to do with petrochemicals than throwing them away after one quick use.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:43:18 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Danielle Kuck	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

A small adjustment in the way we do things is well worth the benefits we can have on our planet. We have gone on too long with using the convenient option or sometimes the only option that is easily available to us. For what gain? A few pennies saved? There are many options available to companies to make these switches with minimal extra costs.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:26:15 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Adrienne Kimber	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Single use plastics are a convenience, not a necessity. They cause an inordinate amount of pollution and wreak havok on our environment. Hawaii's natural resources are key to its economic prosperity; we should be a world leader on this important issue.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:33:39 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ChristopherMcCullough	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:39:09 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Krista Hiser	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Hawaii has the opportunity for this HISTORIC epic legislation to inspire the rest of the world. This bill will inspire our young people that "the system" can still represent people and aina. All young people want this. As a college professor my students are in extreme distress about this and other environmental issues. Without our beaches we have no economy. We have to stop this SINGLE USE plastic madness.If we can't do it HERE, then where? Please do this. we need this. (Now, not in 2021, but successfully passing this bill will create a ripple of creativity and innovation that will be GOOD for hawaii, for tourism, for youth, and for aina.)

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:40:43 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gena Whitten	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Our islands and beaches are impacted terribly by the mountains of plastics. Sea life is dying from plastics in the sea. Our food supply is being impacted by the plastics ingested by marine life, which puts this poison into our foods. We no longer have China to buy our garbage. 15 years ago, plastic single use bottles were rare. It is time to limit the use of all single use plastics. The cost to the environment is too great.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:51:19 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
romel pasaoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:55:59 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alessia Saporì	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support bill SB 522. Our ocean, beaches and most of our natural environment are already overwhelmed by plastic. It's a shame that we, as a community of people who are supposed to care for and protect the place that sustains us, didn't act early. We're late. We cannot postpone this any longer.

I surf and every time I'm in the ocean I pick up as much plastic trash I can: plastic bags, plastic bottles, plastic wraps, straws, polystyrene containers, you name it. But it's impossible to collect the millions pieces of micro plastic that float everywhere and end up in the stomach of honus, birds and fishes. The fishes we eat.

I enjoy the beautiful beaches of the east side, but it became impossible not to notice the plastic trash on the shore. It breaks my heart. Don't you see that too? Don't you feel uncomfortable doing nothing?

We all love poke, but the poke containers that the stores use is plastic number 5 which is not even recyclable in Hawaii. I try to re-use them at home, but it's not healthy to re-use them for a long time. I collected a big pile of them. There are compostable plastic containers that could be use. I'd be happy to pay the extra few cents for it.

Last year, the European Union - 28 Countries, 513 million people - approved the ban on single use plastic by 2021. The measure also cracks down on fishing gear containing plastic.

How is it possible that the State of Hawaii, one State with less than 1.5 million people, is not able to do that? Can you please say NO to the plastic lobbies once for all?

Mā•lama 'Ā•ina, it's our kuleana. Remember?

Mahalo,  
Alessia

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:58:01 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris P.	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I strongly support this measure. Real large-scale changes to protect our environment can not occur at the personal level and must occur at the governmental level. As long as single-use plastics are still available to consumers, they will continue to be used and disposed of improperly. Just today it was reported that a dead whale in the Philippines was found to have 88 pounds of plastic in its gut. The environmental impact of plastics has been horrific and we must get rid of these unnecessary items. Convenience does not override the safety and the health of our planet and its inhabitants.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 12:27:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Daigle	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

It is a given that single use plastics are toxic to not only the land and the environment but to our health as people, as animals. The ocean life are dying with the massive ocean pollution of plastics and toxic chemicals that leech from them. There are sooo many other reasons why this bill needs to pass. We can and will set a BIG example that the world needs right now to be forward thinking and create new ways of packaging and consuming things/food/goods. We can do this.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 12:56:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
june chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 1:12:59 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
yuri cardenas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Respected Council Members,

I'm in support of SB 522, reducing single-use plastics that end up in our oceans.

We have environmentally better options and an obligation to our visitors, ocean and ama to make more earth friendly choices. 40kg of plastic was just found in the stomach of a dead whale.

We can and must do better for our Islands--please pass this very important measure!!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Yuri Cardenas

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 1:00:06 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Seda Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 1:14:04 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse Owens, Ph. D.	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

This bill supports a massively important initiative to reduce unnecessary single-use plastics in Hawaii. These plastics fill landfills, and pollute the oceans. The obvious right thing to do is to support reusable containers which do not inconvenience people anyway. This is the direction that Hawaii needs to be going in! I support SB522!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 1:26:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danna Olsen	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I am testifying as a concerned citizen living on Oahu. I am tired of spending my weekends sifting microplastic out of the sand at our beaches- it's depressing. Beach clean-ups are not an effective solution. We must reduce single-use plastic.

I also volunteer with Surfrider. Did you know that Hawaii has over 200 Surfrider Ocean Friendly Restaurants (OFRs)? These champions prove that right now restaurants can thrive without styrofoam clamshells, plastic straws and plastic bags. Many are finding great alternatives through Sustainable Island Products.

According to the Kokua Foundation, if you ask a customer if they want a straw before assuming they do, about 80% will refuse it- there can be cost savings in doing the right thing. If a customer needs/wants a straw, there are now many more sustainable non-plastic alternatives available- paper, bamboo, hay, etc. These restaurants don't need to buy as many straws and as demand has increased for these non-plastic options, the prices are coming down dramatically (OFRs also get a discount!)

I also have a masters in public health and my focus area was environmental health with undergraduate education in the field of ecology and environmental studies. I'm seriously concerned about the health of both wildlife and humans. All of this plastic has entered the food chain. It's in the whales, the fishes, the birds and it's in us. Some plastics contain endocrine disrupting chemical such as BPA. Also these microplastics, floating in the ocean, getting eaten by fish are accumulating harmful persistent organic chemicals. We've created a toxic mess. How can we look our children and grandchildren in the face and tell them we knew all this but we chose to do nothing?

Please act today.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 1:42:17 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kari Goodbar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kari Goodbar. I am a resident of Palolo Valley and today I wish to voice my full support for SB 522 which would prohibit food service businesses and stores from the sale, use, or distribution of polystyrene foam containers, expanded polystyrene food service products, plastic straws, and plastic bags.

I am an animal care specialist at Dolphin Quest Oahu and secretary for the Executive Committee of Surfrider Foundation's Oahu chapter. I spend my weekends cleaning our beaches and attempting to quantify endless amounts of marine debris and I spend my work week caring for and studying marine mammals. In addition to animal care, the most important aspect of my job is educating people about marine animals and the threats they face in the wild. Amongst a myriad of human induced threats to our oceans, the biggest issue that we highlight and encourage our guests to take action on is plastic pollution. The problem with polystyrene and other single use plastics is that it isn't compostable and degrades into fragments. These fragments are impossible to clean up and easy for animals at all levels of the food chain to mistake as food and ingest. Dolphins and other marine mammals swallow their food whole, so ingestion of these materials is simple and instantaneous. This material is a plague on our ocean ecosystems because an item that is designed to be used once for mere minutes remains in the environment forever. Just today - March 18, 2019 - I read an article about a rare species of whale that died from ingesting plastic that its body could not digest. An excerpt from the National Geographic article is as follows:

"The curvier beaked whale, a young male about 15 feet long and weighing 1,100 pounds, likely died of starvation and dehydration brought on by the 88 pounds of plastic stuffing its belly. Whales absorb water from the food they eat, and there was no sign that any food had made it into its intestines for many days. Its body was destroying itself

from the inside: Its stomach acid, unable to break down the plastic waste, had worn holes through its stomach lining instead."

Every day I look into the eyes of our healthy, thriving dolphins - who I love as deeply as my own human family members - and think about the threats they would face if they were out in the ocean. I think about them meeting the same fate of this curvier's beaked whale (a rare species that also inhabits the Hawaiian Islands as well), continually eating yet continually starving all because humans refuse to find a way to reduce our dependence on plastic. It is heartbreaking beyond description.

In my everyday job as an educator, I focus on plastic pollution because it is also an area where small actions by a large number of individuals can actually have a huge impact. When I share this information with my guests who come to meet the dolphins or people who are joining a beach clean up for the first time, they are horrified at the impact our societal mentality of "disposable" convenience is having on our oceans. I share with them ways that they can help make a positive difference, such as avoiding these single use plastics or choosing products with alternative materials such as glass or cardboard. These are simple actions people might not have considered before but they are actions that people are highly receptive to and eager to adopt. I recognize that these issues are multi-faceted and can be difficult to solve when we've become so accustomed to our waste going out of sight and out of mind when it enters a rubbish or recycling bin. Another reason for my full support of this bill is the establishment of the solid waste prevention coordinator and the creation of the source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging.

My wish today is for our laws and legislation to emulate the personal responsibility our public is already taking. In Hawai'i, we are blessed to be constantly surrounded by and connected to nature. I hope that the state of Hawai'i can lead the example for the rest of the nation in protecting and preserving the fragile ecosystems that support our very existence. Please help stop a major source of pollution at its source by supporting SB 522 today. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Kari Goodbar



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 1:44:40 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rosanne Brady	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 1:45:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

we no longer have the luxury of not taking action - what kind of life are you leaving your children, grandchildren by not passing this bills and all other bills that pollute our climate/our lives - you must wake up to this danger ---- the planet will be fine, humans will be extinct if we do not act now ---- PASS THIS BILL NOW

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:18:09 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aashish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:18:51 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Troy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:21:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jacqueline hansen	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I 100% support this bill. I work in the F&B industry and our restaurant was one of the first to go completely ocean friendly. It's a small adjustment that only increases the consumer cost by a small margin. More importantly, we should be supporting and sustaining our fragile Hawaiian ecosystem & ocean by doing ALL that we can to elimaye plastic waste. There is NO excuse for marine animals dying due to our carelessness & human waste.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:24:37 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher James Dong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:25:18 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL**

This bill is targeted toward restaurants and convenience stores around the island.

Although Rep. Lee and others may not think so, the items on the list to be banned are heavily used by convenience stores and restaurants on every corner.

This bill is not intended to help the environment, it is aimed to harm small family businesses to larger business all over the island and state.

The items and materials are not the problem, people and littering are the problem.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:30:12 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Dong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:34:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lily Dong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:42:20 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marissa Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a representative of Hawai'i's youth, I am writing today in support of SB522 because it is an important step towards reaching environmental, economic, and social sustainability. Single use plastics have drastic, far-reaching impacts on our ecosystem and also jeopardize human health. Plastics do not biodegrade in the environment and they accumulate toxins in high concentrations and can enter our food chain through fish consumption. This is a huge problem and Hawai'i must take the lead in preventing this environmental and social injustice by transitioning away from single use plastics. Furthermore, there are economically viable alternatives and transitioning away from single use plastics will not jeopardize businesses or restaurants. In fact, the demand for plastic-free lifestyles and options is growing, and businesses or restaurants will need to start transitioning away in order to keep up with the trends and remain economically competitive. I urge you to support this bill so that Hawai'i can move in the direction of protecting future generations and keeping the keiki and the 'Ā• ina in mind.

Mahalo.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:43:39 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hannah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:56:10 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elise Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:03:59 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Philip Lemoine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:12:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jaime Ciletti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:20:04 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
kimberly diaz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:20:51 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sue chipperton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:23:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lei Shimabukuro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:25:56 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:27:18 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelsey Barrow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:28:34 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Nash Montone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support good for all living creatures. It is my responsibility to be active in as much positivity for humans to live a harmless life.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:36:43 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katherine Killebrew	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I agree with this bill. Pleas epass!



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:49:10 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tea™sha Martines-Melim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:54:37 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristina Kramer	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

It is a small change with a huge impact. If we do not curb our destructive habits now then there will not be a habitable planet for future generations. We have made steps backwards in our quest for progressing forward in the past 50 plus years and now we are learning what our ancestors already knew, living as one with the land and nature. An old motto, but one seemingly truer today- use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without. We need to relearn to live frugally, cautiously, and with a better future in mind. I believe not only is this bill a benefit to the environment but also the economy. So many untapped markets and openings for green thinking companies. Rather than fighting this change companies should embrace it and the new revenue that could be gained by this ideology that is yet still so fresh. With these thoughts and more I can whole heartily say "While there should not need to be a bill to make people do what is right, I understand that sometimes humanity needs a nudge in the right direction. So yes!"

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 3:55:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaimana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Single use plastic is wasteful and inefficient in protecting our environment.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:00:08 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haley Faringer	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

We must eliminate single use plastics!!! It is a crucial step in fighting against plastic pollution of the ocean and the land. There are alternatives to plastics already out there and by eliminating this option we can fund a better future for our keiki !!!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:01:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:02:40 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chelsea Cline	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:03:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jean chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:04:59 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deeksha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:06:19 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorien Kuster	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Please eliminate single-use plastics. Our oceans, especially the one in which we are located, are suffering! Hawaii's economy depends on tourism, but if our beaches get ruined by PLASTICS and our sea life dies because of PLASTICS, what will happen to tourism? Let's keep our islands, ocean, and planet healthy and clean!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:08:36 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sally Chew	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members,

As an employee in a cafe, I support SB 522. In my personal experience, I send out a form of plastic container with every service for our customers. I am currently pursuing an environmental studies degree and quickly learning the urgency needed to prevent more plastic pollution from infiltrating our oceans/wildlife. It breaks my heart serving people who have no other option than to use plastic containers for only a few short minutes before discarding it.

SB 522 is what the food industry needs to encourage consumers to think more about what they are actually paying for when they are buying food. What our food is packaged in may likely become a meal to innocent wildlife. But by putting a large fine in place, this would promote businesses to follow this legislature because alternatives to plastics may be expensive, but not as much as this fine.

Surfrider Foundation has an Ocean Friendly Restaurant Program that gives discounts to plastic alternatives such as hemp/paper straws and utensils. This bill follows a majority of the criteria to become an Ocean Friendly Restaurant, allowing more restaurants to become readily eligible. This would promote more business and may even be cheaper than old plastic ways.

To that end, I aspire for the committees to support SB 522.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sally Chew

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:20:46 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I brought a visiting family member to the beach and instead of being in awe of Hawaii's natural beauty, their first reaction was "wow look at all the plastic".

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:22:03 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

I am in full support of SB522. There is no place for single use materials in our society - particularly in the food industry. Estimates vary for the breakdown of plastics from a few years to as much as 1 million, depending on environmental conditions. Because of this, micro plastics often end up as pollutants along our shorelines and nearshore waters. This impacts human health, as well as our State's fragile marine ecosystems, on which many of us are dependent upon for recreational and cultural opportunities. Hawaii has the opportunity to serve as a model for the rest of the nation in regards to promoting a regenerative and sustainable waste system. The passing of SB522 is a step in this right direction.

Thank you for consideration,

Abbey

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:24:17 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelley White	Individual	Support	Yes

## Comments:

AS AN AVID SNORKELER SWIMMER AND VOLUNTEER AT HANAUMA BAY, I AM VERY CONCERNED WITH THE STATE OF THE OCEAN! I SEE PLASTIC EVERY TIME I AM IN THE WATER (5 DAYS A WEEK FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS). IT WASHES IN WITH THE TIDE, AND WASHES BACK OUT WITH THE TIDE. HANAUMA BAY ACTUALLY RECEIVES LARGE AMOUNTS OF PLASTIC DEBRIS. MORE AND MORE FREQUENTLY AS THE DAYS PASS. I'VE SEEN THER TURTLES WRAPPED IN IT AND THE FISH EATING IT ON THE SURFACE. IT IS SO DISTURBING. WHAT A SHAME IT WILL BE WHEN ALL THE FISH, BIRDS, MARINE LIFE ARE SUFFOCATED DUE TO MAN'S NEGLECT. WE NEED TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE EARTH WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN.

AS A CONSUMER, I AM MORE CONCERNED WITH THE DOWN RIGHT OVER PACKAGING IN OUR ISLAND COSTCO AND THE LARGE BOX STORES., AS WELL AS FAST FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS. THE AMOUNT OF PLASTIC THAT COVERS EGGS, APPLES, TOMATOES, COSMETICS, DETERGENTS, ETC. IS ALARMING. I TRULY BELIEVE WE ARE CONSTIPATING THE EARTH (FILLING THE EARTH WITH UN-BIODEGRADABLE PACKAGING THAT IS USED ONLY ONCE). SOME ORGANIC DISTRIBUTORS USE THE MORE DEGRADABLE TYPES OF PACKAGING - EVERYONE SHOULD.

THE ISSUE IS ONLY GETTING WORSE. IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT THIS TODAY! ONE PERSON CAN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE BUT MANY CAN. I BEG OF YOU-THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY TO GET MERCHANDISE IN THE HANDS OF CONSUMERS!

THANK YOU!

SHELLEY WHITE 3-18-19

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:31:20 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bailey Mackenzie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:34:51 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Devon Lucero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:40:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Parker Keil	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

This hearing bill should be strongly supported. Having lived on Oahu, attended the University of Hawaii and Manoa, explored dozens of trails and beaches there has been one unifying element during these experiences; single use plastic pollution was found in each one of these priceless locations. There has been countless times snorkeling and coming across plastic bags tangled in the reef, destined for an eternity of polluting Hawaiian oceans. Straws, coffee stirrers and single use plastics are just the beginning products that need further regulation. Items such as tooth brushes and disposable razors should be called into question in the future. I firmly support this bill and strongly urge legislators for their support in ensuring Hawaii's sustainable future.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:42:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Conder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:43:10 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gioconda Lopez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:47:04 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nan Himmelsbach	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I support this bill. We, an island nation, a tourist hot-spot, and a community of nature-valuing citizens, must take action. Small steps lead to big changes. I whole-heartedly support the passing of this bill.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:59:24 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ioni gayle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 4:57:10 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annie Kopcso	Individual	Support	Yes

## Comments:

This bill is necessary for the future of Hawaii and beyond. As one of the most beautiful places on Earth, Hawaii should be a leader in banning the use/sale of plastic, styrofoam, and all other harmful, toxic materials. As a consumer, I would gladly pay extra for compostable materials -- for the health of our environment, and the health of the community, and the health of the long-term economy. Not only are plastics/styrofoam ruining our physical world, but they are also toxic to all living beings, including humans. Protect our future! Mahalo!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 5:13:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alyssa C Varela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 5:22:20 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raina Wong	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Plastic pollution has become such a global issue. As soon as I started to realize how consumed we were in plastic, I slowly started my own journey of a 'zero-waste' lifestyle. I began bringing my own utensils, straws, and water bottle everywhere I went. I became more conscious of the packaging of anything that I bought. I followed many different accounts on instagram that supported and updated me on this lifestyle for motivation and education. I could see that there was a community that was working hard to sustain a low waste, plastic free lifestyle. Although I felt that I was doing my part, I didn't notice many other people doing the same. I would then urge my classmates to bring their own utensils and plates to class parties, I would encourage people to refuse plastic bags, and I stopped supporting businesses that didn't provide plastic-free options. Most of my classmates wouldn't listen and it was clear that many people were still going to places with plastic packaging. This is when I realized the difficulty of changing people's habits. Everyone wants convenient options, no one wants to go out of their way to bring their own utensils or straws when they can just get one and throw it away without having to worry about it later. If we want consumers to change their habits, we need corporations to do the same. If most people see that a business will provide a plastic or styrofoam to go container, they'll accept it without thinking twice. Even if people were thinking twice, it might be too late for them to have brought their own or even if they had their own, it might not be FDA approved. Compared to the rest of the world, Hawai'i is just a small dot on the map. If we take into consideration the amount of plastic food packaging, bags, beverage containers, styrofoam, utensils, straws, stirrers, etc... and multiply it by the scale of the rest of the world, the numbers are outrageous. If even we, this tiny dot on the map, can't control our consumption habits, how can we expect the rest of the world to? Hawai'i is a beautiful vacation for many people around the world. It's important that we set a plastic-free example not only for our local community, but also for all of our visitors. This huge impact will start with small steps, and Hawai'i should be a part of these small steps.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 5:17:42 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elise Provosty	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 5:27:35 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James McCay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

STRONG SUPPORT to get these lazy toxic items out of our food chains, habits, oceans and water ways, PLEASE!

We all know this is the right action.

So please do the right thing and ensure this PASSES.

Mahalo & Malama Pono,

James

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 5:27:37 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hannah Altschwager	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I'm a 27-year-old Australian, currently living in Oahu, Hawaii, on a boat in the Alo Wai Marina. For over a year I have been volunteering as the operations manager for a project called The Swim. Ben Lecomte was the first person to attempt to swim across the Pacific Ocean in 2018 and did so to raise awareness toward the oceans health. Due to damages to the support vessel, they were forced to come to Hawaii. As sad as it was that he didn't make it the entire way across the ocean, the plus side meant I have got to live and experience the beauty of Hawaii for the past three months.

During the expedition, citizen scientists on board collected data on various aspects to do with ocean health, from microplastics, ocean toxicity and larger plastic debris. Ben and the crew returned to land with a new understanding of how bad this issue really is. I worked on land as the support team for the project, and although I didn't see it first hand, I witnessed the photos and the stories told by those on board that has made a lasting impact with me.

Hawaii is everything I have ever imagined, beautiful scenery and lovely people that have made the transition here seamless. We have made great friends with some incredible people over at Sustainable Coastlines, who have opened my eyes further to the impact plastic has on our planet through their beach cleanup project. Just the other day while cleaning Kahuku Beach, I saw a turtle sleeping with a piece of plastic under its fin. This was such a disturbing and upsetting sight for me, and sparked a passion to do more to help protect those without a voice.

Being Australian, I am extremely lucky to have been brought up with pristine beaches with no litter. I now understand that this is in no way a reflection of how much trash Australia produces, and just provides a mask for many to hide from the real truth of plastic. Oahu is a different story, it's no secret here how damaging plastic is, which is why it surprises and saddens me that single-use plastic is still legal. Straws, bottles, bags and utensils are useless items, and the easiest plastic to remove from our lives. Living in the marina we see plastic items floating past our boat on a daily basis. All those single-use items above, produced and distributed right here in Oahu.

Oahu is a beautiful place to live, appreciated and loved by people all around the world. It has the power to really make change.

Rid Hawaii of single-use plastic.

Show the world how it's done.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 5:47:45 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kate Gormley	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I urge the Hawaii Legislature to pass this comprehensive bill. I have personally participated in beach clean ups to pick up minute particles of plastic that wash up on Hawaii's beaches. Almost 30 years ago, I sailed from Hawaii to Tahiti and back, stopping at remote islands, including Palmyra and Fanning Island (Kiribati). Even back then, the windward sides of these island were strewn with plastic debris. One day, we were becalmed and the sea was very flat. This made it possible to see large plastic debris, including a huge plastic fishing float, that would have otherwise been obscured by the waves. Perhaps that huge float has now disintegrated into a million tiny plastic fragments that are now floating somewhere in our vast ocean. There is compelling evidence that plastic particles are found in most sea creatures. Our food sources are threatened. Shocking effects on human health are just now beginning to be fully understood. Hawaii is unique in it's geographical position at the center of the Pacific, and it's long cultural connection to the ocean. This is a fantastic opportunity for Hawaii to take a world-leadership role by passing this legislation. Please take this brave step and lead the way!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 5:48:50 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorraine Garnier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of SB522

We are so far behind other states on this one. Your support of this bill would assist in the phase out a variety of single-use plastics over a 5-year period and create a working group to eliminate plastic packaging in Hawai'i. Included in the phase out is polystyrene foam, plastic straws, utensils, bags, and water bottles. So, many individuals, families and school age students are akamai to bringing their own water bottles and food containers including reusable sporks or bamboo utensils that within 5 years we will already be assimilated and the change less painful.

To help in the transition, the phase out will begin in State agencies and then be eliminated from food service sectors of business. I am so grateful for your support of SB522.

Mahalo nui loa.

PS. Lets not be the "green" state on energy and the "sick" state on plastics and polystyrene any longer. They do not go hand in hand.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 5:53:10 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claudia Mueller	Individual	Support	Yes

## Comments:

Most plastics are not recycled in most parts of the world and especially not in the state of Hawaii and therefore end up in our landfills, at H-Power or in our oceans. None of those options are acceptable and therefore single-use plastics should be not longer allowed in the state of Hawaii.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 5:53:33 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kassidy kawa	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 5:53:45 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Magdalena Mathis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 6:16:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
matt mcpherson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 6:29:39 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Martinez	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

With tourism being one of our number one industries and working in Waikiki I witness the amount of waste in abundance. Tourist from other cities, states, and counties comment all the time on how behind Hawaii is with their eco-practices in even the basics like recycling, separating, and composting trash. In being surrounded by the ocean and using it as the center of our well being we should be setting the example to others in how to minimize plastic and waste that literally killing the eco systems of our ocean and planet. This is so important to stop this at the source. Please do your part in making the decision that impact the habits on human kind.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 6:35:19 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Franco Martinez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 6:37:57 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Libby McGraw	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:01:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 6:49:20 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:16:38 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brittany Washko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:16:42 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
savannah cordell	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:38:01 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kate Reimann	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Plastic, specifically single use, is the most abundant waste product found at our Surfrider Oahu sponsored beach clean ups. As a volunteer, it's frustrating to see how careless we've become. As a mother, it saddens me to see the way we are destroying natural resources. As a business owner, it's concerning that we allow these materials to be used pervasively on an island that thrives on tourism - tourism dependent upon natural beauty. The logic in this bill is outweighed only by the extreme need to pass this ban. Please pass this bill and make Hawaii a leader in sustainable, eco-aware efforts! Mahalo.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:49:01 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Ma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:51:21 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James DuBourdieu	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I recently spent four months sailing in the Pacific ocean. There was not one single day where I did not see plastic floating by the ship. Literally every single day I saw plastic debris floating by. We were in the middle of nowhere, thousands of miles from land and we saw the impact first hand that plastic has on the oceans. At times we were closer to the people in the space station than we were to anyone on Earth and yet we still saw plastic. Large pieces, small pieces, nearly invisible pieces. Plastic spoons, forks, knives, bags, takeout containers, you name it we saw it. These pieces of plastic we saw will never break down and will remain in the ocean far longer than I will stay on this planet. They will remain in the ocean far longer than the children I one day hope to have will remain on this planet. And if those children I hope to have choose to also have children, that plastic will still be there, floating in the ocean; still not gone, still just a piece of plastic that was used for seconds and discarded to spend an eternity causing problems for not just ocean species, but ultimately humanity. This problem and what we choose to do about it will be part of what defines our species.

Plastic was only invented in 1907. It wasn't until 1979 that single use plastic bags became available in the US. In 40 years plastic has gone from an innovative and convenient solution to a global problem that threatens marine species worldwide. What did people use in 1978 to carry groceries? What did people use in 1906 to drink out of? If they could figure it out we can figure it out. Its not hard, its just change. No blue no green.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:53:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sarah Maile Vasconcellos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:58:51 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel DeRoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:06:02 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bay hamby	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:09:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sage Vasconcellos-Merryman	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

The use of single use plastics can and should be stopped. The effect on the environment and the precious marine life that suffers because of the disposal of these products is horrendous and appalling. We simply can see the effects of these plastics just by looking at our beaches and our waters. This bill will help create not only a more sustainable and healthy Hawai'i but a healthier more eco friendly world.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:10:39 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Savannah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:24:34 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tia Kyani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

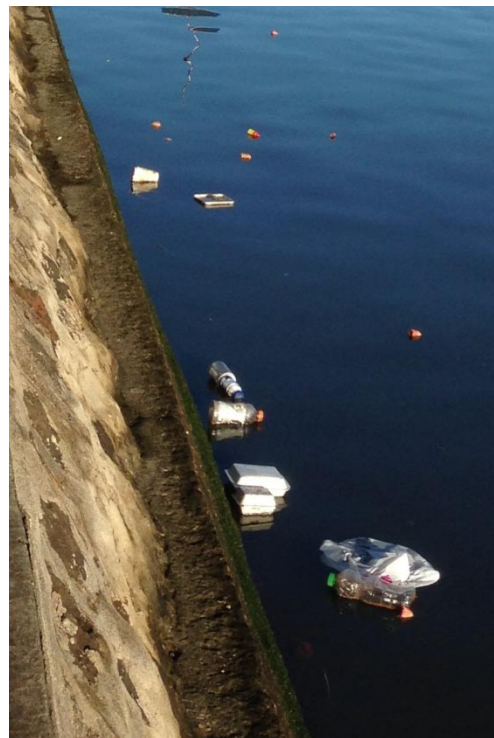


Mr. Kim Jorgensen  
225 Kaiulani Ave #1604  
Honolulu, HI 96815

March 20, 2019

Attn: Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Committee on Judiciary

I strongly support Bill SB522 SD2 HD1 (HSCR 1380). Please look at a typical view and close-up of the Ala Wai Canal that I see each day on my morning walk.



The number of polystyrene food containers always seen in the canal as well as flying around in the wind at beach parks is staggering.

Please support SB522 SD2 HD1 (HSCR 1380). Let's join the other cities and states and countries that have enacted such bans to protect humans, wild and marine life, and the environment.

Sincerely,  
Kim Jorgensen

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:31:01 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaitlyn Payanal	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Denise Boisvert  
225 Kaiulani Ave #1604  
Honolulu, HI 96815

March 20, 2019

Attn: Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Committee on Judiciary

There are many reasons why I strongly support Bill SB522 SD2 HD1.

This is one of them.



I hope you will support it as well. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Denise Boisvert  
Waikiki

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:38:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jens Krosby	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

The human race as a whole needs to reduce the amount of plastic we use overall. This bill will advance necessary precautions regarding the use of plastic. Ocean life is already in danger, and scientists conclude that plastic particles appear in the seafood we eat, and in, turn show up in our bodies and the systems of our children. Our ecosystem depends on ocean life, and not only will the ocean's health benefit from this bill, but so will humanity's. Ban the sale of single use plastics and all plastic in general as soon as possible.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:38:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Yui Hartman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:40:43 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Madi Tubus	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:41:32 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Welti	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

On Kauai we see an ongoing amount of plastic debris coming in from the ocean. For me this is the most important issue of our days-- to stop the flow.

Please vote for this bill.

Cynthia Welti

Kapaa, HI

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:43:41 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Morgan Koble	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Our beaches in Hawaii, as well as our fields, mountains, roadways, parks, etc deserve to be much cleaner! It would be an extremely positive movement to have this bill passed, and the rest of our nation look to us in a positive light for making the world more environmentally friendly! The diversity of our sealife and flora depend on what we do today, and reducing the amount of waste that ends up in our natural spaces is a huge part of that! Tourists come and go, not thinking of all the waste they leave behind, but we who live here are left to suffer through the waste and consequences. Please, consider the generations to come who would rather be learning about this beautiful and unique ecosystem, rather than continuing beach cleanups in a vicious cycle of single use trash!



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:45:45 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
diamond quinones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need save the planet. This is a big step towards that.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:46:55 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Buffy Nakachi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB522. Keep plastic out of our oceans and protect our Aina.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:57:56 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
anette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:05:10 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tiggi Kempe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:07:55 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Sentner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

By passing SB 522 SD2 HD1, you will be taking an important step to protect our environment and the tourism industry that it supports. Reducing the plastic waste in our oceans and our 'aina is critical to our survival as a species.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Ken Sentner

2499 Kapiolani Blvd., apt. 2209

Honolulu, HI 96826

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:10:27 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Savannah Ericksen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:18:48 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:22:10 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

Please support SB522. As a longtime resident of Waikiki I have seen an intolerable increase in plastic pollution over the years from single use plastic items littering our beaches and walkways. I've also participated in beach cleanups and seen firsthand the devastating effects the gradual breaking down of these unnatural items reaks on our waterways, sea animals and land. It's heartbreaking. It gives me tremendous hope, however, when I see a bill such as this introduced at session. It helps me believe Hawaii can be the first plastic utensil, water bottle, straw and bag free state in the US. Please lend your support and help make this happen. Plastics are made from fossil fuels and discarded after one use, in the process contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. As an island nation, Hawaii is at the front lines of the resulting change in our climate and already seeing disturbing events that have impacted communities such as the excessive flooding last year on Kauai and the increase in activity during this past hurricane season. The State of Hawaii has set out to be a leader in climate change, supporting this bill is helping our state government achieve those goals.

Mahalo for your consideration.P



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:29:40 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nadia Podo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:53:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

I support the zero waste Hawaii bill! There is way to much waste produced every day! Single use cups, containers, cutlery etc. are only used for a couple of minutes and then thrown away! There is no need for that!! I am visiting from Switzerland, where we do have an excellent recycling system, where we learn as kids what it means to produce waste. For years we do not have plastic bags in grocery shops anymore! And it works! No one misses the single use bags! We are working on redesigning packages etc. it is a process but we need to start NOW! Being here and walking on beaches strewn with microplastic instead of glittery sand breaks my heart! Seeing wildlife like turtels, monkseals and albatross resting next to marine debris is heartbreaking! I often go to beach clean ups to help at least a little bit, but what we see is only the tip of the iceberg :( We all need to take action NOW, it is very late already, we should all be smarter by now and immediatly ban single use plastice on this islands!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:03:55 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Dowsett	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Honestly, this just makes sense regardless of how you feel about pollution. In my opinion, the simplicity of having biodegradable single use plastics far outweighs the manufacturing expense because we essentially don't need to worry about littering as much. This is because it's not really considered littering anymore if the environment or even animals get rid of our trash for us. Plastics are an issue in the ocean for pollution because they don't break down, but with biodegradable plastics, its okay to throw those plastics overboard because they will be broken down into harmless substances in a matter of months or even days. This motion to ban single use petroleum based plastics is the perfect catalyst to set us on the path to doing the right and sustainable thing. We must take care of the earth, as it has taken care of us since the beginning of time. If we kill the earth, we all die.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:14:13 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:25:14 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tabatha Aiko Knudson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:31:32 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kennedy-Anne Marx	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:38:31 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Morgan Bonnet	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

It is now urgent that we do all we can to reduce plastic consumption at the source. We hear horror stories and see images from all around the world that clearly show that we have a major plastic problem. It will takes decades to solve it even if the world stops consuming plastic today. We have a major plastic addiction problem. And there is proven alternatives that exist. So let's start our rehab now. We owe it to our future generations.

Just follow Sustainable Coastlines or Surfrider Foundation Hawaii on Instagram and you will realize how bad it is in Hawaii. It is seriously depressing. And while a lot of the plastic pollution comes from the Ocean, a "healthy amount" is obviously originating from Hawaii. So we have to do everything we can to solve that part at least!!

When I read through the plastic industry testimonies, I just want to laugh. Or cry. Apparently we need plastic for our health? Otherwise we won't be able to drink water. Is that a joke? However recent studies have shown that almost every single plastic bottle of water on the market contains micro-plastics. Is that good for our health? Did they forget to mention that? Or could that be that these grotesque arguments are driven by greed.

So please be a champion of the people and vote YES on SB522 before we drown in plastic like our oceans already do.

Aloha,

Morgan Bonnet

Chair of DPH District 25

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:48:04 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:48:40 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Courtney Mann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:48:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Aaron Haynes and I live in Kailua Kona on the island of Hawai'i. I support this ban on behalf of our oceans and shore lines. The production and distribution of Single use plastic is especially detrimental to our sensitive ecosystem here in Hawai'i. Because this toxic material isn't biodegradable (taking 500+ years to breakdown) and most of it is not being recycled, it is not sustainable for our islands to continue using it in any form but by banning Single use plastic's statewide, we are moving towards the future of a less wasteful, more regenerative way of business. PLEASE pass this bill. We need it now more than ever.

Mahalo nui loa,

Aaron H.

**SB 522**  
Relating to Plastic  
**In Strong Support**

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 20th, 2019 , 2pm  
Room: House Conference Room 329  
Committees: CPC/JUD

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the CPC committee,  
Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Buenaventura, and members of the JUD committee,

my name is Natalie Wohner, I am from Germany and a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa getting my Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering. **I strongly support SB 522**, prohibiting the distribution of polystyrene foam containers, expanded polystyrene food service products, plastic utensils and stirrers, plastic straws, and plastic bags, and plastic beverage bottles.

Single-use plastics are made from fossil fuels, used once and persist in our environment more than our lifetime threatening our ecosystem and human health (please refer to the following paragraphs for more information). Due to these facts and the availability of affordable, green alternatives many countries and cities across the world are taking responsibility and adopting bans on single-use plastic items. I hope Hawai'i will do the same, step up as a leader in sustainability, and work on source reduction rather than continuing to create more waste that we have no capacity to deal with on our island in an environmental friendly way.

***Active Bans on Single-Use plastics*** - The University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Maui and the Big Island have already passed a ban on polystyrene containers, as well as many other cities, countries, such as New York City, Seattle, Takoma Park, Miami Beach, Portland (Maine), Nantucket County, Minneapolis, Portland (Oregon), Los Angeles, San Francisco, even Zimbabwe in Africa!

The European Union has banned all single-use plastics, together with New Delhi, Taiwan, Bali, UK, and plastic bag bans in Washington, Australia, Rwanda, Morocco, just to name a few.

***Impact of Single-use plastics on Ecosystem and Marine Life*** - We are swamped every day by reminders that plastics are a threat to our ecosystem (please see pictures below), and yet, every day there is more plastic produced, most everyday items are made or wrapped in plastics, and we have no solution in sight on how to deal with the huge amount of plastic we produce other than burning it or dumping into the landfill.

This is a collective global problem with no one in particular to blame for, but Hawai'i contributes to this problem, and we can change our throw-away culture by choosing more sustainable options that are readily available.



Mumbai, Juhu beach covered in plastics. (Credits: @haram\_khor\_ Instagram, Ganesh Vanare)



Researchers removing 4-inch plastic straw from a sea turtle's nose (Credit: Nathan J. Robinson)



Laysan albatross found dead in Midway Atoll - stomach filled with plastics (Credit: Chris Jordan).

**Impact of Polystyrene on Human Health** - Expanded polystyrene foam (EPS) is the most unsustainable and unhealthy material I can think of as a scientist.

Evidence of cancer from studies in humans shows lymphohematopoietic cancer and genetic damage in the white blood cells, of workers exposed to high doses of styrene<sup>1</sup> on a daily basis.

EPS food containers leach chemicals (styrene) into the food. The amount of styrene that migrates into foods and liquids strongly depends on fat content and temperature, being highest for hot and fatty foods<sup>2</sup>, which are served daily in Hawaii's take-out culture. The

---

<sup>1</sup> The Report on Carcinogens, Twelfth Edition, prepared by National Toxicology Program (2011)

<sup>2</sup> M. S. Tawfik & A. Huyghebaert (1998) Polystyrene cups and containers: Styrene migration, Food Additives & Contaminants.

monomer styrene (or vinyl benzene), that leaches into the food when in contact with PS food containers, is listed as a hazardous chemical and categorized as a carcinogen.<sup>3</sup>

EPS does not compost in our landfills or in the ocean, and when burnt at H-Power it emits chemicals, such as benzaldehyde, acetophenone, styrene oxide, which are classified as hazardous substances or carcinogens by US EPA.

***Ocean Friendly Restaurants in Hawai'i*** - Polystyrene is leaching toxic chemicals into our food, we are not able to recycle it, it is littering our environment and yet, polystyrene is still being used as a material for food containers simply due to its low cost.

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. The Surfrider Foundation Oahu, a non-profit organization, has a program that highlights restaurants in Hawai'i that have sustainable business practices and do not use PS containers, and other single-use plastics.

This program, the Ocean Friendly Restaurants program, shows that small and big local restaurants are thriving without the use of polystyrene or single-use plastics. There are more than 200 Ocean Friendly Restaurants (OFR) in Hawai'i<sup>4</sup> and at least another 100 restaurants that are not part of the OFR program but do not use polystyrene containers.

We have experienced a decrease in cost of paper clamshells in the past two years due to a higher demand and more distributors, stores and companies switching to sustainable options.

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

Aloha nui loa,  
Natalie Wohner

---

<sup>3</sup> [New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet, 2011](#)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org/>

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:04:30 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tyler Johnson	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:09:08 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan Dickey	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

We need to keep as much synthetic materials/chemicals out of circulation in our society as is possible. There is not enough testing as to how low-level exposure to plastics effect human health. This should be a deep concern to everyone with an endocrine system. Moreover, the environmental and non-human life consequences of plastic production and plastic disposal (even plastic recycling) are well documented. There is no logical reason to be producing so much of this material, aside from the intense pressure from the petroleum industry to continue using their product in every aspect of human life. We are more than capable, as a society, of using much less hazardous materials at low cost.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:12:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lionel Bance	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

As a surfer born here on Oahu it saddens me to see more and more plastic on the beaches and around in general. I fully support banning the use of Styrofoam food containers and are there plastic items which just end up adding to the problem.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:42:51 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eleanor Richards	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:17:39 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lizzette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please help to keep our Earth clean, save marine life and hopefully set an amazing example for other states!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:35:34 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paula Moehlenkamp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:28:02 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Caitlin Reposar	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 2:07:54 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support the bill SB522

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 2:26:44 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Claire H Gregory	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 2:31:27 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pausch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 3:12:09 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

Please pass this bill.

We do not need all the Single use that Pollutes our waterways, ocean, byways and fills our landfills. Single use plastic should not be sold in our beautiful state, it should not be an option to pollute our beautiful state and water, please!

Please outlaw this detrimental item that plugs up our waterways and makes floods in our systems. It cannot be your good conscience. We need to end and teach non single use plastic. I don't use it anymore. Just think of the plastic between Hawai'i and California!

We don't need to make all the money for Costco etc. allowing sales of cheap, disposable, single use plastic to anyone in Hawai'i nei.

All the Marriotts establishments have stepped up and have non polluting containers. There are many restaurants in town that have joined Surfrider Foundation and Styrophobia's effort. Justice can't be done without your help. Just say yes instead of no!

Linda Wong

Diamond Head

Member of:

Diamond Head Neighborhood Board

Hawaii 1000 Friends

Surfrider Foundation

Sierra Club of Hawaii





**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 3:22:26 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raquel Montes Mendiola	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 3:44:24 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Remi Jose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 3:52:09 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paula Vore	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Single use plastics create unnecessary waste. Please ban them. If not ban, make the companies who create them responsible for their own waste through the end of the wrappings life.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 4:11:18 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I support upcoming hearing for Sb522 against the distribution of plastic bottles, utelcils, plastic bags, straws and create a working group to eliminate single plastic packaging due to we only use these plastic products ONE TIME then it goes directly into a trash. Do you know the amount of trash that will be minimized by this movement.**

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 4:25:59 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nathaniel cowan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please accept and post my Testimony. I am in "SUPPORT" of BILL 522.

I love Hawaii. Keeping Hawaii healthy and safe (along with our planet and all its surroundings) is very important for healthy sustainable living.

Mahalo for your time,

Nathaniel Cowan

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 4:28:01 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tara Reichert	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

As a Canadian annual visitor, with in-laws with a Hawaiian residence, I have a vested interest to support the passing of this bill. The garbage collection in state beaches is open and plastics are easily picked up in the wind, or dropped and make their way to the ocean. When there is a recycle bin, often we see that garbage is thrown in it or recyclable goods are thrown into the trash. And natural beaches that are still tourist spots have no garbage collection, or signage to pack your garbage out.

We need to change the supply of plastics to make a difference. Short weekly visitors, often are dining, taking take-out to the beaches, small packages grocery items-there are not many alternatives.

When we visit beaches, or hikes, our family comes back with plastic garbage packed into our pockets and bags. This keeps it out of the ocean, but becomes the state's problem to dispose of the plastic. We have been to the dirtiest beaches filled with garbage from Asia, garbage from the tsunami, similar garbage that will also end up on our Canadian shores.

We need to be a better global citizen, and removing a problem allows more people to easily become better global citizens.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 4:47:39 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Luckmann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 5:39:19 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carisse Winegar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 5:47:24 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 5:51:05 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marguerite Cazin	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Bill SB522 is crucial to the preservation of Hawaii's beautiful environment and integral to the maintenance of its unique ecosystem. This bill will also help to minimize the detrimental effects of human pollution and the effects of climate change, and encourage a healthier environment and culture of those living in Hawaii.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 5:56:12 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Angelina Villanueva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 5:57:28 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Celia Gustavsson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 6:14:36 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kyle kiff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 6:17:57 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Tran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 6:29:17 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hilary stambaugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 6:56:13 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shylo Lawrence	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill! It is finally time that we stop distributing plastic and destroying the ocean and its inhabitants. The ocean is suffering from our use of plastic and this bill would be the first step to really making a difference and stopping the sale and use of plastic. Please pass this bill, not only in Hawaii but in ALL the states!!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:13:10 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alana Borsa	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I support SB 522's goals of eliminating all disposable plastics by a certain date and establishing a team to help businesses to meet those goals by that date. Recycling isn't fixing anything. We must prevent rubbish in the first place. Mahalo for allowing us to speak on this.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:17:14 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christina leef	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Our planet is drowning in plastic and it is affecting the lives of humans, animals and our environment. This death by plastic is only happening because we, humans, continue to let plastic waste permeate through our everyday lives and is especially driven by corporate organisations. It is imperative that as a collective people's on planet earth we must act NOW! There is no time to wait - this is dangerous. Stop the plastic attack. Do you care enough for your mokopuna, your grandchildren and future generations to make everlasting change?

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:22:09 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
teresa terrell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:30:13 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lucita P. Harbowy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:32:48 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Balazs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:35:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

I thank you all for taking this step and I am hopeful you had the time to research plastics, or had someone talk to you regarding the history of plastics. Here is a concept, a convenience, that we fought against when it was initially introduced - it took years before people accepted plastic bags - and now we are having to fight to stop the process. The impact plastic has had on our environment is unmatched. All in less than 40 years. Yet some people think we cant live without plastic. We cant live without our oceans, without our birds, without land - we can, and have, lived without plastic bags, straws, and water bottles. We all have - Do you remember the first time you could walk into a store and buy a single bottle of water? You should because it wasnt the norm until recently. We made a mistake. We put convenience over life and if we fix it now, maybe we can replair the damage. Yes it will take time and work but this is the first step. I am thankful to be apart of Hawai'i and optimstic that you will pass this bill. People need to remember we are in a relationship with the environment and that requires respect, compromise, and aloha. Mahalo for your time and your consideration.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:36:55 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexandria Barkman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:47:11 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jahzeiah belt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Go to the beach look at all the plastic pieces washing up everywhere WE DO NOT NEED MORE PLASTIC IN HAWAII!!!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:48:22 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CHELSEY TRYON	Individual	Support	Yes

## Comments:

As an island, we should set an example for the rest of the world if we want our beaches to stay clean and aquatic life to survive. We need the government to regulate these issues to push business to do the right thing because they will not do it on their own accord. I am an environmental consultant and would be happy to support this Zero Waste group!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:54:49 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
juliana poncioni mota	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

My name is Juliana Poncioni Mota, I'm 31 years Old, Brazilian. I'm graduated in Environmental Engineer and I can say I was lucky I had the opportunity to visit Hawaii a year ago.

I would like to state that I'm coming here to testify not as a foreigner but as a Planet Earth Citizen. The ocean knows no borders. Life knows no borders. I'm coming here not to speak up in my name, not only in the name of my generation, not even only in the name of future generation, I'm here to testify in the name of all life on earth.

When I visited Hawaii I was really sad to realize that Hawaii was not just receiving, litterally, tons of plastic debries from outside sources but that it was also contributing to the problem by allowing single use plastic and styrofoam packadging to be used and sold on the islands.

For life to keep thriving we must change our lifestyle and our common sense fast. Limiting our fossel fuel use, single use plastic and styrofoam packadge is a must.

Therefore, I declare my support on SB522.

Thank you for your support.

Juliana

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:06:08 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katherine Ziemann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge you, our elected representatives, to take a stand against plastic waste in Hawaii for the good of all over the profits of some. Thank you for your service.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:07:10 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Francoise Schmid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:07:22 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amanda Millin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:08:13 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joshiah villar	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Driving through the island, I would see garbage lying around on the ground and majority of them are plastic usage. Going to the beach and I would see plastic cups, utensils, and bags washing up to shore. Very unsafe for the people and the ocean.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:12:18 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Adrien Gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:19:07 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Veronica Dimitrov	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:21:21 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
august cooke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:27:09 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexis Hernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:29:49 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the bill SB522 to limit the use of single use plastics in the state of Hawaii. I grew up in Manoa and now live in Kaneohe with my family. The amount of plastic that washes up on our local beaches is shocking. In order to protect our beautiful environment, we must work towards limiting single use plastics.

Mahalo,

Anne Orndahl

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:33:16 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Wolfendale	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

As a geographically isolated state we have the unique ability to truly protect our environment for our children. Our success is based ONLY on our will. Since vast majority of Hawaii's population favors protecting our environment, the only question is whether our representatives will vote to protect this future or for powerful special interests. We are depending on you to do the right thing.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:35:28 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
yutaka kawahito	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I strongly support this bill, SB522, for it to be an effective and positive step forward to prevent further plastic pollution, which seems already uncontrollable. Just like shopping bags that are being regulated, I believe we can change the way we use plastic materials in our daily lives without being too unrealistic. The state of Hawai'i can be a great leading example, being in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, by exercising a bill like this one to tackle this mind-boggling issue that we all created collectively over decades. I believe we just cannot afford to wait nor ignore while taking our kids and younger generations to the plastic beach and smile.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:33:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ariana Catherine Whale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill is not only aggressively smart; I suspect it will make quite a few people very angry. However, our plastic consumption -must- be reduced. Recycling is becoming increasingly difficult (and I suspect much of it is being burned to honor our H-power deal). Studies show it is increasingly difficult to change lifestyle habits unless policy is enacted. Enact smart policy and behavior almost instantly changes.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ariana

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:45:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ananda underwood	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:54:05 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alana Reis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to evolve from single-use and disposable plastics as a society and realign our consumer culture along more sustainable values. This ban is a start, its a an awareness campain, and its a motivator for innovation.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:57:21 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Francesco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:57:50 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott McC	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 9:11:19 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 9:57:31 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Samantha Hughes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 9:54:24 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanne Herbert	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I support his bill. Recycling has virtually collapsed in Hawaii and much of the rest of the United States. There is no longer an "away" place when we throw things "away". We need to reduce the amount of plastic in order to keep our rivers and oceans free of plastic; to protect marine life and birds; to protect people from ingesting unhealthy microbeads contained in water, fish and other sources. Alternative containers and changing habits are achievable. This bill will go a long way towards ensuring a healthy environment and reduce the amount of trash on our islands. Having a plastic source reduction working group and Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator will also help Hawaii focus on reducing waste at the source rather than cleaning it up after it is thrown into the trash.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:03:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Delphine Duhot	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

As an island we are the first impacted by climate change and garbage management due to streams and winds that bring back everything on the coast or in the great garbage patch.

Plastic not only impacts the natural resources, but ruined the coastlines, hurt wildlife and weaken our entire eco-system.

It's not hard to change the way we consume and create a positive impact on the situation, but majority of people need to be "forced" to do so, that's why I'm really in favor of that bill, especially with the number of tourist the islands welcome each and every year and the american habit of eating take-away food, so people won't have no choice anymore to go sustainable :)

GO SB522 !

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:05:43 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Iana Vali	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:20:30 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Marie Bonneau	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Please ban plastic that will be used once, yet pollute the oceans forever and make a mess of Hawaii's beautiful coastlines. Trashy beaches are bad for tourism. Hawaii is a leader in preserving the environment. Please continue to show that leadership. The rest of the country needs you.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:23:24 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Atcheson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I support the bold yet sensible measures in SB522 SD2 HD1. The explosion of single-use plastics is a major problem that begins at the sites of fossil fuel production, manifests on our beaches and waterways, is a liability in our waste stream, and impedes our efforts to reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. We must change the course of our throw-away culture, and addressing single-use plastics is an impactful way to begin.

Though I am submitting my testimony as an individual, I will tell you that my Honpa Hongwanji community has been increasingly sensitized to the problem of single-use plastics through our Green Hongwanji initiative. My own temple, Hawaii Betsuin, has phased out purchases of foam cups and plates for Sunday refreshments and is pursuing foam alternatives for our community events. I feel our community would look favorably upon bold legislative action that reflects an understanding of the interconnectedness of all life and our indebtedness to nature. Passing this bill is one way the larger community can come together to express gratitude.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

David Atcheson

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:23:55 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB522, which would take steps to limit plastic pollution.

Many plastics leach suspected carcinogens and neurotoxins as they degrade into smaller and smaller pieces, and studies show some of these toxins are slowly accumulating in the fatty tissues of humans and other animals.

Whales, sea turtles, fish and birds commonly mistake plastic for food. The “Great Garbage Patch” circulating between Hawaii and California is steadily growing. Plastic is not biodegradable and only degrades into smaller and smaller pieces, thereby contaminating the lowest levels of the food web.

Additionally, many plastics are made with petroleum, the manufacture of which is a great contributor to the heat-trapping gases responsible for the greenhouse effect we are now seeing.

For these reasons, cities in the US and around the world are banning certain types of plastics such as polystyrene, or instituting measures to cut down on plastic pollution.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:26:02 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Gerding	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Besides being offended whenever I see the outdated containers offered at most stores and restaurants, we here on Kauai go out on Saturdays with our Rotary friends and pick trash off the Highway. The usual load of plastic and trash combined with those white styrofoam coolers that have flown out of cars (trucks) and then ripped up by the county mowers. It's a nightmare trying to pick up the smaller and smaller pieces. it all will eventually end up in the ocean if we don't stop it. Stop selling this crap!! Please

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:29:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sarah zelk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:29:58 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stormy Soza	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

It is imperative to our global health to make drastic and efficient changes as soon as possible. I completely support this bill. As one of the most beautiful and renowned places on the planet it is our responsibility, here in Hawaii Nei, to improve measures at the source of the problem. Recycling and reusing is NOT enough. We have to curtail our production and over-consumption. Please pass this bill. Please give all of us a chance to respect and restore our world.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Stormy M Soza

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:35:04 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
liv audrey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:35:41 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brianna Pak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:36:15 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kalei ehlers	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I firmly believe that we must curb our dependence on plastic especially in the state of Hawaii. We talk a lot about keeping our island clean and taking care of this place we call home but we don't do anything about it. This bill will help us along that path. Plastic is the number one killer of our oceans and we can't recycle our way out of this one. It's time to make a change and take a stand against plastic.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:41:09 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Briana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:50:37 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
anna cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Plástico is Jurassic and kills a thousand animals everyday is time to save our animals and preserve our nature!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:02:59 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aimee Slappay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:03:48 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hideki Kimukai	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:05:20 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:11:10 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Natalie Aczon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:13:26 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:16:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Serene Gunnison	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Aloha, I strongly support SB 522 to reduce plastic waste and single use plastics in the state of Hawaii. I was born and raised on Maui and the level of plastic waste that has been washing up on our beaches recently is astounding. The beaches today are strewn with plastic waste and marine debris, more than I have ever seen in my lifetime on Maui. This not only affects the daily lives of beach goers in Hawaii, but our precious marine ecosystems. Naturally Hawaii's main attraction for tourists are our gorgeous beaches, snorkeling, and whale watching- all of which are directly affected by plastic pollution. If we don't put a cap on our plastic waste, it will greatly affect our future. I think Hawaii should be leading the way in plastic reduction and prove to other states that we can, and should, live without it.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:28:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juliana Ribeiro Carvalho	Individual	Support	Yes

## Comments:

we are living in a time when any change for the preservation of the environment is valid. we can not afford this growing number of plastic in the oceans. this is about preserving our lives too.

â€‹

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:33:57 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lindsey Kramer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please consider the long-term health of our oceans, beaches and marine wildlife.  
SUPPORT SB522! Simple alternatives to single-use plastics are readily available.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:34:18 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Josephine Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:35:01 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

#plasticfreehawaii

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:38:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

Polystyrene is bad for our waste systems, marine life and human health. It is not recyclable in any way, and contains chemicals that are known carcinogens. As a concerned citizen for the health of my community I beleive it is absolutely necessary to remove these materials from our food packaging and waste streams.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:40:04 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darienne Kealoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Plastics have the ability to cause irreversible damage to ecosystems and already have. Hawai'i has already lost a lot of what makes it unique because of human impact.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:43:18 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Logan Andrson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Bill SB522. We must begin prioritizing Hawaii's future and our environment.  
Mahalo



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:43:17 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please ban single use plastic in Hawaii for good!

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:45:00 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill! Thank you.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:46:36 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mikayla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

3/18/2019

Aloha,

I am writing today in favor of SB522 which prohibits the sale and distribution of plastic bottles and various utensils, along with creating a plastic reduction working group.

The efforts to ban single use plastic are being heard around the world. Many cities and countries around the world are beginning to adapt to a single use plastic free society. Single-use plastics represent the laziness and gluttonous aspects of our society. We use something once and throw it in the trash to pollute our planet. Plastics do not biodegrade so each individual fork, straw, plastic bag, or bottle will continue to pollute our oceans, waterways, and our environment long after we are here.

Hawaii is home to some of the most beautiful flora and fauna in the world. However, many of Hawaii's endemic species have already experienced rapid population decline which is in large caused by ingesting plastic debris. Sea birds are found by the hundreds with stomachs filled to the brim with pieces of debris, while thousands of marine mammals are choked and tangled in marine plastic waste each year.

Plastic is simply unsustainable. We know this for a fact.

I implore the state of Hawaii to take lead in stepping away from unsustainable practices such as the use of single use plastics. The longer we wait the worse it will be to fix the problem we created. Help make the change the world needs.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony and I hope you make the right choice.

Aloha,

Brandon Hansen

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:49:04 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Emily Acree	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:50:05 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melissa Pacanas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:53:10 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Holly Check	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:56:08 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sierra Coullahan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:57:10 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sydney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:00:21 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melinda Alexander, LMT	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I would like to thank the Hawaii State Legislature for their attention and time taken to consider the use of Single-Use Plastics in our beautiful islands. Plastic takes 100s of years to decompose if not disposed of properly. Plastic breaks down in our ocean to consumable particles that are eaten by our fish and sea-birds. Eventually becoming part of our food chain. Plastics effect our health, the health of our environment and our oceans. Why use something once, like a plastic water bottle or utensil, that stays in our environment for 1000 years? It simply does not make sense. We can do better! We can find a better way! Hawaii is worth it. Let's make this single simple and profound change and be an example to the World as a Leader in Sustainability. Hawaii is worth it! Thank you for voting to Support SB522 and for this zero waste initiative in our island home. Sincerely, Melinda Alexander of Wailuku, Maui

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:06:49 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cloe Cadiz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:14:32 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:17:56 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lei Saito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:19:07 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sharon gump	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please be the state to make a difference and forefront this bill for the reat of the nation to take notice and follow suit

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:19:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Haylin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:29:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:31:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kurt Miyajima	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Thank you to the Hawaii State Legislature for taking the issue of Single-Use Plastic and our Zero Waste needs seriously. I support the removal of single-use plastics and Hawaii's move toward Sustainability. We are an Island culture. We must care for our island and our oceans and each other. A vote in support of this Bill, just makes sense. We do not want to use a single-use plastic item that will last forever, pollute our island or our waters. We do not want to eat fish that have consumed small particles of plastic. Thank you for your vote in support of SB522 and Zero Waste for Hawaii!

Leah Sherwood  
400 Hualani Street  
Apt. 207  
Hilo, Hawaii, 96720

RE: Letter of support for Senate Bill 522

**I support SB 522.** I am a graduate student in the tropical conservation and environmental science program at the University of Hawaii, Hilo. My research area is plastic marine pollution in the Pacific, focusing specifically on plastic debris surveying methods to document the type and count of plastic appearing on the beaches of Hawaii. I am a graduate intern with Hawaii Wildlife Fund, a nonprofit on the island of Hawaii, where I help conduct plastic marine debris surveys.

We, the people of the State of Hawaii, need to think like an island. Climate change (<http://climate.hawaii.gov/hi-climate/>) and plastic marine debris have especially strong negative environmental impacts on Hawaii. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):

*“The main Hawaiian islands and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument are prone to accumulating marine debris because of their central location in the North Pacific Gyre. Marine debris threatens coral reef and shoreline ecosystems, while also posing as an entanglement threat to endangered Hawaiian monk seals, humpback whales, and the threatened green sea turtles. Additionally, marine debris destroys habitats, introduces non-native species, and threatens navigation.”*

I believe that implementing the single-use plastic ban is realistic, necessary, and urgent. A similar ban on all single-use plastics has already been approved by the European Union in

December 2018, and the country of Taiwan with a population of approximately 23 million people is phasing out single-use plastics by 2030. Hawaii can and should follow suit with a similar ban.

It is estimated that 8% of the world's oil is used for plastic production and more than 40% of plastic items are throwaway items. In other words, we are using a significant proportion of the world's non-renewable oil resources to make products that, despite their durability and longevity, we will discard immediately after use (Thompson 2006) .

Commercial and industrial plastic manufacturing exceeded 381 million tons in 2015 and is expected to double within the next 20 years (Geyer et al. 2017). At this point, each individual on this planet is producing and consuming their own weight in plastic annually (Worm et al. 2017). Due to increases in human population, plastic production and demand, and its durable physical properties, plastic contamination in the world's oceans is likely to increase in the future (Derraik 2002; Thomas et al.. 2004; Geyer et al. 2017; Worm et al. 2017).

Given what we know about the detrimental impacts of plastic marine debris, the amount of it that accumulates in Hawaiian waters and beaches, and climate change brought on by fossil fuel extraction and use, today is the day to begin the shift away from single-use plastics. Please vote to support SB 522.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Leah Sherwood

### **Literature Cited**

Derraik J.G. 2002. The pollution of the marine environment by plastic debris: a review. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 44:842–852.

Geyer R., Jambeck J. R. & Law, K.L. 2017. Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made. *Science advances*. 3(7): p.e1700782.

Thompson R.C., Olsen Y., Mitchell R.P., Davis A., Rowland S.J., John A.W., McGonigle D., Russell A.E. 2004. Lost at sea: where is all the plastic? *Science*. 304: 838-838.

Thompson R.C. 2006. Plastic debris in the marine environment: consequences and solutions. *Marine Nature Conservation in Europe* 2006.

Worm B., Lotze H.K., Jubinville I., Wilcox C. & Jambeck J.(2017). Plastic as a persistent marine pollutant. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*. 42:1-26.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:35:39 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I live in Kailua and the beach is very dear to me. I met my husband and got to know him through surfing. He a waterman and the ocean is very important to us. We have a 2 year old daughter and we are teaching her the values that are most important to us. We are taking a stand against single use plastics and show her that we can cut down on how much we waste on this earth by small steps.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:46:36 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katrina Berry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:48:42 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Zurita	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I strongly support this bill as it will help keep the land clean. Waste is the plague of this planet and it is our duty to help stop the grossly overuse of plastics, chemicals, and other pollutions. Please help me, fight with me, and support this bill with me.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:50:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:51:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Dunn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please make the changes now so we can have a cleaner healthier ocean for our children. We need to leave a better environmental legacy. Help consumers make better decisions by providing better options and eliminating damaging ones.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:52:14 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nadine Banglos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:52:20 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anny Barlow	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a Kailua resident who feels deeply regarding this issue. I support SB 522.

PLASTIC IS CONNECTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND IT POLLUTES AT EVERY STAGE: FROM MATERIALS EXTRACTION, TO PRODUCT PRODUCTION, TO WASTE DISPOSAL.

In 2007 I left the island to backpack around the world for 6 months. I ended up traveling for a decade and returned in 2017.

I could not believe what I returned to!

Simply put, there are plastics everywhere!

I feel more like I am in one of the underdeveloped countries I just came back from, instead of being in a first world country... let alone on one of the supposed "*most beautiful beaches in the world*".

There are micro plastics everywhere. I now play a game where I sit on my towel, in 1 spot without moving my rear end, and see how many pieces I can pick up. Its sad to say, but I have been there for more than 4 hours without needing to move more than rotating 360 degrees. And the area around my towel is still not clean.

I challenge you to try it!

It's pathetic really. We are better than that! Sure, micro-plastics from all over the world end up on our shores, but this is precisely why we need to be a leader in this space, and not a follower!

It wasn't this way 10 years ago before I left.

The city of Hobart, Australia has just done it, they have banned all single-use plastics. (<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/hobart-leads-way-as-first-australian-city-to-ban-all-single-use-plastics>)

The US State of Maryland is about to become the first state to ban styrofoam, we could beat them! <https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/13/health/maryland-plastic-foam-ban-legislation-trnd/index.html>

Also noticeable, I used to swim in Kailua everyday and you would almost always see turtles popping their heads up around you. Now, you have to go way out before you see turtles.

I appreciate change is hard, but this is something we need to do, and yesterday. Things will change, but it won't be bad for our economy.

The workforce will realign. Businesses will need to source other eco-friendly products, there will be a higher demand for these eco-friendly products and their prices will go down.

But only if we force the market by regulating the needs of our Aina properly.

Thank you for listening.

Mahalo,

Anny Barlow

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 12:59:22 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alyssa zurita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to take steps now to ensure there will be a home for our future generations and the implementation of SB522 will help with that.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:02:25 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lawrence de Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Plastics are accumulating in the Pacific, harm the ocean ecology and last thousands to tens of thousands of years. We need to use bio-compatible, bio-degradable alternatives and stop mining for our short term convenience.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:06:37 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ben Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:08:18 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyun Ueno	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I, Shyun Ueno, support SB522 SD2 HD1 and the prohibition to purchase, use, sell, or distribute plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, plastic bags and straws as detailed in the bill. I also support the additional measures outlined in the bill. Mahalo.



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:09:01 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daniel Shiramizu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:12:18 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Beatriz Gadala-Maria	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:13:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
galen mccleary	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:14:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Camilla Bogdanoff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:21:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Williams	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

As a scientist and a citizen, I have dedicated my life to living sustainably and educating others to do so as well. I have personally seen and cleaned our beaches that are littered with plastics, from Oahu to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Especially with little to no recycling on island, banning single-use plastics is an essential step to protecting our island ecosystem. One of the huge problems with single use plastics in the islands is how easily they make it into the water. This, in turn, endangers our aquatic life and all of the citizens consuming seafood from Hawaii.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:20:33 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicholas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:25:03 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natasha Griswold	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Please ban plastics! This is the number one thing we notice on the beach, in the sand and on the water. Often times the plastic has already disintegrated to be too small to be sifted. We need to be the leaders of the United States in showing that we can ban plastics and remove ourselves as contributors to plastic waste.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:30:57 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ivory Lloyd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill! Thank you!



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:34:02 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mackenna Cady	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

A bill like this is long overdue. Plastic is a worldwide issue and is killing our ocean. I'm nineteen years old. I still have quite a bit of life to live. But if we don't take action and pass environmentally-conscious legislation like this, the more we threaten the well-being of our future—mine, my peers, and those younger than me, too. Consumers can only do so much (heavily reducing plastic, purchasing consciously, etc.) in helping fix this rising and very real issue. We need our leaders to do more, as well. Let's make Hawaii one of the best examples in this movement by passing this bill. Thank you greatly for your consideration.

Mackenna Cady

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:34:25 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

The use of single-use plastic in today's society is a ridiculous waste. We are a society driven by convenience. There are alternatives to single-use plastic but they are not always as convenient for the consumer as something that is covered in plastic that will only be discarded. If these alternatives are the only option that consumers are able to choose from it will make them more convenient to the consumer. This is one step in the much larger issue of pollution but every step matters.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:43:31 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tanya torres	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:44:06 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:47:51 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kayla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:52:00 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:53:14 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Roberts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:55:17 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alicia Rittenberry	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Aloha. Thank you for reading my testimony. Plastics are a huge problem in our society with a number of negative consequences, which I'm sure you've heard all about. I don't think this bill goes far enough but it is a good start. Individuals are taking responsibility for their part. It is time for businesses to do the same. There are alternatives!



**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:58:03 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rhema Wong	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

It is simple. Plastic is a man-made material that does not degrade, ever. Every single piece of plastic made still exists today. Plastic forks, cups, straws, coffee stirrers, bottles, bags, etc. are all products that are only used for very short amounts of time and then they are disposed of. After disposal, they might get recycled, but no matter what, plastic will always end up in the ocean or in a landfill.

When plastic reaches the oceans, it may be harmful to animals who mistake it for food and ingest it. About 100,000 sea creatures die annually from plastic entanglement and this is only the number of animals that are actually found. In addition to that, about 1 billion sea birds also die from plastic, whether it be ingested or entangled. Scientists predict that by the year 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish.

When plastic reaches a landfill, it stays there forever, where it emits greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming and climate change.

I am submitting this testimony as a supporter of the SB 522 Bill, and as a hopeful teenager who wants to grow up and raise children and travel the world and experience different cultures and be able to swim in an ocean with fish and be able to breath when I go outside. Banning single-use plastic is a step in the right direction towards a brighter and healthier future.

Please stop the use of single-use plastics, for the climate, for the animals, for the health of the humans, and for the sake of our planet.

**SB-522-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 1:58:12 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kimberley Kai Winther	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Plastic is ruining our oceans, earth, and wildlife. Citizens need to be held accountable and not choose convenience over the health of our planet.

Aloha Esteemed Committee members:

My name is Mark A. Koppel. I live at 31-392  
Lepoloa Rd. Ninole.

I am writing in WRITING IN STRONG SUPPORT OF  
SB522, phasing out all single use plastics.

All you need to do is look around anywhere, and  
you will see plastic garbage. As an Island, it costs  
us a fortune to get rid of it. China will no longer  
take our waste. It can kill birds, fish, sea  
mammals.

And it is unnecessary. I have seen a single  
cucumber wrapped in plastic at the  
supermarket. This is crazy.

Let's support the Hawaiian ancestors and keep our  
land clean.

There is no need for these plastics. There are  
biodegradable substitutes.

Even if they cost more, think of the garbage  
hauling money we save.

And no more water bottling plants.

Mahalo for your attention.

Mark A. Koppel

Aloha esteemed CPC committee members,

I am writing to strongly urge passage of SB522. I love the idea of a single date to do away with all single use convenience plastics, rather than phasing it out. The alternatives are totally useable and almost price competitive, and we have a chance to really secure Hawaii's future as a paradise of nature, so that we can keep bringing visitors here for years to come.

Mahalo,

-Scott Cooney, Hawaii resident for 9 years

808-312-0850

Honolulu, 96813

--

**Scott Cooney,**

**Founder and CEO, [LinkedIn](#)**

(844) Go-Pono-1, extension 2

Author | [Green Living Ideas](#), [Build a Green Small Business](#) (McGraw-Hill)

[Schedule me here](#) (please book an hour, even if we may only need 15 minutes!)



[www.ponohome.com](http://www.ponohome.com)

*[Find out what "Pono" is by clicking here.](#) It's ancient Hawaiian wisdom and values that we strive to live by and do business by.*

Dear Legislators,

Please support SB 367 and SB 522, both of which will help reduce plastic packaging. One-use plastic is a wave of the past and we need to keep it out of our waves for the future. We as an island state cannot continue to use single-use plastic containers if we want to consider ourselves sustainable and protect our streams and oceans. This type of needless waste is irresponsible and daily there are videos showing the sea birds, turtles, dolphins, fish and whales that die because they are filled with plastic. Micro plastic particles are now being detected in drinking water, so we humans are also drinking plastic. Please be part of the solution and support these two bills. Please make Hawaii a good example for other states and make yourselves a good example for your children and grandchildren. I am trying to teach my child to reduce, reuse and recycle and it is difficult to explain why so many businesses hand out single-use plastic. Let's stop this madness and help save ourselves, the planet and the animals.

Thank you for standing up to plastic pollution today. The whales will thank you.

Sincerely,  
Asia Yeary  
Oahu resident

## sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin

---

**From:** Greg Hanna <greg\_hanna@7-11.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 10:25 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition, SB522, CPC/JUD 3/20

Dear JUD Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

Greg Hanna  
1755 Nuuanu Ave Fl 2  
Honolulu, HI 96817

greg\_hanna@7-11.com



**sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin**

---

**From:** Todd Oda <todd@kohafoods.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 9:57 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition, SB522, CPC/JUD 3/20

Dear JUD Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

Todd Oda  
2441 Liliha St  
Honolulu, HI 96817

todd@kohafoods.com

**From:** James Chan <jim@hawaiianchipcompany.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 9:48 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition, SB522, CPC/JUD 3/20

Dear JUD Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

James Chan  
1297 Lopaka Pl  
Kailua, HI 96734

[jim@hawaiianchipcompany.com](mailto:jim@hawaiianchipcompany.com)

**From:** Kerry Honda <khonda.pim@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 9:41 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition, SB522, CPC/JUD 3/20

Dear JUD Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

Kerry Honda  
PO BOX 630055  
LANAI CITY, HI 96763

khonda.pim@gmail.com

**From:** Kim Robello <krobello@minitstop.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 9:33 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition, SB522, CPC/JUD 3/20

Dear JUD Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

Kim Robello  
806 Pokole Pl  
Makawao, HI 96768

krobello@minitstop.com



**From:** Catherine Nobriga im <catherine.nobriga.kim@roselani.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 9:29 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition, SB522, CPC/JUD 3/20

Dear JUD Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

Catherine Nobriga im  
509 Kaao Cir  
Kahului, HI 96732

catherine.nobriga.kim@roselani.com

**From:** Nelson Okumura <nokumura@vipfoodservice.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 9:06 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition, SB522, CPC/JUD 3/20

Dear JUD Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

Nelson Okumura  
36 Kunihi Ln Apt 223  
Kahului, HI 96732

[nokumura@vipfoodservice.com](mailto:nokumura@vipfoodservice.com)

**sanbuenaventura2 - Kevin**

---

**From:** SONYA YUEN <kmltd@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 12:28 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition, SB522, CPC/JUD 3/20

Dear JUD Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

SONYA YUEN  
PO Box 240  
Kualapuu, HI 96757

km1td@hawaii.rr.com

**From:** Joe Carter <joe.carter@odomcorp.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2019 12:44 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition, SB522, CPC/JUD 3/20

Dear JUD Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives. This would also effect volume as there is no solution alternative to maintain production locally. It's important that the Beverage business continues to stick behind made local and this ban would take that away.

This bill would also leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary of beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

Joe Carter

949 Mapunapuna St  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
joe.carter@odomcorp.com



# List of Various Individual Testimony in OPPOSITION for SB522

Dear CPC Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

SONYA YUEN  
PO Box 240  
Kualapuu, HI 96757  
[kmltd@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kmltd@hawaii.rr.com)

Dear CPC Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The world's leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as litter or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

Todd Oda  
2441 Liliha St  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
[todd@kohafoods.com](mailto:todd@kohafoods.com)

Dear CPC Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

James Chan  
1297 Lopaka Pl  
Kailua, HI 96734  
[jim@hawaiianchipcompany.com](mailto:jim@hawaiianchipcompany.com)

Dear CPC Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

Kerry Honda  
PO BOX 630055  
LANAI CITY, HI 96763  
[khonda.pim@gmail.com](mailto:khonda.pim@gmail.com)

Dear CPC Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The worlds leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are

more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as little or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

Kim Robello  
806 Pokole Pl  
Makawao, HI 96768  
[krobello@minitstop.com](mailto:krobello@minitstop.com)

Dear CPC Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The world's leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just of a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most

of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as litter or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

Catherine Nobriga  
509 Kaa Cir  
Kahului, HI 96732  
[catherine.nobriga.kim@roselani.com](mailto:catherine.nobriga.kim@roselani.com)

Dear CPC Testimony,

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. This bill would ban a huge range of products that people in Hawaii rely on, without offering any alternatives.

This bill would leave Hawaii residents without access to most bottled water. The few types of water that are available in glass bottles are not going to meet the needs of our state, and would be disastrously insufficient in case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Hundreds of other drinks would also disappear from our shelves. Many local companies and jobs that rely on manufacturing, bottling, distributing, and selling these drinks would disappear too.

The beverage industry is working hard to find solutions to many of the problems mentioned in this bill. The world's leading beverage companies have invested millions of dollars in creating bottles that are more eco friendly. When these are available the industry will use them. But we can't mandate that companies switch to packaging that doesn't exist yet.

The range of products that would be taken away from Hawaii residents by the plastic bag ban in this bill is also alarming. Just a few of the things we would lose are rice, cereal, bags that protect our produce from bacteria, garbage bags, tamper resistant packaging to keep people safe, and thousands of other foods that use plastic packaging. Safe and sanitary alternatives to plastic are just not available for most of these products at this time. When alternatives are available, companies will respond to market forces and use them. Taking these products away from Hawaii residents is not going to solve the global issue of marine debris, or accelerate the science of developing new packaging.

We have plastic bag bans in all four counties right now and these work well. A sweeping ban of so many products that are used in the home and unlikely to end up as litter or in the marine environment is not necessary or beneficial.

This measure is not the right choice for our state and I ask that it be held. Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely,

Nelson Okumura  
36 Kunihi Ln Apt 223  
Kahului, HI 96732  
[nokumura@vipfoodservice.com](mailto:nokumura@vipfoodservice.com)