

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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 522 SD2 HD2
RELATING TO PLASTIC**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 29, 2019

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** (1) \$25,000 Deposit Beverage Container Deposit Special Fund annual
2 appropriation for FY 20 and FY 21 for administration of the proposed Plastic Source Reduction
3 Working Group; (2) Undetermined amount of Deposit Beverage Container Deposit Special funds
4 to support the proposed Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator.

5 **Department Testimony:** This bill proposes to: (1) create a Plastic Source Reduction Working
6 Group; and (2) create a Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator, both of which are to be funded by
7 the DBC Deposit Special Fund.

8 The Department of Health supports this measure as we recognize the need for public
9 discussion on the role source reduction can play in the management of Hawaii's solid waste.

10 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Friday, March 29, 2019
3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

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

Senate Bill 522, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2 proposes to 1) create the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging; 2) establish the Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator in DOH; and 3) appropriate funds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

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 2 would help reduce the plastic debris load entering Hawaii's environment and contribute to the improved health of our wildlife and their habitats.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

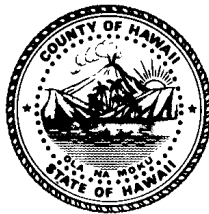
SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
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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 2, RELATING TO PLASTIC

Committee on Finance
Friday, March 29, 2019
3:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 522 SD 2 HD 2, 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 Finance 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.

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

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E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 28, 2019

TESTIMONY OF FELICIA COWDEN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 522, SD2, HD2, RELATING TO PLASTIC
House Committee on Finance
Friday, March 29, 2019
3:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 522, SD2, HD2, Relating to Plastic. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Member of the Kaua'i County Council.

Plastic products continue to wreak havoc upon our environment. I strongly agree with creating a plastic source reduction working group to come up with recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 522, SD2, HD2. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

FELICIA COWDEN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:lc

Island Plastic Bags Inc.

TO: Chair Luke; Vice Chair Cullen; and Committee

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

RE: SB 522 SD2 HD2 RELATING TO PLASTIC

POSITION: COMMENTS

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 522 SD2 HD2. 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. Island Plastic Bags, Inc. supports the creation of a working group to study how to reduce the use of single-use packaging. This is the best way to move forward as it gives all the stakeholders the opportunity to come together to find solutions that mitigate the negative impacts of plastics, while simultaneously retaining the benefits of plastics. A working group would also help avoid the unintended consequences of the Senate version of this bill.

The Senate version of 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.

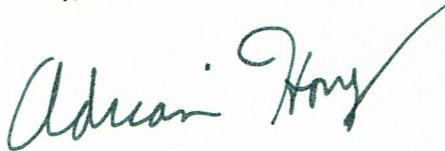
Not only would water pollution increase but without the trash liners we sell to the State of Hawaii and the counties used for collecting trash at state parks, beaches, airports, etc., the beaches and other parks would be covered with litter. This would have a detrimental environmental impact. Instead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

Island Plastic Bags Inc.

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

That is why we support the working group and oppose the Senate version of this bill. 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 or by phone at 808-484-4046.

Sincerely,



Adrian K. Hong, CPA*

President

Island Plastic Bags, Inc.

www.islandplasticbags.com

Email: ahong@islandplasticbags.com | Phone: 808-484-4046 | Fax: 808-488-8505

*Not in public practice



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Friday, March 29, 2019 at 3:30 P.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

RE: SB 522 SD2 HD2, RELATING TO PLASTIC

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 522 SD2 HD2, which creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging. The bill would also establish the Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator within the Department of Health.

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.

The Chamber recognizes the original intent of the bill, which would have mandated several plastic and polystyrene bans. While we support efforts to help create a more sustainable future, this unreasonable mandate would have hurt local businesses. Our members have expressed an interest in exploring alternative materials but have found that materials available on the current market are insufficient or prohibitively expensive. We thank the Legislature for striking this language.

We must ensure that any transition to renewable materials would allow local businesses the time and resources to transition in a way that does not create unnecessary hardship. Creating the plastic source reduction working group would foster a substantive discussion between stakeholders on all sides of this issue. Our hope and intention is that the working group would generate attainable solutions to reducing plastic waste. We also hope that a working group could connect local businesses with equivalent, affordable alternative product distributors.

Businesses across the State have already begun to voluntarily phase out 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.



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

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To: Sylvia Luke, Chair
Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Lead
Hawaii Restaurant Association

Subj: SB 522, SD2, HD2 Relating to Plastics

Date: March 27, 2019

The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing over 3,600 restaurants here supports SB 522, SD2, HD2 that creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging, establishes the Solid Waste Prevention coordinator in the DOH and appropriate funds for this.

We also look forward to participating in this working group to find a working solution in trying to reduce plastics in our daily lives where we can.

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





**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
March 29, 2019
Re: SB 522 SD2 HD2 Relating to Plastics**

Good afternoon Chairperson Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance. 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 supports the intent of SB 522 SD2 HD2 Relating to Plastics. This measure creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging. Establishes the Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator in DOH. Appropriates funds.

Bans are not the simple answer. We have seen in other states that a mere substitution of plastic materials 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 maintain a fair balance regarding usage of plastic products, coordinated litter reduction programs and determining if the litter is coming from our state or from other states or from other countries. This measure to create a working group is a step in the right direction as long as the participants are balanced.

We noticed that there are no local plastic manufacturers on the working group and would like to recommend that they have a seat at the table as well as they would be impacted tremendously and have a lot of knowledge on this matter.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.



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

**Before the House Committee on Finance
Support amendment for S.B. 522, S.D. 2, H.D. 2– Relating to Plastic
March 29, 2019 – 3:30 p.m.**

Good afternoon Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of S.B. 522, S.D. 2, H.D. 2 – relating to plastic – with one *amendment to clarify that plastic beverage containers not be included in the “single-use” plastic definition.*

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.

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. 2 seeks to address the environmental concerns about the increased use of “single-use” plastics and will *“establish a plastic source reduction working group to formulate a plan for eliminating single-use plastic packaging from the Hawaii waste stream.”*

The current version of S.B. 522 does not include a definition of “single-use” plastics for the working group to address.

ABA seeks an amendment to define the specific categories of “single-use” plastics for the working group to address and that plastic beverage containers NOT be included in that definition.

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.

The current version of S.B. 522 does not include a definition of “single-use” plastics for the working group to address.

ABA seeks an amendment that defines the specific categories of “single-use” plastics for the working group to address and that plastic beverage containers NOT be included in that definition since they are 100% recyclable.

Sincerely,
David Thorp

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 12:26:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

ABC Store is in support of the intent of SB 522, SD2, HD2 Relating to Plastic. We need to maintain a fair balance regarding usage of plastic products, coordinated litter reduction programs and determining if the litter is coming from our state or from other states or from other counties. This measure to create a working group is a step in the right direction as long as the participants are balance. We recommend that the local plastic manufacturer have a seat at the table as well as they would be impacted tremendously and have a lot of knowledge on this matter. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



We want to voice our **strong support SB522**. We sincerely hope that this bill is amended to include polystyrene foam, as it is one of the most difficult single use materials to eradicate from our beaches, waterways, and oceans. It can also negatively impact the health of those who use it and many of the public are not aware of this.

Counties, cities, and countries around the world are beginning to take action against the impacts plastic pollution and polystyrene foam are having on our health and that of the ocean. If we allow another year to pass without stronger regulations on these products, we are allowing another year's worth of these single-use toxic products to enter our environment that will outlive us and generations to come.

So many children and teens have attended these hearings over the years and voiced their concern over this issue. Their generation will ultimately bear the brunt of our single-use products and it should ultimately be their generation's decision to make. Please, listen to the youth of this island and do what is best for them.

It is our government's job to protect its constituents and the environment they inhabit. Please do not put the preference of the restaurant industry before the very vocal support for this bill from Hawaii residents.

Keiko Conservation International
keikoconservation.org

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:18:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Olsen	Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



Nicole Chatterson
Director, Zero Waste O'ahu
oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com
808.561.7730

March 28, 2019

Re: support for SB 522, Hearing March 28, 2019 at 3:30 pm in FIN

Aloha Chair Luke and FIN Committee Members:

My name is Nicole Chatterson, and I am Mānoa resident and Director of Zero Waste O'ahu writing in **strong support of SB 522 with suggestions for amendments**. We fully **support moving the bill forward with a working group, and we also suggest adding a polystyrene phase-out back into this bill**.

In looking at the headlines about the European Union's recent move to phase-out single use plastics, I am reminded how relevant and effective single-use plastic reduction legislation is. While nations and municipalities alike are beginning to take important legislative steps to build a healthy future for our keiki, Hawai'i is falling behind. I wonder, why do we believe our kuleana is somehow different than the rest of the world? That the negative impacts of overconsumption somehow skip us? I wonder why we operate as if our demand for plastic is not contributing to the global fossil fuel economy?

Our choices matter, and consumers have been asking businesses to choose differently for years now. As I watch the plastic continue to wash up on our beaches, I wonder why the interest is of a few local plastic manufacturing families continues to matter more than the hundreds of pieces of supportive testimony asking for a local single-use plastic phase-out.

In Hawai'i we have over **200 businesses through the Ocean Friendly Restaurants** program that have already **voluntarily** let go of polystyrene. These restaurants have not gone out of business, but are instead thriving as they meet the demand from consumers. It is important to remember that the design of our free-market economy is such that consumers are supposed to drive the market—it is the job of our business sector to respond and stay relevant. It is really exciting to see that taking place.

Adding a polystyrene phase-out back into SB 522 would signal to the rest of the world that we care about our planet too. That we are doing our best to leave behind a better future and that we are listening to local expertise that recommends polystyrene reduction. For example, The State DOT has identified polystyrene reduction and the second most effective trash reduction measure needed to keep our storm drain infrastructure in working order (see the chart below from Hawai'i DOT 2016 "Trash Reduction Plan").



CONTROL MEASURE	TIERS OR CONTROL MEASURE DESCRIPTION	REDUCTION CREDIT
Single-Use Carryout Plastic Bag Ordinances	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%
Polystyrene Foam Food Service Ware Ordinances	Tier 1 – Prohibit Distribution at DOT-HWYS-sponsored Events and DOT-HWYS-owned Property	2%
	Tier 2 – Prohibit Distribution by Food Service Vendors	8%
Uncovered Loads Enforcement	Require Municipal Trash Haulers to Cover Loads	1%
	Enhanced Enforcement Program	4%
Anti-Littering and Dumping Enforcement	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%

If single-use plastic consumption maintains on the current trajectory, **plastic use will account of 20% of our fossil fuel use by 2050**¹. 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 marine environment.²

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**.³ 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**⁴.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nicole Chatterton, Director of Zero Waste O’ahu

¹ UNEP (2018). SINGLE-USE PLASTICS: A Roadmap for Sustainability

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

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

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

kōkua hawai'i foundation



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB522 SD2, HD2, RELATING TO PLASTIC

Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Friday, March 29, 2019, 3:30pm; Conference Room 308

Aloha Representatives,

Mahalo for your consideration of SB522 SD2 HD2. **We support this bill with strong recommendations for re-amending with original language on phased restrictions on the suite of single use plastics.**

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.

A working group is a small and important step, but creating actual prohibitions on the sale, use, and distribution of single-use plastics is what we really need.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. **Please support SB522 SD HD1 with amendments to phase in restrictions on single use plastics.**

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jack Johnson in black ink.

Jack Johnson,
Co-Founder, Vice-President

Handwritten signature of Kim Johnson in black ink.

Kim Johnson,
Co-Founder, President

Handwritten signature of Natalie McKinney in black ink.

Natalie McKinney,
Executive Director

www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

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





Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: STRONG SUPPORT of SB 522, SD2, HD2 – RELATING TO PLASTIC

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of House Committee on Finance,

Dolphin Quest strongly supports SB 522, SD2, HD2 as this bill has the potential to reduce plastic-based pollution in the State of Hawaii and ultimately help protect our natural resources and human health.

As noted in the bill, 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.

This bill is quite comprehensive and correctly commits to include all necessary stakeholders in a multi-faceted approach to addressing the issue of plastic packaging in Hawaii. However, we feel the bill should be amended to include language where the goal is to greatly reduce or ultimately eliminate all single-use plastic products.

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. This issue is critically important to us and we ask that you support SB 522, SD2, HD2.

Respectfully yours,

L. Rae Stone, DVM
Dolphin Quest

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 6:31:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cora Weenk	Dolphin Quest	Support	No

Comments:

Friday, March 29, 2019 at 3:30 PM
Conference Room 308

House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **Comments on SB 522, SD2, HD2
Relating to Plastic**

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write to provide comments on SB 522, SD2, HD2 which creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging, establishes the Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator in the Department of Health and appropriates funds. The hospitals in the state are important stakeholders in this matter as they are bound by federal and state regulations regarding the safe disposal of medical and infectious waste. We request that the membership of the working group be expanded to include representatives from the hospitals operating in the state.

We understand the harmful effect plastic waste has on the environment. However, any study proposing to ban plastic must consider the impact such a ban would have on the operations within medical facilities and the negative effect it may have in stemming the spread of bacteria. Federal agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)^{1,2}, and the State Department of Health³ (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,

¹ 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>

² 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>

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

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 light of both federal and state regulations, hospitals and medical clinics have a compelling interest in this issue and should be included in the working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

SB 522sd2,hd2, Relating to Plastics

House FIN Hearing

Friday March 29, 2019

3:30 pm – Room 308

Position: Comments


Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the House FIN Committee:

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 that support the proper disposal of litter and a call for civic responsibility. Litter is litter; there is no such thing as environmentally responsible litter.

We offer the following comments for consideration as the Committee deliberates over SB 522sd2, hd2, of which the end goal is to phase out single-use plastic packaging, promote reuse and find suitable alternatives for packaging. KYD does not support the end goal of phasing out single use plastics in Hawaii. However, the proposed work group might bring to light the probabilities and facts of manufacturing, re-use and alternative packaging in Hawaii.

- It's said that the devil is in the detail. Work Group Participants Should Include Local Manufacturers, Distributors and Wholesalers who can point out unintended consequences of policy discussions as well as offer facts about how supply chain and inventory systems for an island state work that ultimately affect consumer and business impacts.
- HPower and Hawaiian Earth Recycling, the contractor for the proposed East Hawaii Organics Facility for post-consumer waste and food waste should also be at the table to discuss solid waste management alternatives to land fill. Myths and misinformation can be corrected with their presence at these discussions.
- Discussions about alternatives to plastic packaging must take into consideration that other states that have an active compost industry, Oregon for example, have distributed information about why they don't want compostable packaging and service ware (see attached). This is important information for a State that is setting policy for compostable material to replace plastics.
- Careful thought is needed about phasing out of single use plastics without a verified suitable alternative that is functional, affordable, and maintains sanitation and health purposes. Single use plastics in many forms are used in almost all settings ranging from restaurants, hospitals, offices, landscaping and agricultural businesses, furniture and electronic retail stores, homecare, residences. It includes many products on grocery shelves to include milk and ice cream cartons, and affects local food manufacturers of chips, cookies, candies, poi, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



A Message from Composters Serving Oregon:

Why We Don't Want Compostable Packaging and Serviceware

Every year, the Pacific Northwest's compost industry turns hundreds of thousands of tons of yard and food wastes into nutrient-rich compost for agriculture, nurseries, landscaping businesses and home gardens. The quality compost products that we create develop healthier and more resilient soil, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, recycle nutrients, conserve water, and may reduce the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.

"Compostable" packaging and serviceware items have been on the rise for the past decade and they are increasingly ending up in our facilities. These materials compromise our composting programs and limit many of the environmental benefits of successful composting.

Here are nine reasons why we don't want "compostable" packaging or serviceware delivered to our facilities:

- 1 They don't always compost:** Not all 'certified' compostable items will actually compost (break down) as fully or quickly as we need them to. This is because certification standards test compostability based on laboratory conditions. Those conditions are not always replicated in the real world (our facilities) which means that some "compostable" items don't fully compost. The result is a finished compost that is contaminated with bits of partially degraded "compostable" material.
- 2 Contamination happens:** As a consumer, you may sort properly – but your neighbor might not. When collection programs accept compostable products, non-compostable look-alike items inevitably end up in the mix. These materials then must be removed, either at the start (when we receive them) or at the end (as pieces of garbage mixed in with finished compost). Either way, this contamination increases our operating costs and degrades the quality of our product, which makes the compost industry less economically viable.
- 3 They hurt resale quality:** We don't want to produce finished compost that is contaminated with fragments of packaging and serviceware, and our consumers won't purchase contaminated material. Contamination lowers the value of our product, making it difficult and sometimes impossible to sell. When fewer people use compost, its environmental benefits aren't realized.
- 4 We can't sell to organic farmers:** Farmers often use compost in the production of certified organic foods. National standards prohibit the use of many different packaging materials when making compost used to grow crops certified as "USDA Organic". Accepting packaging and serviceware at our facilities hinders our ability to provide finished compost to organic farmers.
- 5 They may threaten human and environmental health:** Compostable packaging can contain chemicals that can transfer into finished compost. For example, some paper items have commonly been treated with a class of chemicals called perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) to provide water and grease resistance. PFAS is persistent in the environment, can transfer from compost to ground and surface waters, can be taken up by plants from compost, and may have negative health impacts – affecting child development, reducing fertility, disrupting hormones, affecting the immune system, and increasing risks of cancer. While PFAS is being voluntarily phased out by some producers, it has not been outlawed, and may continue to be used in products that end up at our facilities. Separately, non-degraded fragments of plastic packaging can contaminate finished compost, intensifying environmental health concerns when it is used by buyers. We want to keep our compost clean and safe for all.

- 6 It increases our costs and makes our job harder:** Some of us have accepted compostable packaging in the past, and found that loads of compostable packaging require us to change our processes, adding water, using more energy and spending additional resources to produce finished compost. Some types of compostable packaging mostly degrade into carbon dioxide and water and leave behind little of value for all of the extra effort required.
- 7 Just because something is compostable doesn't mean it's better for the environment.** Oregon DEQ has found that compostable serviceware often has a larger (life time) environmental footprint than non-compostable items*. For example, compostable materials may require more fossil energy use, release more greenhouse gases, or result in more ecological toxins than their non-compostable counterparts, mostly due to how they're made. The research confirms what scientists already know: that *what materials are made of, and how they're made, may be more significant than whether they're composted vs. landfilled.* "Composting" and "compostable" are not the same idea. Composting is a beneficial treatment option for organic wastes, but "compostable" is not a guarantee of low impact.
- 8 In some cases, the benefits of recycling surpass those of composting.** Some items, like paper bags, can be either composted or recycled. Generally speaking, the recycling of manufactured materials (such as packaging) back into new products or packaging can provide greater overall environmental benefits than composting does.
- 9 Good intentions aren't being realized.** Compostable items often cost more – sometimes up to five times as much as non-compostable alternatives. That's a lot of money spent on products that might not actually help the environment – money that could be spent in more productive and beneficial ways.

Not only do compostable products often cost more to purchase, they also drive up the costs to operate our facilities and impede our ability to sell finished compost. Compostable packaging is promoted as a means of achieving "zero waste" goals but it burdens composters (and recyclers) with materials that harm our ability to efficiently process recovered materials. Reusable dishware is almost always a better choice for the environment. If you must use single-use items, please don't put them in your compost bin.

We need to focus on recycling organic wastes, such as food and yard trimmings, into high-quality compost products that can be used with confidence to restore soils and conserve resources. Compostable packaging doesn't help us to achieve these goals. We need clean feedstocks in order to produce quality compost.

Please help us protect the environment and create high quality compost products by keeping "compostable" packaging and serviceware out of the compost bin.

Thanks for your cooperation!



*See <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/compostable.pdf>



To:
House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Friday, 03-29-19 3:30PM
House conference room 308

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

Testimony in opposition to SB522 SD2 HD2

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 already being 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.

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

Additionally, this bill would take moneys from the Deposit Beverage Container Fund, which are largely consumer deposits held in trust, use them for other purposes, and weaken the 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.

TRIPLE F HOLDINGS, LLC

DBA: TRIPLE F DISTRIBUTING



With business locations on Oahu, Maui, Hilo, Kona, Kauai

02/27/19

The Triple F Holdings LLC family of companies Hawaii opposes SB 522 SD1, which prohibits the use of plastic bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws by state agencies by July 1, 2021 and by businesses selling food or beverages by July 1, 2022. Additionally, this bill would ban the distribution or sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023 and the sale or distribution of single-use plastic containers after July 1, 2025. SB 522 SD1 would also create the plastic source reduction working group.

This proposal will not only negatively impact our business and businesses like ours by at least 25-30%, but it will also burden the food businesses and the Hawaii consumer. We strongly oppose the SB 522 SD1 as it's unintended economic impact would take years to reverse and overcome the loss to Hawaii Businesses. With freight and raw ingredient cost already soaring, the citizens and business entities of Hawaii never get a break. At what point do these measures take a practical approach which lessens the economic hardships of our citizens? Cost of living increases (paychecks) are not keeping up with the numerous price advances related to consumer goods in Hawaii.

With regards to the plastic bottles, what are the alternatives? Putting water in a milk carton type container that is ***poly lined*** to contain water is not a better option because of transportability, deforestation and so forth. If we decide to put water into an aluminum can, now have an equally bad item landing in our ocean and landfill. What will we do, when a natural disaster strikes or FEMA needs emergency water? Many of these proposals look and sound good on the surface yet destroy jobs and do not provide a viable alternative. Moreover, until Southeast Asia implements plastic measures, their trash will continue to wash up on our beaches ten-fold compared to our local impact. Finally, we continue to see the word "**compostable**" thrown about in these proposals. However, the State lacks any commercial compost facilities. We should first put these facilities in place before we implement product bans.

Triple F is not opposed to a bill that would create a plastic source reduction group and would gladly volunteer our time, resources, and people to participate actively in this forum. We would support and help in any comprehensive effort to reduce, reuse, recycle or compost, these materials in an effort to keep Hawaii Beautiful.

Mahalo,

Chris Yankowski
President
Triple F

TRIPLE F HOLDINGS, LLC 98-735 Kuahao Place, Pearl City, HI 96782
Phone: (808) 842-9133 Fax: (808) 842-1184 www.fffhawaii.com



March 27, 2019

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

RE: SB 522 HD2 – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) urges to you amend SB 522 HD2 to ensure that recommended waste management and recycling policies capture all materials that are components of the state's waste stream. ACC and its members certainly support efforts to reduce waste; however, any working group formed under this bill should instead take a material neutral approach and focus on reducing, recycling, and recovering all waste.

ACC believes that SB 522 HD2 should be amended to direct the working group to consider all materials and technologies in the discussion on 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.

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

We recognize that recent policy actions imposed by China are creating new challenges – but also opportunities – in how plastics and other commodities are recycled and managed domestically. ACC has set ambitious sustainability targets and our members are taking steps to utilize recyclable packaging, increase recycling rates, and incorporate recycled material in the production of new packaging. Additionally, global companies in the plastic value chain including many ACC members recently 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 in the environment through new packaging formats, more efficient recycling technologies, and new business models to create value in used plastic.

Plastics are often used because the material can do more with less. Plastics help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, require less energy and water to produce, require less fuel to transport, and help significantly reduce food waste.¹ All packaging leaves an environmental footprint regardless of the material type. It takes energy and raw materials to produce, transport, and recover or dispose of any material. So it is important to measure all of these impacts throughout the entire lifecycle of a product.

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

- Will the recommendations and any accompanying proposed legislation actually reduce waste or rather simply result in replacing one type of trash with another?

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



- 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?

Making significant progress towards reducing waste will require the implementation of a variety of tools. In addition to efforts that seek to increase recycling and improve solid waste collection infrastructure, opportunities to recover non-recycled plastics may be an option as well. An emerging set of technologies is allowing governments and businesses to convert non-recycled plastics into energy, fuels, and feedstocks, or raw materials for new manufacturing. A range of energy recovery technologies are being used to complement recycling in helping to divert more valuable post-use materials from landfills.

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





To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Michael Miller, Tiki's Grill & Bar
Subject: [SB522 SD2 HD2](#) RELATING TO PLASTIC
Date: March 27, 2019

We at Tiki's Grill & Bar, hereby oppose House bill [SB522 SD2 HD2](#) in its current form.

No Litter is acceptable. We need better control of litter management to reduce litter in the marine waters.

THE RIGHT NOW FIX is larger fines for littering and better enforcement of current laws should be the focus.

The implementation of this bill is not free and will cost consumers more for goods and services in Hawaii. Ultimately, the shortfall in funding will come from taxpayers in one form or another. Businesses will raise their prices to compensate for added costs imposed by the new laws. Do we really want to raise the cost of living unnecessarily?

We do think that it is a great idea to form a working group to look for solutions. We are looking forward to hearing about recommendations for pilot projects.

Mahalo for considering our point of view.

Mahalo, Michael Miller / Director of Operations / michaelm@tikisgrill.com

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 1:05:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please return it to its original form SB522 HD1.

Mahalo,

Mio Chee

Katherine T. Kupukaa
Mililani, Hawaii

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, April 5, 2018
TIME: 10:30 am.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: OPPOSE SB 522,SD2, RELATING TO PLASTICS

I oppose this bill because it states that the local and global impact of the world's increasing waste stream is unsustainable and detrimental to the future of Hawaii's economy and people. We have more urgent issues to deal with such as unfunded public liability, high cost of living, more affordable housing, homelessness, and the economy to name a few.

This Bill is an **ANTI-BUSINESS, ANTI-CAPITALISM** and is penalizing the businesses who provide their customers with these various items. This bill is flawed and one-sided with views and facts that are questionable. Why is it that our beaches are voted among the best and beautiful. Let's be clear about plastics and how it has been very useful in our daily lives. Plastics don't go into the storm drain or in the ocean by itself. As long as plastic bags, foam containers and other plastic material are being manufactured don't deprive us from using them.

This Bill uses San Diego county as an example of how much they spend annually cleaning up plastics. How much does the State of Hawaii spend annually cleaning up plastics? How much does our government spend on single-use plastic trash bags in their offices and also all the trash bins that at public places like our parks, beaches, at bus stops? Furthermore the plastic bags the grocery stores, drug stores, and businesses used to provide free of charge are not single-use. Now in our Mililani neighborhood I have witness many individuals refuse being charge for a bag and carry items in their arms. This ban on plastic bags has certainly been a disservice to this State.

Part III of this Bill is unacceptable and a waste of time and human resources. We don't need this working group to eventually phase out plastic packaging. We don't need government to control our lives and over regulate our businesses. Let them thrive and grow our economy instead of negatively impacting them with added costs to their businesses.

While we as good law abiding citizens of the State of Hawaii do care about our environment we don't need more regulations that will lead to more government spending; instead all of us should be doing our part in the cleanup. No funds should be appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii. Please do not pass this bill. It is a waste of tax payer's money.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concern.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 12:52:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Arbeit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Still another study? While you're bowing to the plastics lobby with this study, why not do something? Like ban styrofoam containers. Plenty of places are doing that already. I hear the excuse that it will raise the price of the food. But come on, surely cardboard versions must be cheaper.

Testimony of
ELENA ZUCCHINI
Hawai'i resident

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Friday, March 29, 2019

3:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 522, SD2, HD2
RELATING TO PLASTIC

Aloha Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

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, HD2, which seeks to create the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging and establish the Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator in DOH. Appropriates funds.

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, HD2.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 5:52:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Hixon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this urgent matter. My testimony is submitted in strong support of SB522 Relating to Plastic.

Amending the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to decrease single-use plastic consumption and pollution will benefit not just those who live here, but also those that visit our beautiful state. These plastic materials not only are detrimental to our environment, but they also damage our local food chain and endanger sea life and bird populations.

Plastics are by far the most common type of litter that pollutes the State of Hawai'i. Importantly, plastics do not decompose, but rather break into smaller and smaller particles that bond with chemical pollutants and are eaten by sea life and birds. Recently, these particles have been discovered in human feces, so we are now eating our own pollution by eating the fish that eat the plastics!

As a professional marine biologist, I am saddened and embarrassed by the amount of plastic pollution littering my Hawai'i home. I urge your committee to support this measure and help make Hawai'i a global showcase for sustainable living. Should you have any questions regarding the science of marine plastic pollution, please feel free to contact me at hixonm@hawaii.edu. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo!

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 4:38:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Do not pass this bill. The legislature continues to show a disregard of the needs of the residents of Hawaii and the reality that plastic products are not a problem in Hawaii. Our legislature appears to be working for the United Nations and not the people of Hawaii. Hawaii does not generate enough plastic waste to be a genuine problem. The problem exists in China, India and other newly developing nations. A working group to impose unneeded policies that would then require "enforcement". The plastic ban in this bill will also hurt businesses in our state and therefore hurt the economy. This bill is another example of wasting time on a non-problem. Stop wasting your time and our dollars. Work on real problems -- reduce or optimally eliminate homelessness and the high cost of living. Vote NO on SB522 SD2 HD2.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 1:06:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 1:11:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please return it to its original form SB522 HD1.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 4:02:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Price	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this effort to address the single-use plastics issue in Hawaii. Plastics are the most common type of marine debris and they are deadly to marine and terrestrial wildlife. Animals die from entanglement, ingestion and toxins found in these materials. Please also consider amending the bill to include restrictions on all single-use plastics, not just packaging.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 6:26:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 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-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:52:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lily Washburn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and committee members,

My name is Lily Washburn, and I'm a student at SEEQS: The School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability, a charter school in Kaimuki. I'm writing to say that **I strongly support SB522.**

This bill is important to me because it hurts me to see how careless people can be when it comes to the health of our beautiful islands. Plastic pollution is having detrimental impacts on our environment, and will continue to if we don't do something about it.

As a student who is very much concerned with the increasing amount of plastic waste causing harm to wildlife, and building up in our natural ecosystems, I can say that this bill would be a huge step towards a more environmentally safe future.

Hawaii is a state of sustainability, and should be a leader when it comes to preserving the health of our planet.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this serious issue.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:54:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:59:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of SB522 because I think there is too much plastic on our Earth and there is too much danger that comes from it. Plastic chemicals have been leaked into food and drinks and then we eat/drink it. Animals have straws up their nose or in their systems. I feel very strongly that we need to do something to help this issue.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:09:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harriet Burkholder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:27:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shane Albritton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

My name is Shane Albritton; I'm a public school teacher in Kaimuki and Honolulu Co-Chair of HSTA's Government Relations Committee, writing as an individual.

I'm writing to urge you to support SB522, for the sake of our children, our environment and our economy.

I'm originally from Maui, which banned single use plastic bags a few years ago and recently banned polystyrene food containers.

I can tell you that these changes have had a tremendously positive impact. The fence leeward of the dump in central Maui used to be permanently covered in plastic bags blowing in the wind, and now, you don't see plastic anywhere.

By contrast, Honolulu's streams are full of polystyrene and plastic waste, which eventually work their way down into the ocean, into the fish, and into our own bodies.

As you may know, the European Parliament has recently voted to ban single use plastics by 2021. Hawaii has the opportunity to continue to be a leader on environmental protection legislation with this bill.

Please take this bold step toward protecting Hawaii's future. Please support SB522.

Mahalo,

Shane Albritton

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:28:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I believe that this bill should pass because we have a huge plastic problem and we need to stop it before it goes too far and earth becomes a human dump. I also think that we need to start taking steps in the right direction and this is a perfect opportunity.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:29:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Jeffers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

When will we finally put people over profits? I have read testimony from business owners, big and small, who have opposed banning the use of food storage containers made of harmful materials due to the effect on the cost of running their businesses. But I ask what is the long-term cost on our health, our environment, and our local tourism industry if we continue to use these materials? When will we stop being so short-sighted and when will we start acting like the progressive state we claim to be? Businesses will no doubt be impacted by the change, but businesses will be forced to adapt to the change and things will eventually enter a different type of stability. You're telling me that there will be no small food businesses left in Hawaii if they are forced to stop using plastic and polystyrene? Every mom and pop shop in town is going to close because they won't be able to adapt to change? I believe people will make the changes and adapt to making the world a better place.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:32:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha my name is Kalamakahi Crabbe,

I am a 7th grader at SEEQS public charter school and in STRONG SUPPORT for SB 522. I would like to support SB 522 because this would create a better home and environment for our wildlife. It would also clean up our 'aina to help Hawai'i to get restored to its natural state. If we can make this bill happen it would make the best outcome. Our other leading world countries have already implemented this act. We need to learn from our peers and help our home. To make change a positive change to do our best for our home. Mahalo and Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Kalamakahi Crabbe

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:35:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Benedict	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for considering my testimony in regard to SB522.

It is beyond time for a drastic change to reduce our reliance on single use plastics. There are ecofriendly alternatives to all the products listed in the bill. Not so long ago we all survived with aluminum cans, paper take-out containers and wooden stir sticks. With the State of Hawaii supporting the proposal our local companies can step up and Hawaii can be a leader in eliminating single use plastic - as it should be.

Opponents are concerned about jobs, and rightfully so, but action must be taken. The proposed committee can take that into consideration and create a plan that takes all aspects into consideration.

Our islands and ocean ecosystem are far too important to all of us to be squandered away in single use plastics. PLEASE support this bill which puts an infrastructure in place to ensure we meet our commitments to reduce and eliminate single use plastics.

Thank you.

Michelle Benedict

Denise Boisvert
225 Kaiulani Ave #1604
Honolulu, HI 96815

March 29, 2019

Attn: House Finance Committee

There are many reasons why I strongly support Bill SB522 SD2 HD2.

This is one of them.



I hope you will support it as well. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

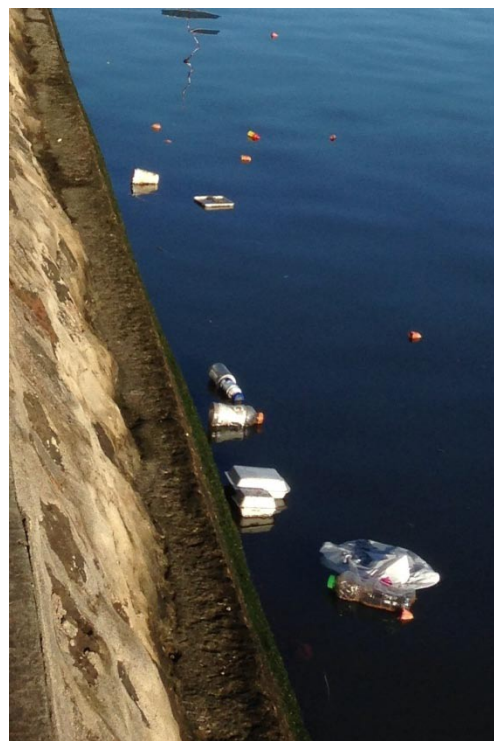
Denise Boisvert
Waikiki

Mr. Kim Jorgensen
225 Kaiulani Ave #1604
Honolulu, HI 96815

March 29, 2019

Attn: House Finance Committee

I strongly support Bill SB522 SD2 HD2. 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 HD2. Let's join the other cities and states and countries that have enacted such bans to protect humans, marine and wildlife, and the environment.

Sincerely,
Kim Jorgensen

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 1:01:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitchell Hashimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to do something about the plastic epidemic that is threatening our precious ecosystems. The amount of plastics are projected to surpass the fish population by 2050. We cant wait any longer to make a change. I know its not an easy thing to do but this is a start

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 1:17:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Somewhere between the original bill and what happened to hit when it went to House, this much-needed bill lost almost all its teeth, opting instead, even after all the dire statistics laid out in Part I, for the creation of a "study group" as if that's the best we can come up with.

Of course it's going to mean that retailers and consumers will pay more for packaging that doesn't damage the environment, contaminate the ocean and the species that live in it, and cost the economy millions to clean up. But for my money, I'd much prefer to pay more now than to see the continued degradation of our environment. We haven't got time for yet another study when we already know what must be done.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 1:32:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need to stop plastic at the source. Please reinstate the original language in this bill pertaining to all single use plastics and styrafoam. We should be making this bill stronger instead of attempting to weaken it!. Mahalo, Laura Gray

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 1:41:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Henderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please we must reduce single use plastics and styrofoam. Our beautiful beaches in the east shores of Oahu are so dirty and our wildlife is paying the consequences. The most recent news about the dead whale whose stomach was filled with plastic garbage is so alarming that I fear this is going to become the normal for our wildlife and the fish we locally consume. Please pass this bill. Thank you for your time.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:00:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadine Lane	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please pass this bill and add in styrofoam! We do not need to add to the trash in this world every little bit adds up! You know this! Please help save this earth. We can live without plastics. It is possible.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:00:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danna Olsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:03:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:07:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luckaia Strand	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB522 SD2 HD2. It is very important that we take action to stop plastic use NOW. Not later.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:08:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Cady	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY support SB522! For such a blue state, Hawaii is EMBARRASSINGLY lagging BEHIND other states in this crucial area!! Restaurants will have to pass the increased cost of switching to sustainable (non plastic) single-use items to their patrons—and we'll *hardly notice*—but our beaches and the ocean *will*.

Mahalo,

Mrs. Amy Cady, former lifelong, single-issue Republican voter prior to 2016...

Ewa Beach

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:12:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monica McLenigan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is not our land to destroy, pollute, or exploit. It is ours to take care of, respect, and conserve. What washes up on our beaches, harms and kills animals, and threatens all human life, is a material that we created. Hawai'i sees its effects more than most places, so we should be leading by example. Proactive solutions, like this bill, will be our way out of this so generations to come can have a sustainable future.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:14:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eve Berlinsky	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:18:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mackenna Cady	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing you to ask you to please support SB522. A bill such as this is long overdue in Hawaii, as plastic pollution is a increasing issue here in the islands and around the rest of the world.

I coordinate monthly beach cleanups around Oahu with my friends. I've repeatedly seen first-hand how such excess plastic is negatively affecting our beautiful beaches, ocean, and wildlife. No one wants to relax on a polluted beach or swim in a polluted ocean. And even more importantly, no one will be able to thrive on a planet with a sick ocean. Hence the need for a bill that would limit the amount of plastic entering the environment and making it sick.

It is both our privilege and responsibility as people to take care of the planet—not only for us here and now, but for people like my future children who will be forced to grow up on the planet we pass down to them.

Please help Hawaii be a leader in environmental conservation and protection by passing this SB522.

Thank you you very much for your consideration,

Mackenna Cady

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Ewa Beach

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:21:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
'Iwa Worthington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:29:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juliette Humer	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Reducing plastic consumption and waste, and managing plastic waste correctly is of utmost importance for the world today and future generations. I support the efforts of those who are taking action to reduce plastic waste and this bill.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:48:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 3:09:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Cady	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha committee chair and members. Thank you for serving our great state of Hawaii. You have the opportunity of serving the people, land and future of Hawaii again today. Unfortunately, it was deemed by the legislature that Hawai'i was not ready to reduce unnecessary, single use plastics. If more information is needed then passing SB522 is necessary. I support and I ask you to support SB522.

Mahalo,

David Cady

Ewa Beach, HI

From: Nadean Lane <lane.nadean@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 1:56 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: SB522

Please pass bill SB 522, and also add in styrofoam as a ban as well. All of this trash is adding up and it's hurting the earth and it's life.

I see plastic everywhere on the beach everyday, and in the ocean when I go diving. Passing this bill will help the earth, it all adds up in a great way. So many places around the world have banned plastic, it is possible. We need a clean earth to live on we don't need plastics to survive.

Mahalo for your time

Nadean lane

finance8 - Joy

From: Catherine Hardie <cmm_hardie@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 2:36 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Support SB522

Sent from my iPhone

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 7:54:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Robbins	Kokua Hawai'i™ Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

LATE



sustainable coastlines Hawaii

SB 522: Strong Support
Hearing: March 29, 2019 3:30 PM
Committees on Fin

Aloha Chair Luke and Members of the House FIN Committee,

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** – originally 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 source reduction working group so that we can help work with our community on solutions to these pressing issues.**
- 2) While we hope we appreciate that the bill is still moving to continue our State having the very important conversations regarding plastic source reduction, we do believe in the original intent of the bill before amendments by the CPC committee that began a phase out process for items where alternatives and solutions are readily available. We suggest a further amendment to return the bill to its form after leaving the EEP committee with the caveats noted in items 3 & 4 below.**
- 3) 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). Plastic beverage bottles we understand have more complicated consequences than some of the other items being phased out and thus understand a later phase out date, or looking at solutions as part of the working group.**

- 4) 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.

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LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 7:56:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Robbins	Wild Kids Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 8:43:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Oahu County Democrats	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 4:32:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sandeep chitta	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 5:06:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ariana Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must take action to reduce plastic pollution. The amount of waste and plastic on the beaches is out of control and single-use plastics and styrofoam are just archaic and representative of ignorance. We live on an island with a fragile ecosystem and limited resources and need to look after the environment. The cost we face in the future for not taking action now will be much higher than the monetary amount it'll require to use more eco-friendly materials. Waste reduction and less consumption should be our ultimate goal towards a more sustainable future in Hawaii. Lead by example, Hawaii.

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 5:34:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alessia Saporì	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill, approving it is the least you could do after you decided to perpetuate the huge amount of pollution caused by polystyrene foam and the other single use plastic.

In my household, we're already avoiding all those food establishments who serve their food-to go in single use plastic containers instead of using sustainable solutions, if they use cheap plastic they must use cheap ingredients too.

Even if the legislators are doing nothing to protect the 'Ä• ina, we, the people, can do a lot.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 5:55:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 6:06:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sachi Ainge	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In Hawaii we see the impacts of the whole world's single-use plastics. We're affected by plastics on the beaches. We can see the direct harmful impact of plastics on our wildlife. We consume more fish than the average American, so we are also more likely to be affected by plastic toxicity in the foodchain. In other places, people may not be as educated or aware of the issues that we see. So it's up to Hawaii to lead the way.

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 6:35:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chayna Yoshida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 7:19:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I really would like polyesterene ban included back to SB 522. We really need to stop the usage of plastics. The ocean will be so polluted if we don't take an action to stop it.

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 8:05:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wai'ala Ahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Wai'ala, I am a kanaka maoli resident of Hawaii island where I was born and raised with the ideals/beliefs that the 'Āina is our grandmothers and must be respected. That we must Malama Honua, and Aloha 'Āina in all of our actions short/long term. That we must live sustainability and to protect the environment, not just for ourselves, but for future generations, and for health and safety of the land/sea itself; because it takes care and provides for us endlessly. It is with these beliefs and with great humility I ask you to Support Bill SB522 relating to plastic reduction/waste.

Our islands need this bill, our oceans, our world and need this Bill to pass. Plastic is a dirty habit that pollutes with irreversible damage. Hawai'i can lead the way with putting an end to plastic! We have a Green plan/ initiative, the support of SB522 needs to be a part of it. Only good things for Hawai'i and the world will come from this passing. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 8:17:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jill Sims	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There is so much plastic littering or oceans and parks! Please take action to clean up our beautiful home.

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 8:28:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michaela Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Hawai'i resident, I believe that we are desperately in need of this bill to reduce plastic pollution. This is especially important in such a delicate and already threatened ecosystem such as Hawai'i. By reducing single-use plastics, we can improve the preservation of our ecosystem and its organisms, both of which are extremely important for Hawai'i's economy. In addition, plastic pollution that ends up in the ocean is often consumed by fish, which are then consumed by people, many of whom depend on fish as a food source. By cutting out single use plastics, we can improve human health, Hawai'i's economy, and protect the wildlife that makes our island chain special.

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 8:44:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blaise Prokop	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:17:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marina scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:23:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There is no amount of plastic reduction that is too much. Some say the plastic problem is so bad it will never get better, but even if that is true, let us not let it get any worse than it already is. Hawaii is a national and worldwide leader in Ocean care and awareness - let's take it to the next level. Mahalo nui loa. -Meredith Buck, 26, Kailua Kona.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:25:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cloe Cadiz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:26:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha committee members and mahalo for taking the time to consider SB522. My name is Jennifer Milholen, and I work for Kā• kua 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's language, prior to HD2, addressed the "low hanging fruit" of senseless 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.

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.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please support SB522 and RE-INTRODUCE the original provisions for a phase out of the suite of single-use plastics in addition to the plastics working group. This bill has no teeth without tangible milestones in place toward a drastic reduction in our plastics consumption.

Jennifer Milholen

finance8 - Joy

LATE

From: Gabriel Roy <g.roy7777@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 4:17 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: I support Sb522

Please push this bill through to save our earths future! We have polluted our islands for too long and it cannot be sustained.

Sincerely

Gabriel Roy

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kayleigh Burns <kayleigh.burns0920@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 5:06 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: In support SB522

Aloha I would like to express my support of SB522. I work in the ocean here on Oahu and see tons and tons of plastic floating by me every day. I have encounter numerous marine life entangled, harmed by, or killed by plastic! It needs to stop before it's too late! Please lead by example Hawai'i senators!

Mahalo and Aloha,

Kayleigh Burns
PADI Divemaster
One Ocean Diving
Water Inspired Conservationist
Mobile: (215) 208-5432
IG: @mermaid_kayleigh
FB: Kayleigh Nicole Burns

finance8 - Joy

LATE

From: Sunshine Eckstrom <silvercanyonequine@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 4:17 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: In support of SB 522

Please support SB 522.

It's so important to prohibit many single-use plastic items from being sold or distributed in Hawaii. This will benefit our environment and wildlife in a huge way. Don't let companies who profit from selling these items to pressure you to ignore the terrible environmental impacts of single-use plastic.

Passing SB 522 would be a great step toward a healthy future for Hawaii and the world.

Thank you!

Sunshine Eckstrom, DVM

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:48:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB522.

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:49:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 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 began following 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.

LATE

This is my official testimony regarding SB522. Single use plastic is bad for people and the environment. When it enters the environment in its macro state it leaches chemicals, and can be choking hazards for many animals. From there it decomposes in the sun, ever so slowly, and begins to break up into its micro form. These micro plastics are an ever-increasing problem on beaches and is almost impossible to remove from the environment. Micro plastic is one of the top killers of marine animals and sea birds. The numerous necropsies of animals who have died because their stomachs could not hold food due to the high plastic content that cannot be decomposed by the body speaks for itself. If these plastics do not kill the animals, the way the chemicals work their way up trophic levels and accumulate in dangerous amounts in the animals. Humans then ingest these toxic meats, and in high amounts it can also cause serious damage to our bodies. Plastic is not good for anyone included in that environment. In smaller countries and islands, like the Galapagos, they have already put a ban on plastic straws and are working on other plastic bans. They have far less accessibility to resources than Hawaii, and in a state that relies on such a high volume of ecotourism, it is almost shocking that no action has been taken already. I support this bill and hope that changes can be made swiftly in order to preserve our aina and ohana.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 10:07:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 9:45:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I support this bill with the ORIGINAL language which included styrofoam, plastic straws and other single use plastics that have been removed from the current bill. These types of plastics are having an enormous global polluting impact and we cannot waste anymore time stopping the flow of them into our environment.

Alhoa

Mary Spadaro

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 9:42:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julianna Trowbridge	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Plastic pollution is a serious issue affecting not only marine life and the precious ecosystems that we enjoy but human health as well. Not only is it a danger to our health, it is a danger to Hawaii's economic future. If we do not find a solution to our plastic consumption, soon enough Hawaii will be overrun with plastic making it a much less desirable tourist destination. Water activities like snorkeling, scuba diving, whale watching will be hit hard because there will be far less biodiversity and clean water to enjoy. Hawaii should be a leader in creating a sustainable future! We need to set the example for the rest of the world and take care of these fragile islands and surrounding waters while we still can. Mahalo.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 9:30:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Domingo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is forward thinking and will help protect our ocean and wildlife. Too many people use plastic without thinking of the repercussions. In this Aloha state we share so much food after parties and work functions and plastic is the “go to choice” for sending someone home with their goodies. If this bill passes we will be forced to make better choices that will protect our environment. Mahalo!

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 8:49:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitchel Alfred Camacho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 29, 2019 3:30 p.m. Room 308

LATE

In SUPPORT with amendments of SB 522 SD2 HD2: Relating to plastic

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports SB 522 SD2 HD2 with amendments to reinstate original language**, which prohibited 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 business or individuals on a certain date. The original version also included a plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging and established the Solid Waste Prevention Coordinator in DOH.

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. 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 with original language, 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 **support of SB 522 SD2 HD2.***

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

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 8:06:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support the SB522 SD2 HD2 which seeks to prohibit purchase, sale, and use of plastic by restaurants and by individuals or any entity. These Islands must be protected at all costs. It is a precious rare home to the world of plants and other inhabitants of a biodiverse habitat. The oceans especially is what is affected most. To see more animals die in direct relation to plastic is the lowest point of our humanity. There are so many other solutions. Hemp is legal now. Hawaii should only consider biodegradable practical solutions to this epidemic.

Hawaii can be a leader and set an example of how the Hawaiian culture is interdependent on the wellbeing of the Islands. Clean water and clean air are so important. I hope that Hawaii will always choose to protect it's wilderness over profits. Business will not suffer. They will only gain more respect and business. It is changing the paradigm. Everything will change for the better.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify my feelings towards this measure and how it would mean the world to me and all sentient beings.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Anastasi

Mar. 28, 2019

In Support of SB522 SD2 HD2 Relating to Plastic
House Committee on Finance (FIN)
Mar. 29, 2019, 3:30pm, Room 308

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

As the Hawaii Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, I am writing in strong support of SB522 SD2 HD2 to create a Plastic Reduction Working Group to phase out single-use plastics like 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 these 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.

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. 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 plastics. 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 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.

As an amendment, we ask that you put back the ban on polystyrene food service products; so that Oahu and Kauai Counties can be consistent with Maui and the Big Island. Business groups have told us that 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

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 7:35:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alyssa Corpe	Keiko Conservation	Support	No

Comments:

We need to take better care of our oceans, and take as many steps as we can to protect ocean life

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 6:56:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alicia Jolley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Every day we walk to the beach and clean up a bucket of trash. Sometimes we don't even make a dent in the beach. Please help us protect our oceans and coastlines

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 6:55:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sachi mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Hawaii resident, I have seen firsthand the damage plastic has done to our beautiful state. We must honor our ancestors and care for this precious gift for future generations. As a registered voter, I beg for you to represent your constituents. We want our leaders to protect our oceans, our sacred lands. Make us proud!

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 6:28:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaitlyn Payanal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 5:50:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Our family walked the beaches in the east side and filled up several cups of small bits of plastic This is a massive issue and this bill will help solve this problem.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 12:58:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lecomte	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 11:55:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT with amendments to reinstate the original language, which banned many single-use plastics such as styrofoam, utensils, bags, bottles, and straws.

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 11:44:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I believe that the people of Hawai'i, as well as the world, need to Adopt a plastic free lifestyle. The improper disposal of our waste is affecting our future for a clean and sustainable environment. I bring reusable utensils and canisters with me every time I leave the house so that in case I decide to eat out, I won't be using single use plastic. I rarely see anyone else being their own glass or canister when eating to-go. I am not saying that I am perfect; I do have flaws. But what I am saying is that there are not enough people not using single use plastics (for example) today! I feel so accomplished when I return home knowing that I didn't need a straw, take out plate, or a cup for my smoothie that day. But I also feel defeated when I see trash bins filled with styrofoam, plastic bags, and plastic cutlery. We need to do better.

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 11:33:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claudia Mueller	Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii & Ben Lecomte The Swim Expedition	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill as we see the plastic pollution of our oceans first hand in the ocean on a daily basis and we need to act now to save the future of our children. Recycling is not the answer. Since the 1950s only 8% (!) of all produced plastics have been recycled. We need to stop the use of single use plastics and set an example for the rest of the world to see. We need to put the environment and the community before businesses and their monetary influence now!



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiifood.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*
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Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Barry Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

LATE

TO:
Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 29, 2019
TIME: 3:30pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308

RE: SB522 SD2 HD2 Relating to Plastic

Position: Comments

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.

We believe that in order to find functional solutions that will achieve the greatest positive impact for our state and our environment this working group should address on how to improve recycling and reuse infrastructure.

Real progress will come from finding ways to responsibly manage the life cycle of resources.

Plastic is used in a wide variety of packaging around the world because it has many advantages. It is safe, sanitary, lightweight, and affordable. Switching from plastic to some other type of packaging that fails to keep food fresh will increase the amount of food waste we generate. Banning all plastic will create food shortage and sanitation issues.

Plastic will likely continue to be used by nearly all industries in the state, so we should find a way to recycle it in a closed loop system.

If the goal of this taskforce is to increase the use of glass packaging over plastic packaging then we should have a plan in place for how to recycle and reuse glass in the State.

Aggregating our recycling statewide would potentially allow Hawaii to recycle plastic and other resources locally, using new types of recycling technology. Our state could be a leader in closed loop recycling.

Broadening the scope of this working group to focus on recycling and improving re-use infrastructure will enable the creation of more innovative, high impact, and workable solutions.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please find our suggested amendments below.

RELATING TO PLASTIC.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

PART I

SECTION 1.

...

PART II

SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department of health for administrative purposes a plastic source reduction working group.

(b) The working group shall:

(1) Formulate a plan for **reducing the impact of** single-use plastic packaging ~~from the Hawaii waste stream~~ **by recycling products and encouraging re-use where possible;**

(2) Develop strategies to encourage reuse in the food service industry, such as reusable container incentive programs for customers;

(3) **Consult with successful composting operators in each county and ask if they would be willing to accept ASTM compostable food containers.** Provide recommendations for composting plastics in Hawaii to encourage reuse of waste and create value added products to be used in regenerating Hawaii's agricultural potential;

(4) Consult with each county that has already enacted ordinances related to single-use plastics such as plastic bags and polystyrene foam containers and develop recommendations for the implementation of a uniform, statewide policy for these items that can replace existing county ordinances and provide businesses with laws that are consistent throughout the State; and

(5) Consult with stakeholders to develop appropriate exemptions to address concerns of health and safety, or lack of suitable alternative products on the market.

6 Encourage counties to work together by aggregating recyclable tonnage and investing in technologies to recycle plastic, aluminum, glass, and other recyclable or reusable resources in the State of Hawaii.

(c) The membership of the working group shall be as follows:

(1) The director of health or the director's designee;

(2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural resources or the chairperson's designee;

(3) Four members, one to be appointed by each of the respective mayors of the city and county of Honolulu and the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui;

(4) The state sustainability coordinator;

(5) A representative of the Surfrider Foundation;

(6) A representative of Zero Waste Oahu;

(7) A representative of the Hawaii Food Industry Association;

(8) A representative of the Hawaii Restaurant Association;

(9) A representative of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii; and

(10) A representative of the Hawaii Tourism Association.

The representatives in paragraphs (5) through (10) shall be selected by the director of health.

(d) The members of the working group shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses, including travel expenses, consulting fees, and administrative expenses such as photocopying, postage, stationery, and office supplies incidental to the performance of their duties.

(e) The working group shall work with the department of health, the carbon sequestration task force, private stakeholders, public stakeholders, or any other group or individuals the working group deems necessary.

(f) The working group shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including recommendations for **how counties can aggregate recyclable waste and recycle and reuse those resources in a closed loop system and** pilot projects for Hawaii businesses to **reduce** single-use plastic packaging, promote reuse, and find sustainable alternatives for packaging, as well as any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2021.

SECTION 3. The working group shall cease to exist on June 30, 2022.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the deposit beverage container deposit special fund of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$25,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for expenses arising out of the activities of the plastic source reduction working group established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this part.

PART III

SECTION 5. Chapter 342G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§342G- Solid waste prevention coordinator; established. (a) There is established within the department the position of solid waste prevention coordinator. The solid waste prevention coordinator shall:

(1) Serve as administrative support to the plastic source reduction working group established pursuant to Act , Session Laws of Hawaii 2019;

(2) Develop policy recommendations for solid waste source reduction, waste reuse and composting, and recycling;

(3) Develop and support programs with the goals of solid waste prevention; and

(4) Work with the sustainability coordinator to develop recommendations for the development of a circular economy.

(b) The solid waste prevention coordinator shall be funded through the deposit beverage container deposit special fund established pursuant to section 342G-104."

SECTION 6. Section 342G-104, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) Moneys in the deposit beverage container deposit special fund shall be used to reimburse refund values and pay handling fees to redemption centers[-] and assist in efforts for plastic source reduction and solid waste prevention. The department may also use the money to:

(1) Fund administrative, audit, and compliance activities associated with collection and payment of the deposits and handling fees of the deposit beverage container program;

(2) Conduct recycling education and demonstration projects;

(3) Promote recyclable market development activities;

(4) Support the handling and transportation of the deposit beverage containers to end-markets;

(5) Hire personnel to oversee the implementation of the deposit beverage container program, including permitting and enforcement activities; and

(6) Fund associated office expenses."

SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the deposit beverage container deposit special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same

sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to establish the position of solid waste prevention coordinator.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this part.

PART IV

SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on March 15, 2050.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 11:13:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Kellner	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:



Young Democrats of Hawaii
Democratic Party of Hawaii

Testimony presented before the Committee on Finance
Friday, March 29, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Senate Bill 522 SD2 HD2

Dear Chairs Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 522, SD2 HD2 deletes language that would have prohibited 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. Instead, this bill 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 HD2 and asks that phasing out polystyrene and plastic products be included in this bill. We support this bill 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-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 11:01:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

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-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:55:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM



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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Marissa and I'm 19 years old and writing in support of SB 522. Growing up on Oahu, I have already seen drastic increases in the damage and pollution to our ecosystems that plastics have caused. Plastic debris now washes up on all our eastern and northeastern shores, and it is consumed by wildlife, endangering not only other species, but humans too. I urge you to pass this bill because we need to take immediate action to create this working group in order to address this plastic problem at its source. As much as I stand on the shores of my home, picking up the plastic that washes ashore each day, the problem will not be solved until leaders like you can help us move in the right direction to prevent it from getting worse before we can make it better. My generation is stepping up to solve problems like these that span social, environmental, economic, cultural, ethical, and global issues but we are going to need your help too. Single use plastics are unnecessary and there are healthier, economical, ergonomical, and sustainable alternatives that we can transition to with the help of a working group on plastics. Thank you.

Mahalo for your time.

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:41:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Plastic sucks

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:01:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ilana Nimz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Clean oceans. Healthy wildlife. A sustainable future. Innovative technology. Not being lazy- being a role model for other places.

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 12:18:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louise Sper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The passing of this revised bill is so important to our people, land and oceans! Please allow this bill so that we can take the steps toward a future with less plastic waste. These all collectively add to our landfill and worse end up in our oceans and on the beaches...and cause harm, injury and death to our ocean life as seen in social media. I personally see plastic almost every time I'm in the water or on the water and with us being unable to recycle plastic locally, this can help us avoid contributing more to the landfills occupying the limited space on our islands. There are all better alternatives to these that do not destroy our environment and most importantly, they can help encourage our community to be more mindful in using and bringing their own reusables around to help save using single use plastics and to help businesses save money in the future if they stop serving these. Mahalo!

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 12:29:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Blasco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I buy a plastic item and then usually throw it away after using it for a couple minutes (it could be a plastic cup, some food in plastic wrap, etc.) but then it stays there for hundreds of years harming animals and destroying our beaches. We need a cleaner Hawaii! Plastic should not be here, we can do better!

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 12:53:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maisy Rappe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB522! It is sad to see our beaches covered in trash, tourists buying these don't consider the lasting effects of leaving pollution on our beaches and islands, because they don't stick around long enough to care! Residents of Hawaii should have more of a say on this than any company on revenue, because they are who really cares and sees the effects of this pollution. Keep aloha alive!

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 1:04:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is so important to protect Hawaii's incredible water front assets! Help set an example to the rest of the US in being the first state to ban single use plastics and promote healthy waters that will boost the eco system which in turn will help bring in tourists and boost local economies! This is an incredible step in the right direction in trying to heal the ocean and start working on solutions for micro plastics. As an avid scuba diver and fisher this bill speaks deeply to me and I fully support it! Pleased consider the future of Hawaii's beaches, the future of the ocean, and pass this ban on single use plastics!

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

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

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trenton Looper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB522 from Oregon

Sustainable

Island Products

3/29/19

Sustainable Island Products
73-5568 Kauhola Street Bay 6
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

LATE

In Support of SB522 SD2 HD2 Relating to Plastic
House Committee on Finance
Mar. 29, 2019, 3:30pm, Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members:

Sustainable Island Products is a locally owned distributor that only offers compostable food service items and glass. Having been around for twelve years, with four warehouses on three islands and service to all islands, we are proof of the growing success of compostables.

Ten years ago, there were few compostable options and only one or two places to get them in Hawaii. Now, even companies that make Styrofoam here sell compostable products as does every single disposable products distributor in the State.

Compostable products work well and are providing environmentally responsible options that are cost effective. Californians have been using these products for almost a decade without the loss of restaurants or the takeout industry. Compostable products have improved over the years and some are even microwave- and oven-safe and wet foods can be held for days or even weeks at a time.

I have seen many businesses in Hawaii started with compostables, others have converted to compostables and all have continued to thrive or found greater success. Part of this success is that consumers will pay for compostables, pennies more is hardly a hardship with long lasting benefits (\$30/year for 120-200 meals). Restaurateurs should not bear the burden of any increase in cost, it is being done for the benefit of us all and the individual consumer is the immediate beneficiary. This is a fee for a service model.

Despite our success and the success of compostables, there remains a large section of the industry here that is waiting for legislation, such as this, to pass before they convert to compostables. This group understands the benefits and has found that the items will work for them, they just want "a level playing field." Legislation mandating the use of compostables would be easily accepted and even lauded by this group. Some of the largest food service operation in the State are in this group.

In Hawaii, our food service items find their end of life in a few places, H-power, Landfill or in our lands and oceans. Compostable products have equal or greater value to the Oahu H-Power facility and the ash and effluent are less toxic. In landfill, compostables will take up less room and will not contribute to the petroleum-based toxicity of the landfill. If compostables find their way into our lands and oceans, they are largely benign, and most will degrade rapidly.

Compostables are made from readily renewable resources, so before any consumer eats off a compostable plate, there is an infinitely better environmental benefit as compared to a plastic item made from petroleum.

Compostables can be made a part of a cycle of prosperity that would begin with the manufacturing of the products in Hawaii and lead to the composting of the products and then ultimately growing more plants with the compost that is generated to make more products.

While the ideal place for compostables to end up is a composting facility, the overall impacts of compostables vs. plastics in our current systems in Hawaii is significantly less. Compostables represent the wave of new business, jobs, industry and a sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Ari Patz

Is Recycling working?

In 1985 the US consumed 16.7 million tons of plastics with only 1.6 million tons getting recycled. Last year, 87.2 million tons were consumed with 29 million tons recycled. With only an incremental increase in the recycling rate over 30 years and 58.2 million tons of plastic trash per year not being recycled, it is hard to call recycling a success. Additionally, and perhaps illustrated some in these number, is the fact that recyclable plastics with food on them are not considered recyclable until they are washed. This said, if you have recyclable waste, the best place for it is in a recycling facility.

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 2:08:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Summer Yadao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, thank you for taking testimony regarding single use plastics and banning them from use in all areas of the community.

We are all aware of the mass that is floating in the middle of ocean mainly containing plastics. Our dependence on fossil fuel is bad enough, without adding in the amount of emissions it takes to create plastic products.

We know better, so we must do better for the health of us all here in Hawai`i and the planet.

Mahalo,

Summer Yadao

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 2:30:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

We live in a unique and incredibly beautiful place that is slowly being destroyed by short sighted and careless individuals. With so many options available in todays world, plastic shouldn't be the 'main' one. Simply put, we need to take care of what we have so that it can be preserved for future generations.

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 2:34:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill!

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 3:24:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harvy King	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Respectfully,

I support the transition of the focus of this bill moving to a working group. I understand the industry needs for finding alternatives, but perhaps instead of looking for replacements, we ought to collectively consider logistical improvements that induce food & economic surplus instead of a surplus stream of garbage. I speak for myself as an individual. As a member of the Student Sustainability Coalition of the University of Hawaii, my observation is that there were several bills that are focused on the need for working groups. The Student Sustainability Coalition is described as a Network of Networks, similarly, I feel that at this juncture of the planning process towards actualizing Deliverables (with respect to the UN Sustainable Development Goals) is that there is a need for a Working Group for the Working Groups. A Green New Deal Working Group would certainly help our efforts in accomplishing something meaningful in a rapid response effort. Let us not waste each other's time.

Economic Opportunities exist and we must merely alleviate ourselves of our dependencies to that which no longer serves.

Mahalo

Aloha Ke Akua

From: Emily Miller <esmiller13@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 3:30 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Support SB522

LATE

I work in an industry that is notorious for waste and do my best to prevent it and encourage recycling despite it "adding to the chaos" or being inconvenient to dispose of. The fact of the matter is that grassroots waste prevention can only do so much. As long as single use plastic is available people will have an excuse to use it.

Hawaii and other island nations are especially susceptible to it's waste ending up in the ocean and also being subject to the waste pollution of the whole world.

Let's treat Hawaii like the precious gem that it is and start from the top. I cannot express what an amazing change banning single use plastic bags in California has made for just surface level aesthetic cleanliness.

Who needs straws, really?

Thanks!

Emily Miller
Freelance Film Production
c: 608.358.1711

Sent from my iPhone

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 7:33:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Fiandach	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

LATE

SB-522-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 7:40:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Ann Billian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Plastics pose a threat to the environment because of the breakdown of different types of plastic leads to the release of various toxic chemicals. Plastic debris which is extremely ABUNDANT on the shores of Lana'i and beyond pose a variety of risks to the wildlife and various ecosystems. Plastic is non- biodegradable and thus causes pollution. Also thought to be carcinogenic (l.e water bottles) plastic causes a direct threat to our health as humans. Plastic poses a threat to humans, the environment, and beyond. We need to make changes and we need to make them now. It is very clear that we are doing great harm so it should be an easy decision.