

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
JUDICIARY
and
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Tuesday, February 26, 2019
10:05 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

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

Senate Bill 522, Senate Draft 1 proposes 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, and by businesses selling food and beverages after July 1, 2022; bans the distribution or sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023; creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging; and appropriates funds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following concerns and comments.**

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

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

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

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

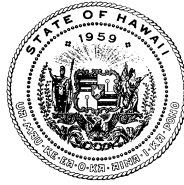
(e) This section shall not apply to the purchase and use of single-use plastic beverage bottles in the following circumstances:

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

¹ The proposed subsection (e) is similar to language in Senate Bill 1543, Senate Draft 1



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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB0522 SD1
RELATING TO PLASTIC**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 26, 2019

Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** \$25,000 General fund appropriation for FY 20 & FY 21 for administration
2 of the Plastic Source Reduction Working Group, and an estimated \$1,000,000 annually to re-
3 establish the Litter Control Office.

4 **Department Testimony:** This bill proposes to prohibit the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of
5 plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws by state
6 and county agencies after July 1, 2021, and by businesses selling food and beverages after
7 July 1, 2022. This bill also bans the distribution or sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023 and
8 creates the Plastic Source Reduction Working Group to make recommendations for eliminating
9 single-use plastic packaging.

10 The Department of Health (Department) offers the following comments. First, Hawaii
11 Revised Statutes, Ch. 342H is not the appropriate placement for the proposed state and county
12 purchasing ban.

13 Second, the measure does not provide accommodations for emergency preparedness or
14 emergency response. The measure prohibits any state or county agency from purchasing, using,
15 or distributing single use plastic beverage bottles, including bottled water. At a minimum, this
16 allowance should be provided.

1 Third, the measure doesn't limit single-use plastic beverage containers to only water.
2 Thus, it would suggest that any imported single-serve beverage would need to be in another
3 material type which may create a new waste material that may not be recyclable or require
4 changes to existing waste collection and management infrastructure. These changes will likely
5 increase costs for counties and private entities.

6 Fourth, the proposed bans for plastic bags and polystyrene containers duplicates existing
7 county bans on these materials. Hawaii County, Maui County, the City and County of Honolulu,
8 and Kauai County each have a plastic bag ban in place; while polystyrene food container bans
9 are active or about to begin in Maui County and Hawaii County.

10 We further note that sales prohibitions do not fit into the area(s) of responsibility of any of the
11 Department's existing regulatory programs. The Department has not enforced litter laws since the
12 abolishment of the Litter Control Office in the late 1990s. We estimate that to re-establish the Litter
13 Control Office with an administrator, one clerical position, and a single inspector for each county will
14 cost approximately \$1,000,000 annually.

15 Finally, we ask that any mandates or appropriations made to implement this measure not impact
16 the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget Request and the Department's appropriations
17 and personnel priorities.

18 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

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SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 3:46:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

To: Hawaii State Senate

Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees

From: George Nguyen

1307 Kalakaua Ave

Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Date: February 26, 2019 Hearing

To whom it may concern:

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

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

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

George Nguyen

Pho Tri Vietnamese Restaurant

1307 Kalakaua Ave

808-341-6012

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 3:51:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senate Committees of Judiciary and Ways and Means,

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

A ban on styrofoam and plastic utensils will be very expsnive for us.

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

Thank you,

Karen Lee

General Manager

Cooke St Diner

605 Cooke St

Honolulu, HI 96813

kar.lee.2007@gmail.com

(808) 597-8080

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 3:59:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 4:00:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Wong	Testifying for LoCo MoCo Drive Inn -Ewa Beach	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha ! I co-own and operate two take-out 'plate lunch' counters here on O'ahu. We have been in business nearly 25 years supporting our families and about a dozen employees.

Using the right to-go containers is important to us. To me nothing works better to keep hot food hot and cold food cold than polystyrene foam containers. And, nothing else keeps its shape when food gets "piled on." Hawaii has a lot of heavy dishes with rice plus big portions of hot, moist food on top and I for one like to fill up my customers.

Already most mom and pops are struggling to stay in business as rent and the cost of ingredients go up. A ban on polystyrene containers could add up to thousands of dollars per year and could be the straw that broke the camel's back. When we last check the cost was double, \$~55 vs. ~\$23 for a case of 200 bio-friendly vs. foam containers. Imagine going through an average of 3 (or more) cases a day, over \$11,000 year.

How would you feel if your favorite (locally owned and operated) take-out restaurant permanently closed shop?

Sincerely,

Eric Wong - Co Owner

Loco Moco Drive Inn - Ewa Beach

Wiki Wiki Drive Inn - Waterfront Plaza

Island Plastic Bags Inc.

TO: Chair Karl Rhoads; Vice Chair Glenn Wakai; and Committee

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

RE: SB 367 SD1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & SB 522 SD1 RELATING TO PLASTIC

POSITION: STRONGLY OPPOSE

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of SB 367 SD1 & SB 522 SD1. My name is Adrian Hong and I am the president of Island Plastic Bags Inc., a second-generation, family business in Halawa Valley that manufactures plastic trash liners and food grade bags. If passed SB 367 SD1 & SB 522 SD1 would create a public health crisis, increase pollution in the state, and lead to loss of many jobs on the island.

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

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

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

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

Island Plastic Bags Inc.

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

Given the great economic and social harm this bill could do, I ask that these bills go no further. There are better ways of reducing the negative impacts of plastics without removing all the good it can do from society. 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

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 1:52:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brodie Lockard	Testifying for Organizing for Action	Support	No

Comments:



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

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

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- Don Murphy
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- Pat Kashani
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- Tiffany Tanaka
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To: Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
 Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agarn, Vice Chair
 Members of Committee on Ways and Means

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
 Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
 Members of Committee on Judiciary

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Lead
 Hawaii Restaurant Association

Subj: SB 522 SD 1 Relating to Plastic

Date: February 24, 2019

The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing over 3,500 restaurants here oppose SB 522 SD1 that prohibits Plastic food packaging, Plastic bags, single use beverage containers, and creates a Plastic Source Reduction Working Group.

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

We do support the bills and initiatives that state that straws should be given out only upon request at full service restaurants similar to the California State law that was passed in 2018. How beverages are consumed varies greatly from the sit down restaurants to the quick service restaurants with drive-thru where many food and beverages are consumed on the go. Alternate straws made from paper, bamboo, metal are all being tested around the world with limited success due to its performance, durability, after taste, and costs. Supply chain is seeking and working towards an alternate product but will not be ready with a good alternate product by July 1, 2021

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

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

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

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





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

Executive Officers

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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*

TO:

Committee on Judiciary and Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chairs
Senator Glenn Wakai and Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 26, 2019
TIME: 10:05am
PLACE: Conference Room 211

RE: SB522 SD1 Relating to Plastic

Position: Oppose

HFIA is in opposition to this measure as it will raise prices on essential items for Hawaii consumers and not address the underlying causes of global marine debris or local littering and waste mismanagement.

Grocery stores and other food retailers would be especially hard hit by this measure. A recent audit of polystyrene and bag bans by the City and County of Honolulu City Auditor determined that:

“Any attempt to regulate the food service industry will impact a wide segment of Honolulu residents, largely in the form of price increases passed on to customers. Some impacts to certain vulnerable classes of residents need to be closely examined to prevent unnecessary effects and harms.”

The City and County of Honolulu City Auditor also determined that:

“Minimizing litter to keep our natural environment safe from harm is an important community objective. To be successful, the city should pursue comprehensive methods rather than a simplistic ban on a single kind of litter/trash that is unlikely to effectively reduce the overall amount of litter and its harm to the environment.”

For these reasons we ask that this measure be held.

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 6:55:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:



sustainable coastlines Hawaii

SB 522: Strong Support
Hearing: Feb 26, 2019 10:05 AM
Committee on JDC/WAM

Dear Members of the Senate JDC & WAM Committees,

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

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. Surfrider Foundation 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
Surfrider Foundation, O'ahu Chapter Coordinator

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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SENATE JOINT COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND WAYS & MEANS

February 26, 2019 10:05 a.m. Room 211

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

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Wakai and Keith-Agaran, and members of the committees,

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

We strongly support passage of SB522 SD1 and urge the committees to reinstate the original language of the bill.

Polystyrene foam containers are ultra-light, produce litter on land, and often are blown into the ocean, where they harm marine life, including sea birds, fish, mammals and even our precious corals that protect Hawai'i's shorelines. Single-use plastics (straws, bags, bottles, utensils) similarly break into smaller and smaller pieces that choke seabirds and other marine life and carry bacteria that harms many forms of sea life.

The language of the original bill required that single-use plastic beverage containers be banned by 2025. We applaud this requirement and urge the committees to reinstate this language. There are more sustainable alternatives to plastics that would involve only a small increase for consumers, with far less impact on our pristine environment. We must act now to protect our environment by reducing plastic use!

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support of SB522 SD1**.

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

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:32:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Suehiro	Testifying for Nabeya Maido	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

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

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

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

get along. You all want to do things black or white, but if you can find a way to meet somewhere in the gray. Find something that you can offer the small businesses as a viable alternative to styrofoam, and I do not mean viable meaning it can do everything that styrofoam does,,,,,,but at 10x the price. Going with waxed coated containers or compostable containers with waxed paper lining or aluminum foil lining, does that really solve the problem? Waxed paper or aluminum foil flying into the ocean wouldn't seem to be an acceptable alternative either right? And to make all the compostable containers, where are we going to get the wood pulp from, are we going to cut down the trees that the world with climate change needs so dearly?

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

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

Mahalos,

Kevin Suehiro

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:45:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryce Fujimoto	Testifying for Shiro's Saimin Haven	Oppose	No

Comments:

2/25/19

JDC and WAM Committees:

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

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

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

This change to green containers would be more palatable if we had a compost station to process the green containers - unfortunately we do not have this and everything goes to H-power anyways.

We are all for protecting the environment but we ask that this ban is not rushed. Right now it just doesn't make sense. Containing trash to trash bins by using lids etc, regulating the transportation of trash might be better. Hopefully we can all work together to find a solution that does not have such a drastic impact on restaurants, especially small restaurants like mine.

Sincerely,

Bryce Fujimoto

VP/Catering Manager

Shiro's Saimin Haven

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

808-488-8824



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

**Before the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways & Means
Opposition to S.B. 522 S.D. 1– Relating to Plastic
February 26, 2019**

Good morning Chair Rhoads and Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committees. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition to S.B. 522 S.D. 1 – relating to plastic.

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

Beverage industry’s local impact on Hawaii’s economy

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

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

Plastic beverage bottles are not single-use products

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

The beverage industry produces aluminum, glass and plastic beverage containers that are 100% recyclable – even the plastic caps are recyclable. All of these beverage containers can be collected, recycled and made into new beverage containers – and the plastic beverage bottles can be recycled and used in the manufacturing of other consumer goods such as carpets and clothing. The recycled PET (rPET) from our bottles 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 bottles. Also, Honolulu offers many of its residents with curbside recycling which provides an easy way to recycle plastic bottles while other counties offer community recycling drop-off centers.

Conclusion

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

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

Sincerely,
David Thorp

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:23:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacey Gray	Testifying for No Single Use Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I urge you to support the single-use-plastics ban. Single use plastics are designed to be used once and disposed of. This use of petrochemical derived packaging and utensils is unsustainable and in no means pono. We have a duty and obligation to protect the aina and the ocean for not only our dependancy, but of future generations. By continuing to allow the use of these harmful products we are harming ourselves in the interest of saving a few cents. To this organization, the environment is a higher priority than profiting from saving an extra \$.27 per plate lunch (which we love).

Mahalo again for supporting this important step in the right direction for Hawaii's future.

-No Single Use Hawaii



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

February 25, 2019

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and FIN and WAM Committee Members:

My name is Nicole Chatterson, and I am Mānoa resident and Director of Zero Waste O'ahu. I am writing in **strong support of SB 522**, the plan to phase out single-use plastics by July 2025. This type of single-use plastic phase-out policy is being seen around the world. From island nations like New Zealand and the United Kingdom to places in the global south like Costa Rica and Ethiopia, communities are saying no single-use plastics on the basis of climate change mitigation and pollution prevention.

If single-use plastic consumption maintains on the current trajectory, **plastic use will account of 20% of our fossil fuel use by 2050¹**. 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 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 chain⁴**.

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>



If Hawai'i is indeed serious about our commitment to the Paris Climate Accord and mitigating our climate footprint, it is clear that single-use plastic reduction is a necessary part of our climate change prevention tool-kit. Plastic pollution reduction and movement away from a single-use economy are directly tied to the Aloha + Challenge goal to reduce our solid waste footprint and build sustainable communities. Further, plastic and single-use reduction also correspond to the following [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#), which have been adopted as a framework by the Hawai'i State Senate.

- **SDG 12 = Responsible Production & Consumption**
- **SDG 13 = Climate Action**
- **SDG 14 = Life Below Water**
- **SDG 15 = Life on Land**

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

CONTROL MEASURE	TIER 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%

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nicole Chatterson, Director of Zero Waste O'ahu

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:51:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

Oppose Plastics and Foam Food Container Ban, SB 522
Feb. 26, 2019 Hearing - Judiciary and Ways and Means

Dear Senators:

We are a small Chinese restaurant in Honolulu Chinatown. It's a family run business with 24 seats and about 40 guests a day. Nearly 60% of our business is take-out. Foam containers do not leak and keep food hot which is important for take-out customers.

I want repeat customers and have only raised my price once in 4 years. \$8.00 plate lunch raised to \$8.50. We serve tasty, affordable meals and try to keep it affordable for our customers who are very familiar with my price.

My sales are predictable and I also cater and deliver to surrounding companies. To keep my prices low and to pay workers I use foam containers. I have gone to Chef Zone and looked at other containers but they cost 3X more than the foam containers.

Rent is very high, cost of vegetables and meat is very high. Meat is the highest wholesale price compared to other states. I can only control labor not these other price increases. I do not want to reduce hours or lay off workers who need jobs.

I want choice of what containers I use. If our business grows I can even get the higher costing containers.

Instead of ban on foam containers, regulate trash and have a place for it to go so it avoids the ocean.

Thank you,

Gaven Wu
Papa's Café
1120 Maunakea Street #105
Honolulu
(808) 523-8668



February 25, 2019

To: The Honorable Karl Rhodes, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Tim Shestek, Senior Director
State Affairs

RE: SB 522 SD1 - OPPOSE

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose SB 522 SD1, which would ban the use of single-use plastic beverage bottles, bags, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam foodservice containers and straws in Hawaii. ACC and its members certainly support efforts to reduce litter and marine debris; however, SB 522 SD1 appears to be drafted under the false assumption that alternatives to these products are environmentally preferable.

ACC membership includes the leading suppliers and manufacturers of plastics foodservice packaging products, including polystyrene food and beverage containers. Unfortunately, the proposed bill is based on many misperceptions including that alternative food service materials leave a lighter environmental footprint and can be easily recycled or composted.

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

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

Impacts on Trash Generation/Disposal/Litter

New policies and practices should ensure that no waste, plastic or otherwise, ends up having a negative impact on the environment. SB 522 SD1 fails to recognize that litter and improper waste management are independent of material type. In fact, a study recently completed by the Honolulu City Auditor found that a "simplistic ban on a single kind of litter or trash is unlikely to effectively reduce the overall amount of litter and its harm to the environment"¹.

Litter studies conducted following the enactment of a ban have shown an increase in the litter of alternative materials that is greater than the decline in the banned material. For example, when the City of San Francisco placed restrictions on the use of certain plastic foodservice products, the City found that replacement products became more dominant in the litter stream². For this reason the California State Water Resources Control Board rejected the use of bans as a compliance mechanism for waterborne trash reduction³.

¹ http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oca/oca_docs/PS_Ban_Study_Final_Report.pdf

² https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/stormwater/MRP/02-2012/Comments/Dart/Staff_Exhibits.pdf

³ http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/trash_control/docs/trash_sr_040715.pdf



Assessing Polystyrene Foam and Likely Replacement Products

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

- Polystyrene cups weigh anywhere from two to five times less than comparable paper packaging products which means fewer air emissions when transporting products⁴.
- A polystyrene hot beverage cup requires about 50% LESS energy to produce than a similar plastic-coated paperboard cup with a corrugated cup sleeve, and creates significantly fewer greenhouse gas emissions than a similar coated paper-based cup with its corrugated sleeve.
- Studies conducted for Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) showed that banning polystyrene foam food take-out containers would dramatically increase environmental impacts by doubling the greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, and waste associated with the use of alternative products⁵.

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

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

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

Reality: Nothing biodegrades in a landfill because nothing is supposed to⁶.

Lastly, replacements for polystyrene products will likely result in higher operating costs for restaurants, food trucks, delis, schools and the host of other food providers covered under SB 522 SD1. Polystyrene containers cost 2-3 times less than replacement products, which in some cases do not perform well, especially for very hot and cold food and beverages.

Plastic Beverage Bottles

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

Additionally, manufacturers of plastic beverage bottles are continually looking for ways to lighten their environmental footprint by reducing the raw materials used in PET plastic through light weighting, redesign, and use of post-consumer recycled materials. Between 2000 and 2014, the average weight of a single-serve PET bottled water container dropped by 51% and bottled water companies are already using up to 50% recycled material in their plastic bottles. SB 522 SD1 will shift consumption to other products that are not as widely recycled and use significantly more resources to manufacture.

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

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

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



Straws

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

Instead of banning plastic straws as proposed in SB 522 SD1, we would instead encourage material suppliers, product makers, food/drink establishments and NGOs to work collaboratively to promote the responsible use of straws, such as adopting an "upon request" policy.

Efforts to Address Litter and Marine Debris

ACC and its members take seriously the issue of litter and marine debris. To that end, ACC is working domestically and internationally with government officials, retailers, anti-litter groups and consumers to devise solutions to prevent litter and marine debris.

On January 16th global companies in the plastic value chain including many ACC members announced the creation of a new non-profit called the Alliance to End Plastic Waste. This new group is committing \$1.5 Billion over five years to end plastic waste and will focus on providing help to the largest sources of plastic in our ocean.

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

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

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

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



SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:24:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Tues. Feb 26, 2019 - Hearing

Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means

SB 522 - Oppose

Members of the Committees:

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

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

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

http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oaca/oaca_docs/PS_Ban_Study_Final_Report.pdf

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

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

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

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

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

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:29:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

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

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ways and Means

Aloha Senators,

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

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

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

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

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

Please do not support these foam container ban bills.

Sincerely,

Gwen Alejo-Herring

Queen Street Cafe & Grill

99-080 Kauhale Street Aiea,

HI 96701

galejherring@gmail.com

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:30:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Dombrosky	Testifying for HNA FOOD SERVICES LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: Hawaii State Senate

Ways and Means and Judiciary

From: Tsukenjo Restaurant

Aloha Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

Aloha,

Deborah Dombrosky

HNA Food Service LLC dba Tsukenjo's

1148 Bishop St

Hon, HI 96813

808-779-4328

tsukenjo705@gmail.com

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:33:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Kim	Testifying for Jets Fast Food	Oppose	No

Comments:

Senate JUD/WAM Hearing

Tues. Feb. 26, 2019 SB522 - Oppose Bans on Polystyrene Food Service Products

Dear Senators,

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

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

Thank you

James Kim

Jets Fast Food

2957 Koapaka Street

(808) 833-7155

more1s@icloud.com

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:40:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Morita	Testifying for Tatsuos	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are opposed to this bill, because we feel that it will raise the cost of the new products even higher. Small mom and pop stores will have a hard time because we will have to adjust to the increase in price, higher cost for plate lunches ,etc. For us as a very small business, we wouldn't like to pass on the additional cost to our customers who are also struggling everyday.

I really feel that education at the lower levels in school is the way to go. Just like recycling programs, fire education in the elementary schools, the DARE programs from the police dept. I feel that early education and awareness is the key, because its not the product it self thats the problem, its us as humans who are negilegent and careless about littering and proper disposal.

Tatsuos

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:51:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Hatcher	Testifying for Kahili Adventist School	Support	No

Comments:

As a teacher of a small school that sits near an eastside beach on Kauai my students and I see our share of plastics that wash up on the beach. We spend a fair amount of time at the beach for swimming class as well as science. We work with our local chapter of the Surfrider Foundation to help clean up these plastics. I know a lot of the plastic comes from far away but we still see our fair share of plastics from local sources such as stores and resturants. I teach the students the importance of caring for our state's ecosystems, especially the marine one. Please consider being forward thinking as well and banning these local sources of plastics.

Mahalo

Keith Hatcher, Principal

Kahili Adventist School

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 3:39:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tien phan	Testifying for Stadium pho	Oppose	No

Comments:

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

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



LATE

**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
February 26, 2019
Re: SB 522 SD1 Relating to Plastics**

Good morning Chairperson Rhoads and Chairperson Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) as founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii OPPOSES SB 522 SD1 Relating to Plastics. This measure would 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, and by businesses selling food and beverages after July 1, 2022. Bans the distribution or sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023. Creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging. Appropriates funds.

Bans are not the simple answer. We need to maintain a fair balance regarding food service containers, bags, straws and other products and look at a coordinated litter reduction programs.

Businesses respond to the wants of the customers that patronize their establishments all while operating on a very thin profit margin. Many establishments are already giving out straws only upon request. Businesses look for cost effective food containers that ensure that products are durable enough to protect people from spills and burns as well as keep food protected and fresh longer by sustaining appropriate temperature.

A mere substitution of polystyrene type containers, plastic straws, beverage containers and bags to another type will NOT result in reduced trash as more than likely the substitution product would be discarded in the same manner.

We need to be looking into a comprehensive litter reduction program that not only takes into account educating the public, but also looking for alternative solutions like public trash cans that are designed so that it will keep its content from flying out. We believe that a plastic resource reduction working group is a step in the right direction provided that there is a balance of participants from both the business and the environmental community.

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

In addition, we question if this measure would violate interstate commerce by banning the sale of prepackaged food items like that of Cup of Noodle and single use beverage containers like bottled water.

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

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:33:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juliana Sung	Testifying for Pancakes & Waffles BLD Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:25:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Howdeshell	Testifying for Restaurant	Oppose	No

Comments:

Mostly we need plastic straws for kids. I don't think most business use a lot of straws anyway. Let the public decide by telling a business that they will not support them if they use straws. Your arbitrary deadlines and regulations make it hard on small business.

Feb. 25, 2019

In Support of SB522 SD1 Relating to Plastic
Senate Committees on Judiciary (JDC) & Ways And Means (WAM)
Feb. 26, 2019, 10:05 am, Room 211

Aloha, Chairs Rhoads & Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Wakai and Keith-Aragan and Members of the Committees:

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

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

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

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

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

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



recyclable and compostable products because they see the writing on the wall.

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

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

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

Aloha,

Stuart Coleman

Stuart H. Coleman, Hawaii Manager

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 6:42:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lei Shimabukuro	Testifying for Wipeout Crew	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:36:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Geraldine Stephanie Bibilone	Testifying for Hale Inu Sports Bar	Oppose	No

Comments:

As the owner of a sports bar in Hilo I'm deeply concerned regarding this legislation since we see no viable and affordable alternatives to plastic utensils, straws, portion cups and water bottles. The additional expense to replace these items with paper, wood, and glass will present a significant financial burden upon us. It is important to us that small businesses like ours either be exempt from this legislation or that it not pass. Please consider us.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & WAYS AND MEANS

February 26, 2019 10:05 a.m. Room 211

In **SUPPORT** of **SB 522 SD1**: Relating to plastic

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of both committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB 522 SD1**, which seeks 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, and by businesses selling food and beverages after July 1, 2022. Bans the distribution or sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023. Creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging. Appropriates funds.

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

We are currently experiencing a plastic pollution epidemic here in Hawai'i. Single-use plastics pollute our lands and freshwater bodies, clog up drainage systems, harm wildlife and ultimately end up in our ocean waters--settling on our reefs and, in some places, creating massive large collections of trash, such as The Great Pacific Garbage Patch which is currently twice the size of Texas and growing. This patch is located between Hawaii and California, but close enough to Hawaii where we see and feel the significant effects of this plastic trash on even the most remote of beaches that can be found in the state. The toxins and heavy chemicals found in plastics are not compostable or biodegradable and can take 500 years or more to decompose. They create an overabundance of waste that continually overflows local landfills and overflows our beaches. This is particularly concerning for our economy being that tourists don't want to visit beaches engulfed in plastic pollution.



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

We have been trying to pass these bills for years now, and this is the year to do it. Companies will be able to make this transition as they have had many years to understand the movement away from plastic and polystyrene is happening and that they need to adapt as well. Change isn't always easy, but it is inevitable. 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. There are currently many eco-friendly, biodegradable, compostable alternatives to single-use plastic with more constantly being developed. The market is changing, people want to be able to contribute to a healthier environment and don't mind the added few cent fee that these new products could bring.

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

*We urge the Committee to pass this measure, which will serve our collective efforts to keep Hawai'i's land, freshwater bodies, and oceans free of plastic pollution as well as protect the health of our people. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of SB 522 SD1.***

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



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 10:05 A.M.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

LATE

RE: SB 522 SD1, RELATING TO PLASTIC

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Wakai and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **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. SB 522 SD1 would also create the plastic source reduction working group

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

We **oppose** SB 522 SD1 because it will raise the cost for both business and consumers and will impact jobs in the local manufacturing industry of FDA approved, food-grade food service containers. Creating a mandate for the use of compostable and other plastic containers stifles the free market place, where businesses and consumers have the right to choose among the various types of safe, FDA approved food service containers.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 5:47:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DEREK CONSELVA	Testifying for Hawaii Restaurant Association	Oppose	No

Comments:



**SB 522sd1, Relating to Plastic
Senate JDC/WAM Decision Making Hearing
Tuesday, February 26, 2019
10:05 am – Room 211
Position: Oppose**

Chair Rhoads and Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate JDC/WAM Committees:

KYD, Inc. dba: K. Yamada Distributors opposes SB522sd1 that would ban the sale and use of polystyrene foam food containers.

We believe in stronger litter management programs that curtail land-based litter from migrating to waterways and the ocean. This means public education and consequences for proper disposal of litter and a call for civic responsibility.

We offer the following information for consideration as the Committee deliberates over SB 522sd1:

- **FDA-Approved¹ PS foam food containers are no more harmful to fish and ocean wildlife than other manmade materials, and are not likely to become marine debris**

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

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

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

¹ FDA Regulation Title 21 CFR 177.1640



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

According to Steven Stein, an environmental scientist who studies litter, banning one material will not reduce the overall litter in waterways. "Food-service containers made of polystyrene are a minor component of litter and, because there is no reusable alternative, a ban simply will substitute other materials that also end up in our waterways."

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/opinion-la/la-ol-polystyrene-food-takeout-containers-ban-20170628-story.html>

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

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

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

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

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



Supply Chain Disruption and Impact on Business and Residents:

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

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

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

It is prudent for policy makers to pause and assess the true impact of bans imposed on Maui and the pending Big Island Ban before implementing a statewide policy.

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

Exhibit 3.4 Monthly and Annual Cost Estimates for Non-Polystyrene Food Containers by Types of Restaurants

Source: OmniTrak and Office of City Auditor

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 3:02:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 3:38:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colby Takeda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 6:18:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mia Melamed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 5:31:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Aragan, 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**

I am in support of this bill because plastic pollution is having detrimental impacts on our environment, and will continue to do so if we don't do something about it. I am personally afraid for the health of our beautiful islands, because of how much plastic is causing harm to wildlife, and building up in our natural ecosystems.

We need to realize that we can't be so dependent on single use plastics, and must begin to eliminate them from our lives. I believe this bill could be a huge step towards a more environmentally safe future.

Thank you again for your consideration of this serious issue.

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 8:19:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorraine Garnier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORTING 522 sd1

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:14:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Silver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:29:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB522 SD1with AMENDMENTS

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for putting the welfare of our planet above the inconvenience to businesses, big and small. As someone who grew up working for a large family company and who runs my own business today, I have learned that businesses need to constantly keep up with changes in the market place. And as consumers, we have all had to make changes to keep up with technology, culture - and now climate.

At the rate the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is growing, with the tonage of plastics and polystyrene imported into Hawaii and discarded somewhere in our environment - four years is too long to course-correct. Businesses do not need four years, or even three years, to use up their current stock of single-use plastics, or find alternate vendors and solutions. Real estate prices in Hawaii are too high to order these materials in such bulk and pay for storage; furthermore, they have been on notice for more than a decade that we were making these changes.

I urge this committee to amend the deadlines in the bill to reflect the urgency of the matter and ban all single-use plastics by July 1, 2021 - this will give businesses and consumers two years to get finally with the program. If we can expect government agencies to make this change in two years, we can certainly expect private industry to do so in that same time - if not sooner.

Sincerely,

Kim Coco Iwamoto

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:25:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:35:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:40:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ian Earle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because as a collective group, we need to start taking real and significant action now, before it is too late, to mitigate the negative human footprint on the environment. This bill is one small step in the right direction.

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:42:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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 Hawa'i residents and visitors. The feedback from these programs is overwhelmingly unified: Get Single-Use Plastics Out! This bill address the "low hanging fruit" of senseless 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.

Jennifer Milholen

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:57:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
june chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:58:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaliko Amona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:08:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

As a representative of Hawai'i's youth, I urge you to pass this bill that would help protect our environment and people into the future. As an avid surfer and beachgoer, I have seen the direct negative impacts of plastic pollution and single-use plastics must be phased out. This bill would phase out a variety of single-use plastics over a 5-year period and create a working group to eliminate plastic packaging in Hawai'i. Included in the phase out is polystyrene foam, plastic straws, utensils, bags, and water bottles. The phase out will begin in State agencies and then be eliminated from food service sectors of business. We need this because as an island community the impacts of plastic pollution (particularly in the ocean) has a direct impact on us and we have the opportunity to set precedent and create a positive example for other nations to follow. There are many healthier, safer, eco-friendly, and economically viable alternatives to single use plastics that we should explore instead. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:20:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Moriah Prescia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a member of the community, I have seen the detrimental effects that plastic has on our environment. Single use items are used for 20 minutes, and are subsequently a part of our environment forever. Plastic floods our beaches, threatens marine life, and ultimately ends up in our food and water systems. We cannot go on like this. Without regulation, this problem will grow exponentially. This ban will put the fight against plastic at the forefront of our communities, and will encourage creativity and innovation for a sustainable future.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:32:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Ross	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:36:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anny Barlow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:54:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phil Schlieder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting my testimony in support of the ban on plastics. As an avid scuba diver, surfer, and free diver I see the affects of our pollution, specifically plastic. The other day when I was scuba diving I saw 1 plastic bag and 3 plastic bottles out at turtle canyon. Right next to the beautiful Honu. We need to step up as a state to ban these items and become leaders to the global with marine conservation.

Thank you,

-Phil

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:10:35 AM
Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kela Megorden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the phase out of single-use plastics.

Testimony of
ELENA ZUCCHINI

Hawai'i resident

LATE

Before the Senate Committees on

JUDICIARY

AND

WAYS & MEANS

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

10:05 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of

SENATE BILL 522, SD1

RELATING TO PLASTIC

Aloha Chairs Karl Rhoads and Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Glenn Wakai and Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways & Means.

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, SD1, which seeks to prohibit the use of plastic bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws by state agencies as well as the distribution or sale of plastic bags and the sale or distribution of single-use plastic beverage containers.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 522, SD1.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:13:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:22:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

This measure is so important to me personally and in the field I work in (environmental). In order to protect the environment and marine resources for future generations, plastic should be banned and this is just one step in the right direction that we can take in order to conserve our resources.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:35:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Coleman Langstaff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:53:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Ironhill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:58:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lauren kristi layman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in full support of this bill, SB522 SD1. Let's be the change, the Aloha, we wish to see in the world.

Mahalo,

kristi

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:02:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenna Neher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes to SB522! This bill is necessary because Hawaii intends to be the leader of sustainability in the United States! Santa Monica city has already passed ordinances with the same goal in mind and we should be doing the same. The phase out of polystyrene foam, plastic straws, utensils, bags, and water bottles is 100% necessary to be globally conscious today.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:04:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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.

Last year a whale died in Thailand after swallowing 17 pounds of plastic, and a dead sperm whale washed ashore in Spain with 64 pounds of plastic in its stomach. Birds, fish and sea turtles also commonly mistake plastic for food. The great garbage patch circulating between Hawaii and California is steadily growing. Most 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

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:48:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kai chase	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB522!

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:25:09 PM
Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:29:26 PM
Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Siegal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Styrofoam and other single use plastics are unnecessary and produce a high social cost for all residents on the island. There are many biodegradable or reusable alternatives that should be considered to work towards reducing this waste and reliance on fossil fuels.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:43:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

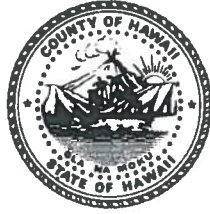
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Francis Whitmore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We live in a unique place home to some of the most fragile ecosystems on earth. With affordable bio-degradable options available to businesses, I personally see no need to continue to allow the use of single-use plastics like styrofoam on our islands--so many of which end up in areas that cause harm to marine life.

As a state composed of islands in the middle of this great ocean, we should be leading the charge to ban these harmful materials and hence set an example for the rest of our nation and the world.

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



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

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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

LATE

February 25, 2019

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON SB 522 SD 1, RELATING TO PLASTIC
Committee on Judiciary
Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 26, 2019
10:05 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Ho'omalulu, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:


I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support on SB 522 SD 1, relating to plastic. My testimony is submitted by my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Committee on Public Safety.

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit plastic bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, and polystyrene foam containers by State agencies, and businesses selling food and beverages. It bans the sale and distribution of single-use plastic beverage containers and creates a plastic source reduction working group that will provide recommendations of eliminating single-use plastic packaging.

Single-use disposable food ware and packaging, including plastic bottles, caps, lids, straws, cups, and polystyrene and plastic containers are major contributors to street and beach litter, ocean pollution, marine and other wildlife harm, and greenhouse gas emissions. Much of the plastic produced is designed to be thrown away after a single use, as a result these materials account for about half of the plastic waste in the world. Most plastic ends up in landfills, dumps, or in the environment. Alternatives to plastic currently exist for many take-out items and innovative change for packaging is advancing globally. Locally, plastic litter and debris can be found on every island and in every watershed and protected area in the State of Hawai'i. Hawai'i's forests, streams, and beaches are strewn with plastic debris which are consumed by the smallest of endangered birds to the humpback whale. These pollutants are in the seawater and freshwater which can and is being transferred to fish, other seafood, and salt that is eventually being consumed by humans. Creating a working group that can address these concerns and recommend solutions will assist the elimination of plastic litter massively affecting our environment and health.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Committee on Judiciary, the Committee on Ways and Means 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

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:53:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthias Keller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Matthias Keller and i support this bill. We as a community need to start moving toward zero waste and learn that there is no throw away. Our childrens children might still have a chance at seeing plastic free beaches. I remember what it was like, let's get back to it!

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:55:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yui Hartman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:58:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a 16 year old high schooler, I strongly support SB522. I regularly go to the beach, and when I go to South Shore beaches such as Ala Moana and Waikiki, the amount of land based trash is unbelievable. Single-use plastic waterbottles, utensils, straws, food containers, and much more are everywhere. They are an eyesore and dangerous to both the environment and human health. This bill is an important step towards making Hawaii a sustainable state, and will help to level the playing field for businesses. Many local businesses are making the change to become more sustainable, but other, larger corporations are not doing so, and therefore is limiting local businesses in their ability to become sustainable. Also, this bill will help to preserve our beautiful Hawaii for current and future generations, and as a youth who will inherit this Earth I beg you to pass SB522. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:00:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Valhuerdi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe it is in Hawaii and the worlds best interest to phase out plastic production completely. It is extremely harmful to our oceans and ecosystems and I think this is a great way to phase out plastic use in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:22:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Elected Officials,

I support this bill. Litter and marine debris is a huge problem in Hawaii. On Saturday, Feb 23, 2019- 200 volunteers removed Over 4000 lbs of marine debris and litter off Kauai's East Side with Surfrider Foundation and B*Rad Foundation. I was part of this cleanup. So please let's pass SB522 to reduce the plastic pollution and marine debris on Hawaii's Shores.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Barbara Wiedner

Surfrider Foundation , Kauai Chapter

Marine Debris Removal Program

808-635-2593

1774 Puu Kaa St

Kapaa HI 96746

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:47:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Levora	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a young adult that cares deeply about the amount of pollution we produce. Moving away from single use plastics is difficult because we have become so reliant on it. Although this is a needed step that will encourage our population to make conscious decisions about our personal choices in regards to our individual production of waste and our impact on our fragile island environment.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:28:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair and committee:

We need Plastic Free legislation of all kinds. SB 522 is wide sweeping and should be passed (aka zero waste plan) as should SB11 (aka foam ban).

The time is now. We all see the piles of waste at the Alawai Boat Harbor and DLNR states it does not have time to clean it up so it just stays there stagnant. This is just one example of the stagnant waste in our waters, streams, beaches and other environments.

Please don't fail to pass these bills as the city did. There will be something wrong with our system if you do. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Linda Wong

leiahi@me.co

member of Diamondhead Neighborhood Board

Hawaii Thousand Friends,

Sierra Club,

Surfrider Foundation

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:41:41 PM
Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse Owens, Ph. D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill supports a massively important initiative to reduce unnecessary single-use plastics in Hawaii. These plastics fill landfills, and pollute the oceans. The obvious right thing to do is to support reusable containers which do not inconvenience people anyway. This is the direction that Hawaii needs to be going in! I support this bill!

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:44:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ku'ulei Neher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:46:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Connor Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:05:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kristin dong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:24:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

We need to do all we can to protect the health and sustainability of our environment!

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:03:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because plastic pollution needs to be stopped immediately and this bill outlines the most used single-use plastics. This bill will surely change Hawaii and the approach and ideas of the world towards a cleaner and sustainable future.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:43:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Audrey Alessi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please please please help us save our marine life! the excessive use of plastics ending up in our oceans is harmful!

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:55:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hailey Kuo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 3:06:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. I believe we need to get away from all the single use plastics. It is very wasteful and bad for our environment. Many other countries and cities have passed similar things to eliminate wasteful single use plastics. I hope Hawaii can be on the forefront of this movement to protect our valuable oceans.

Mahalo,

Joshua Thomas

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:59:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jaimie chhu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 3:42:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurel Perun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 3:46:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Plastic is negatively effecting our ecosystems on a visible level, microscopic level, and everything in between. It is polluting our water systems, food chains, marine life, and future. Banning plastic would prevent a significant amount from ending up in landfills and oceans so I strongly support the end to it!

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:02:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yoshio Akaha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our plastic usage is out of control and needs to be reigned in. Plastic is not cheap when you consider the toll it takes in our environment.

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:13:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zack Stoddard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is time we follow the environmentally friendly policies of the EU and other places around the world and move away from single-use plastics.

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:06:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lana Shea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please put the Environment first! We have other options! Let's make the world a cleaner place!

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:27:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the phase out of single use plastics. We need to work in a more closed-cycle system (reusable items only) to sustain our community here on the islands and more broadly on Island Earth. I think that the working group to reduce plastic packaging is important and addresses a critical issue that often is overlooked. Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Christina Comfort

Resident, Haleiwa - Pupukea neighborhood

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:58:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marvin Heskett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

Please support this critical bill to help Hawaii lead the way in reducing the plastics that are washing up on our beaches. Single use plastics that have made their way into the ocean have become the single largest and most immediate threat to marine life. We must stop using these incredibly dangerous goods irresponsibly. We've learned from science and overcame threats to the ozone layer, lead in paint and other toxic substances such as DDT. It's time to make the same call on single use plastics before time runs out for more of our marine cousins who are choking to death on the stuff as we discuss.

Thank You,
Marvin Heskett

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 5:09:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sage Minato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 5:14:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bronte Kaneakua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 5:21:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Tamamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Once again, please do not raise the cost of living to Hawaii residents. As I'm sure you already know, we are losing more residents every year. I hate to say it, but if things continue on this path, then we will also consider moving

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 5:32:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doug Killpatrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 6:43:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandre Vaquer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I totally support SB522 for the same reasons as SB11 and SB367.

The change is now for our keikis.

SB 522
Relating to Single-Use Plastics
In Strong Support

LATE

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 , 10:05am
Room: Conference Room 211
Committees: Committee on Judiciary (JDC), Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the JDC committee,
Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the WAM committee,

my name is Natalie Wohner, I am from Germany and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa getting my Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering. Growing up on the beach in North Germany, I developed a deep connection to the nature. I'm an avid kitesurfer, and since I moved to Hawaii more than 7 years ago, I fell in love even more with the ocean. Hawai'i has a special place in my heart, not only because of its beauty, but also it's people that are loving and taking care of each other and the land.

I strongly support SB 522, prohibiting the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws, due to its negative impact on the environment and human health. In Hawaii our trash gets burned or goes to the landfill, and recycled materials get shipped away. We don't have a system in place that directly deals with it, such as source reduction.

When I moved here I have noticed a lot plastic washing up on the beaches, completely covering some eastern shorelines especially after big swells or northern winds. I have seen monk seals resting on piles of trash, turtles fighting their way back to the sea through pieces of plastic, lines of big and small plastic pieces everywhere. I have never seen anything like this before, until I moved here. I understand that this plastic pollution is not coming from hawaiian shorelines, but from other parts of the world, being dumped in the ocean and getting stuck in gyres, until it washes up on the world's shorelines. More and more pictures are showing up on social media of people from all over the world showing beaches covered in plastics, birds and whales that are found dead with tons of plastic in their stomach. (see pictures below.)

We are swamped every day by reminders that plastics are a threat to our ecosystem, and yet, every day there is more plastic produced, most everyday items are made or wrapped in plastics, and we have no solution in sight on how to deal with the huge amount of plastic we produce other than burning it or dumping into the landfill.. This is a collective global problem with no one in particular to blame for, but Hawai'i contributes to this problem, like every other place on earth, but we can change our throw-away culture by choosing more sustainable options that are readily available.



Mumbai, Juhu beach covered in plastics. (Credits: @haram_khor_ Instagram, Ganesh Vanare)



Researchers removing 4-inch plastic straw from a sea turtle's nose (Credit: Nathan J. Robinson)



Laysan albatross found dead in Midway Atoll - stomach filled with plastics (Credit: Chris Jordan).

The University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Maui and the Big Island have already passed a ban on polystyrene containers, as well as many other cities, countries, such as New York City, Seattle, Takoma Park, Miami Beach, Portland (Maine), Nantucket County, Minneapolis, Portland (Oregon), Los Angeles, San Francisco, even Zimbabwe in Africa!

The European Union has banned all single-use plastics, together New Delhi, Taiwan, Bali, UK, and plastic bag bans in Australia, Rwanda, Morocco, just to name a few.

These and many more countries and cities are recognizing that it is more important to work on source reduction rather than continuing to create more waste, and I hope Hawai'i will do the same! Instead of fighting for each material separately, it is more efficient to tackle all single-use plastics together at once and step up as a leader in sustainability.

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

Aloha nui loa,
Natalie Wohner

Contact: natalie.wohner@gmail.com

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:34:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Single-use plastics are not sustainable. There's plastic litter all over and it's harming the health and beauty of the islands. Please take action today.

Thank you.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:37:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittany Huntington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our island home requires that we take a proactive stance to reduce single use plastic waste and land fill and recycle options are limited. I support aggressive movement on this issue to reduce our island-waste.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:58:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mariana Chinellato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Hawaii resident, I strongly support SB522 so that we can strengthen our path towards zero waste on the islands. The plastic epidemic is getting out of control and the time to stop and reverse it is now, before it's too late. I don't want plastic floating on our oceans, killing our coral reefs, fish, turtles. We are paying the consequences of all the plastic that was ever produced, but we can change that if we work together towards zero waste.

Just yesterday, I was swimming in gorgeous Lanikai (undoubtedly one of the most beautiful beaches on Oahu), water was clear until the tide started coming in and I found myself surrounded by pieces of plastic - from single-use containers to commercial fishing broken-down plastic objects. In five minutes, I picked up at least 30 pieces, some of which had been clearly floating in the ocean for a long while and even had bite marks from turtles or fish. Heartbreaking. We have to stop this now. I want my future children to enjoy a pristine ocean, not one covered in floating plastic.

Mahalo,

Mariana Chinellato, Kailua 96734

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:04:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alexandra gorbacheva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is our responsibility to take action and reduce the purchase and use of materials and objects that harm our land and earth. Having this bill passed will be a step towards change. If others are not taking action it is our responsibility.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:22:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Please support this bill because we need to reduce plastic consumption from point of purchase. We cannot clean enough beaches or recycle enough products to solve this problem. We vitally need to reduce production as well. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:24:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hyeonjo Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Since I came to Hawaii last year, I have seen many people using too much of plastic bags too much, and many groceries packed in plastic containers. I realized that it is a reality that the used plastic bags and containers are not collected separately but are thrown away with ordinary waste. Plastics that cannot even be recycled may eventually cause great environmental problems in Hawaii, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. To achieve the sustainable prosperity of human society, I believe we need to control these plastic usage in our daily life. Therefore, I support the Zero Waste Hawaii Bill.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:55:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support this bill because the plastic pollution statewide is getting out of control. Every beach cleanup I go to it seems like there is more plastic than the last time. It's affecting tourism, it's affecting wildlife, it's affecting quality of life for kamaaina. Some businesses are already voluntarily doing this with the support of groups like ocean friendly restaurants. This bill needs to happen and it needs to happen NOW!

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:33:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:02:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Miyao	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Hawaii State Senate,

I am concerned with SB 522: RELATING TO PLASTIC. Would this legislation have a significant environmental impact and has the legislature considered the economic ramifications?

The language of the bill mentions that “most of this waste is generated in Asia.” How does SB 522 reduce the majority of plastic waste that is produced by Asia? Have studies been conducted to provide evidence that SB522 will have a noticeable impact on *all* plastic waste in the ocean?

The cost of living in Hawaii is high and ever increasing. This bill mentions alternatives to single use plastics. What are these alternatives and will these alternatives be costly? One can deduce that the higher cost for materials (i.e.—utensils, beverage containers, etc.) will trickle down to consumers. How will implementation affect the cost of living for residents when they go to the register? How will these increasing costs impact small businesses?

Should SB 522 not reduce the majority of plastic waste, and should it adversely affect our cost of living, I urge you to please oppose this legislation. As a resident and voter I am concerned over the already high cost of living in our beloved state. I also enjoy local small businesses who add flavor to our culture. Please do not support legislation that adversely burdens “mom and pop” establishments who are already struggling to get by.

I appreciate your time reviewing my testimony.

Mahalo for all you do for the people of Hawaii.

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:56:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:38:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kari Goodbar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:11:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

We need to be proactive to reduce our waste, especially single use plastic products.

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:11:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Gomes	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Hawaii should lead by example to the rest of the US as the first single-use plastic free state. We are more aware of the effects of plastic on the planet more than probably any other state because we are surrounded by ocean. Unless businesses and people are forced to change, things will not change fast enough, which is why this legislation is so important.

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:40:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tabatha Aiko Knudson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:56:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Robbins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Short term convenience and profits are not more valuable than the long-term health of our planet and it's wildlife.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:17:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB 522

In Strong Support

Hawaii, and all other 49 states do not need plastic and foam, or single use packaging for food or other items. As a Hawaii resident, PhD marine ecologist, and citizen that regularly enjoys our coastlines, it is clear that Hawaii-derived rubbish is ending up in our marine environment. It is also apparent to me that the chemical companies and their lobbyists make up the majority of the opposition to this and similar legislation. Please vote with the will of the residents of this beautiful state to keep our beaches and environments clear of trash. Mahalo nui –Daniel Amato

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 12:57:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 1:23:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Howard Suguitan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The report says that most of the waste is generated in Asia. Hawaii should not be penalized for the plastic waste that Asia is producing.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 5:02:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jun Shin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 6:34:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noah Gratton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The amount of plastic waste on the the land and in the ocean is appalling! We must do everything we can to fix it. Eliminating single use plastics is one major step.

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 6:42:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sidney Higa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Sidney Higa a Member of "The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing over 3,500 restaurants here oppose the following:

- SB 11 that prohibits the use of polystyrene foam food service containers state wide,
- SB 367 SD1 that prohibits food service businesses and stores from the sale, use, and or distribution of polystyrene foam containers, expanded polystyrene food service products, plastic straws, and plastic bags
- SB 522 SD1 that prohibits Plastic food packaging, Plastic bags, single use beverage containers, and creates a Plastic Source Reduction Working Group.

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

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

We do support the bills and initiatives that straws should be given out only upon request at full service restaurants, similar to the California State law that was passed in 2018. How beverages are consumed varies greatly from the sit down restaurants to the quick service restaurants with a drive-thru, where many food and beverages are consumed on the go. Alternate straws made from paper, bamboo, metal are all being tested around the world with limited success due to its performance, durability, after taste, and costs. Supply chain is seeking and working towards an alternate product but will not be ready with a good alternate product by July 1, 2021

NextGen Consortium. This is a partnership initially set up by Starbucks and McDonald's to fund research. Coca Cola and Yum! Brands have now joined in the effort to create food service containers that will be both environmentally green and meet performance needs of the food and beverage industry. Each of the parties contributed millions towards a workable solution.

We do agree with the creation of a Plastic Source Reduction Group and look forward to participating. However, an alternate industry is in its infancy. Hawaii Restaurant Association urges Senators to be patient with these aggressive deadlines for implementation."

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 7:47:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This zero waste plan is so important for our island state! Please support and pass it, mahalo.

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 8:18:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fawn Liebengood	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 8:35:25 AM
Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paula Alcoseba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha pumehana,

I am student at University of Hawai'i and I humbly ask you to pass SB 522. Going about your everyday life, you will notice how pervasive single-use plastic has become in our society. A single trip to certain beaches and bays will tell you where that plastic can go. Plastic is choking marine life to death, it is washing up on our shores, it is filling up our landfills, it is breaking down into microplastic that ends up being consumed by us. Single-use plastic is harming us and our planet.

We need a drastic change and the most effective way to do that is by implementing progressive legislation that will 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, and by businesses selling food and beverages after July 1, 2022.

With this bill, we can become the first State to ban single-use plastic and will inspire other State and countries to follow.

Please do the right thing and PASS SB 522! With your decision, you can leave a cleaner and brighter future for Hawai'i and the world.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Paula Alcoseba

LATE

SB-522-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 8:35:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paula Alcoseba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha pumehana,

I am student at University of Hawai'i and I humbly ask you to pass SB 522. Going about your everyday life, you will notice how pervasive single-use plastic has become in our society. A single trip to certain beaches and bays will tell you where that plastic can go. Plastic is choking marine life to death, it is washing up on our shores, it is filling up our landfills, it is breaking down into microplastic that ends up being consumed by us. Single-use plastic is harming us and our planet.

We need a drastic change and the most effective way to do that is by implementing progressive legislation that will 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, and by businesses selling food and beverages after July 1, 2022.

With this bill, we can become the first State to ban single-use plastic and will inspire other State and countries to follow.

Please do the right thing and PASS SB 522! With your decision, you can leave a cleaner and brighter future for Hawai'i and the world.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Paula Alcoseba