



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2404  
RELATING TO GRANTS FOR LOCAL RECYCLING FACILITIES**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Hearing Date: 1/30/2020 Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** State of Hawaii general revenues shall be appropriated for the  
2 Environmental Management Special Fund to establish and implement this grant program. This  
3 measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget Request for the  
4 Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and personnel priorities.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports HB2404 to incentivize the development of  
6 new recycling, bioconversion, or composting businesses within the State of Hawaii via a grant  
7 program. The State's small population, prohibitive land and infrastructure costs, and current  
8 recycling participation rates create significant challenges to operate a recycling facility in the  
9 State. An established grant program that could alleviate some of these market challenges may  
10 facilitate the Department's landfill diversion efforts and potentially reduce the State's reliance on  
11 landfills and exports to manage its municipal waste.

12 The Department respectfully requests funding and approval for one permanent full time  
13 position (Contracts Specialist, Program Specialist, or equivalent) to fulfill the procurement and  
14 contractual functions necessary to implement this grant program.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:35:05 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
pat gegen	Zero Waste Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Chair Nicole Lowen  
Hawaii House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 425  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 2404 – Relating to Grants for Local Recycling Facilities – Support

The Honorable Nicole Lowen:

We write to express our support of HB 2404 – Relating to Grants for Local Recycling Facilities (Wildberger) that will be considered in your committee. It is no secret that the recycling supply chain is evolving to respond to market changes. These changes include dissipated traditional export markets compounded by new and increased demand by large consumer brand companies. However, bills like HB 2404 show that the state is serious about supporting sustainable manufacturing and materials management. The establishment of a recycling facility grant program will help the state achieve its waste reduction goals.

Today's recycling infrastructure needs significant improvements to keep up with the evolving waste stream and to meet the stringent quality specifications required by users of this recycled material. These improvements vary based on the age of the existing infrastructure, the condition of the inbound material, and the destination of the resulting material streams. Additionally, there may already be some really effective infrastructure in place that simply needs to be expanded. That is why legislation like this which establishes a grant program that can then be appropriated for varying but specific uses is so successful and necessary. It's also why we are supporting similar legislation at the national level that will assist states in much the same way.

An example of the small infrastructure improvements that are needed, and their potential, is an industry-sponsored project we funded in the Portland, Oregon region to capture previously difficult-to-recycle items like polystyrene. A small, portable system was established in the region (known as a secondary sort) to process the residual material from the region's existing material recovery facilities that would under normal conditions be sent to landfill. These streams are known to obtain material that was meant to be captured and other material that maintains value. For a variety of technological, economical and logistical reasons, these may sometimes go inadvertently to landfill. However, as our demonstration project showed, we were able to capture some of this material. Results show that 50,000 tons per year of additional recyclable materials could be recovered from the region, including 800 tons of polystyrene. We hope that similar systems can be implemented in regions across the country where appropriate. More can be found at [PNWSort.org](http://PNWSort.org).

We hope that the legislature will recognize the opportunity and importance of legislation like H. 2404. We support the fact that the state is considering these issues and wants to play a role in finding a solution to the waste and litter problems that exist. All parties – consumers, manufacturers, governments, recyclers and more – need to play a part in the solution.

To learn more about the positive impact of plastics, please email me ([SCrawford@plasticsindustry.org](mailto:SCrawford@plasticsindustry.org)) or visit our websites [www.plasticsindustry.org](http://www.plasticsindustry.org) or [www.ThisIsPlastics.com](http://www.ThisIsPlastics.com).

Sincerely,



Shannon Crawford  
Director, State Government Affairs  
Plastics Industry Association



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183 Pinana St., Kailua, HI 96734 • 808-262-1285 • [info@350Hawaii.org](mailto:info@350Hawaii.org)

To: The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
From: Brodie Lockard, Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2020, 8:30 am

**In strong support of HB 2404**

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members:

350Hawaii.org strongly supports HB 2404.

This bill requires the office of solid waste management to establish a recycling facility grant program.

Recycling needs to be incentivized in Hawaii. People can't recycle without a recycling facility. And it's difficult to open a recycling facility without financial assistance.

No one disagrees with recycling. The benefits are widely known. But getting it off the ground in some places is a challenge.

Please pass HB 2404 and give recycling in Hawaii a much-needed boost.

Brodie Lockard  
Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 3:40:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jun Shin	Young Progressives Demanding Action	Support	No

Comments:



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada  
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Relating to Grants for Local Recycling Facilities  
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports HB2404 Relating to Grants for Local Recycling Facilities**, which requires the office of Solid Waste Management to establish a recycling facility grant program.

Any measure that can help encourage green initiatives should be supportive. Hawai'i has a finite amount of space and as a community we need to do what we can to preserve it. By incentivizing the development of new recycling, bioconversion, or composting businesses within the State we can help to reduce our contributions to climate change.

For all these reasons, we urge you to move this bill forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity,  
Gary Hooser  
Executive Director  
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 6:55:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Representing the 5,000 members and supporters of Our Revolution Hawaii, we strongly support HB2404.

Dave Mulinix

Our Revolution Hawaii

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 11:27:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole Chatterson	Zero Waste O'ahu	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and EEP Committee Members,

We support the intent of HB2404 and offer some comments.

While recycling is not the answer to our waste and resource extraction problems, it can be an important tool in our waste management belt. A well regulated local recycling plant could help Hawai'i decrease the carbon footprint of our export-reliant recycling system.

Reducing waste is the most important action we can take. As long as we scale and contract local recycling solutions to meet our needs and allow for reduced recyclables over time, then local recycling could play an important role in creating a sustainable waste management system. In pursuing these sorts of large infrastructure solutions, it is imperative that we do not get locked into an H-POWER style contract that forces us to use plastic in order to meet a quota to the recycler.

Aloha,

Nicole chatterson

Director, Zero Waste O'ahu



**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 10:17:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexandra Kahn	Surfrider Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 5:27:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB2404. Recycling grants will greatly help Hawaii's problematic landfill issues. It will also help mitigate climate change, which is already occurring.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei



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

January 30, 2020, 8:30 AM  
Conference Room 325

From:

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

**Testimony in support of HB 2404**

Aloha,

As Hawaii's largest bottle and can recycling company, Reynolds Recycling supports any measure that would enhance recycling opportunities and help to improve the Hawaii Bottle Deposit Law, this measure does meet the above-mentioned goals.

Recycling is obviously the "right thing to do" whenever and wherever it can be done. We believe a grant program would be an effective way to promote recycling or other forms of waste reduction, and hope that this program will be part of that effective change in supporting community or business efforts to do exactly this.

For these reasons and more, we support your intent to keep Hawaii clean with HB 2404.

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

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 4:38:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:36:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
June Hsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 4:54:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
autumn ness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 6:49:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 7:25:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan B Burdick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is important, especially given the apparent economic difficulties that recyclers are experiencing. For this reason, I support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick, Aiea

**LATE**



**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 7:39:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sharon Levine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Recycling is the next best thing to not using packaging that is not biodegradable. Like abortion, it is not ideal, but it is better then the alternative.

Thank you,

Sharon Levine

**LATE**

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:20:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as it would promote recycling and composting. Our landfills are full. Disposing of plastics and metals is wasteful. We need to malama our planet. Support this bill.

**LATE**

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 9:25:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ed Felien	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB 2404. We are burying the hopes of our grandchildren in landfills.

**LATE**

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:27:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and members of the committee,

I support HB2404. We need to incentivize local recycling facilities. Maui had one several decades ago that turned plastic milk jugs into plastic wood used in picnic tables, benches, and on hiking trails for steps and cribbing.

Please pass HB2404 and use the plastic that we're currently burning or throwing in our landfills. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching

Honolulu (makikirandy@yahoo.com)

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2404**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 7:54:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2020 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lori	Sierra Club of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: