

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 HB0762 HD 1
RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 18, 2019 Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown

2 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of the measure is to prohibit a full-service restaurant
3 from providing a single-use plastic straw to a consumer unless requested by the consumer.

4 The Department of Health (Department) suggests that amending the penalties to allow for
5 administrative action pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 91 would make
6 enforcement of the prohibition more efficient. Specific edits are offered below.

7 The Department also notes that we have not actively enforced state litter laws under HRS
8 Chapter 339 since the abolishment of the Litter Control Office in the late 1990s. Therefore, the
9 Department may not be able to actively enforce without additional funding and resources. This
10 measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget Request for the
11 Department's appropriations and personnel priorities.

12 **Offered Amendments:** Page 1, Lines 12-14: Any action taken to impose or collect the fines
13 provided for in this section shall be considered ~~a civil action~~ an administrative action pursuant to
14 HRS Chapter 91.

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



HB762 HD2
RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

March 18, 2019

1:15 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on HB762 HD2, which would prohibit full-service restaurants from providing a single-use plastic straw to a customer, unless requested by the customer. OHA appreciates this measure's potential to reduce the impacts of plastic waste on our native wildlife, marine and coastal resources, and associated Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, and **respectfully urges the Committee's consideration of additional protections against other known sources of plastic waste.**

Single-use plastics, such as polystyrene foam containers, plastic bags, and plastic straws, have a well-established impact on native species of cultural significance, including endangered as well as subsistence resource species. In Hawaiian waters, the ingestion of discarded plastic debris by native seabirds, such as mōlī, as well as by endangered honu, is a well-documented phenomenon that may have highly injurious or even fatal consequences. Notably, such species hold special significance in Hawaiian culture and traditions: the cultural importance of seabirds includes their role in navigation, meteorology, craftwork, and in their spiritual symbolic significance; likewise, honu are also featured in numerous mo'olelo, hula, ki'i pōhaku, and other art forms, and were traditionally raised and harvested for food, medicinal, and other purposes. Discarded plastic debris may also be ingested by other marine fauna, and its bioaccumulation through the food web may adversely affect numerous other native and culturally significant marine species. **Therefore, reducing or eliminating the amount of disposable single-use plastics used in Hawai'i may help to mitigate the impact of such plastics on the native and endangered marine species in our islands' waters.**

OHA further notes that plastic waste may also threaten the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian cultural and subsistence practices. For example, the toxins contained in and absorbed by plastic material may bioaccumulate in the marine food web, discouraging cultural and subsistence practitioners from the practice of gathering and consuming marine resources. The presence of plastic fragments or microplastics in our nearshore waters may also discourage the traditional gathering and consumption of pa'akai and other non-living resources. In addition, the harm caused to endangered and native species may foreclose the future use of such species in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, which depend upon the availability of healthy and abundant resources. Finally,

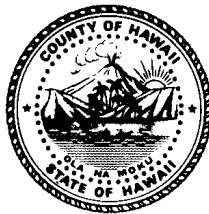
the presence of discarded plastics may compromise the cultural and spiritual integrity of the marine and coastal environment, upon which Native Hawaiian subsistence practices and ways of life are inextricably tied.¹ **Accordingly, reducing the use and inevitable disposal of single-use plastics into our marine environment may also represent a small but important step towards the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture.**

OHA therefore appreciates this measure's intent to reduce the use of single-use plastic straws in full-service restaurants. OHA does note that this measure does not eliminate the use of plastic straws by such restaurants, who may continue to provide plastic straws simply by asking customers if they would like to use one. Moreover, OHA further notes that there may be a significant volume of plastic straw waste generated from food establishments that do not offer full, sit-down restaurant service; such "take-out" waste may also have a higher potential of being discarded into the environment, ultimately ending up in our coastal areas and ocean waters. **OHA respectfully suggests that the Committees consider addressing these remaining potential sources of plastic straw waste, in addition to supporting other legislative vehicles targeting other single-use plastic products, in furtherance of the overall goal of reducing the impacts of single-use plastic waste on our native species, marine and coastal resources, and associated practices.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ In Native Hawaiian understanding the spatial bounds of 'āina and moana are viewed holistically and maintain powerful and epistemological connections to Hawaiian ancestry and resilience; in one salient example, hāko'ako'a, coral reefs, are prayed for and spoken of in the kumulipo, the Hawaiian creation chant.

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*

March 12, 2019

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB 762 HD 2, RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Monday, March 18, 2019
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker and Members of the Committees:


I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support on HB 762 HD 2, relating to single-use plastic straws. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council.

The purpose of this measure prohibits a full-service restaurant from providing a single-use plastic straw to a consumer unless requested by the consumer. This measure has been amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated as "Single-use Plastic Straws, Prohibited acts".

This measure assists with the goal of eliminating single-use plastic that most likely will end up in landfills, dumps, or in the environment. Alternatives to plastic currently exist for many items, and innovative change is advancing globally. Locally, plastic litter can be found on every island and in every watershed and protected area in the State of Hawai'i. These pollutants are in the seawater and freshwater which is being transferred to fish, and other seafood, which eventually is being consumed by humans. Prohibiting single-use plastic straws in restaurant, unless specifically requested, can only benefit our environment and overall health of ourselves and the State of Hawai'i.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, and the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health to support his 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

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 4:48:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:



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

Executive Officers

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

TO:

Committee on Agriculture and the Environment and Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Senator Mike Gabbard and Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chairs

Senator Russell E. Ruderman and Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 18, 2019

TIME: 1:15pm

PLACE: Conference Room 224

RE: HB762 HD2 Relating to Single-use Plastic Straws

Position: Support

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

This is a common sense measure that will greatly reduce unnecessary use of straws, without banning a safe, useful, and affordable product. In many cases customers in sit down restaurants have no need for a straw, but sometimes they are distributed as a matter of habit. Ending this practice in sit down restaurants means less straws end up as waste and puts the decisions of whether or not to use a straw in the hands of customers. We encourage you to vote yes on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
March 18, 2019**

Re: HB 762 HD2 Relating to Single Use Plastic Straws

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

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a statewide not-for-profit trade organization committed to supporting the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

Retail Merchants of Hawaii supports HB 762 HD2 Relating to Single Use Plastic Straws. This measure prohibits a full-service restaurant from providing a single-use plastic straw to a consumer unless requested by the consumer.

Customers are the driving force as to how many business are run. Businesses respond to the wants of the customers that patronize their particular establishments. We are already seeing establishments changing and offering at the request of the customer.

If the goal is to reduce the litter, we should also be looking at a truly coordinated comprehensive litter reduction education program as well as vehicles that keep the opala contained and not able to fly out of the receptacles.

Again mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



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

2018 - 19 Board of Directors:

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

Allied Members:

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

Advisory Board

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

To: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair
 Sen. Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
 Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

 Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
 Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Lead
 Hawaii Restaurant Association

Subj: HB 762 HD 2 Relating to Single-Use Plastic Straw

Date: March 12, 2019

We at the Hawaii Restaurant Association representing over 3,600 restaurants in Hawaii supports HB762 HD 2 stating that a full service restaurants shall not provide a single-use plastic straw unless requested by the customer.

Thank you very much for allowing us to comment on this bill.



HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 3:50:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Gabbard and Chairperosn Baker and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environmental and Senate Committee Commerce Consumer Protection and Health.

ABC Stores supports HB 762 Relating to Single Use Plastic Straws. This measure prohibits a full-service restaurant from providing a single –use plastic straw to a consumer unless requested by the consumer. Pleasing our customers is the driving force of how we run our business. This measure allows us to honor a customer’s request for a plastic straw. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



KYD, Inc. dba k. yamada distributors

An independent leader in packaging and wholesale distribution

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

HB 762hd2, Relating to Single Use Plastic Straws
Sen AEN/CPH Hearing
Monday, March 18, 2019
1:15 pm – Room 224
Position: Support

Chairs Gabbard and Baker, and Members of the Senate AEN/CPH Committee:

KYD, Inc. dba: K. Yamada Distributors supports HB762hd2 that allows the consumer to request a single-use plastic straw in full service restaurants. This is particularly important for persons with disabilities.

According to Emily Ladau, an activist and writer on disability issues, (CNN, July 11, 2018) and has Larsen syndrome, people who need straws need plastic straws. Straws from paper dissolve. Metal straws can get too hot or cold depending on the liquid drink. Reusable straws are often forgotten at home.

"Other types of straws simply do not offer the combination of strength, flexibility, and safety that plastic straws do," Disability Rights Washington, a nonprofit with offices in Seattle, said in a letter it coauthored to the city.

For others who are able-bodied, this measure provides a choice to request straws or forego it altogether. No matter what material is used for the straw proper litter disposal is key to protecting the environment. A consistent state-wide policy is urged for the benefit of visitors as well as for residents who travel between islands.

Please support this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



WILL CALL, G&A, AND WAREHOUSE OFFICES: 2949 Koapaka Street, Honolulu,
Hawaii 96819-1923

Phone: (808) 836-3221

Fax: (808) 833-8995



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

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: SUPPORT of HB 762_HD2 – RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Chang and members of Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, and Consumer Protection, and Health

Dolphin Quest strongly supports HB 762_HD2, SB 367_SD1_HD1, and SB 522_SD2_HD1 as these bills have the potential to reduce plastic-based pollution in the State of Hawaii and ultimately help protect our natural resources and human health.

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

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

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

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

Dolphin Quest is an organization of marine mammal specialists, animal advocates and ocean stewards with two business locations in Hawaii. We've championed public education, conservation, and scientific study related to marine mammals and our ocean for thirty years. This issue is critically important to us and we respectfully ask that you support HB 762_HD2.

Respectfully yours,

Rae Stone, D.V.M.

L. Rae Stone, DVM
Dolphin Quest

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 4:27:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brodie Lockard	Testifying for 350Hawaii.org	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:09:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 6:34:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert brower	Testifying for surfrider foundation kauai	Support	No

Comments:

the 10 members of our executive committee suport this measure. we have 1500 members and followers on kauai



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AEN & CPH

March 18, 2019 1:15 p.m. Room 224

In SUPPORT of HB 762 HD2: Relating to single-use plastic straws

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Chang and members of the committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB 762 HD2**, which seeks to prohibit a full-service restaurant from providing a single-use plastic straw to a consumer unless requested by the consumer.

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.

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 large plastic island gyres. Single-use plastics cannot typically be recycled, and pose harm to marine life, especially plastic straws. Millions of plastic straws are used and thrown away every single day in the United States. The toxins and heavy chemicals found in them are not compostable or biodegradable and can take 500 years or more to decompose. They create an overabundance of waste that continually overflows local landfills and our beaches.



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

The transition away from plastic straws is very possible and happening across the United States. California recently became the first state to place a ban on plastic straws in restaurants, Seattle became the first major US city to ban single-use plastic straws, and many large corporations are vowing to stop offering plastic straws such as Starbucks, American Airlines, and Marriott International. Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports this measure but understands that prohibiting straws in restaurants is just the first step to dealing with the tragedy of single-use plastics and pollution.

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 committees to pass this measure, which will serve our collective efforts to keep Hawai'i's land, freshwater bodies, and oceans free of plastic pollution.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 762 HD2.**

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

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 6:11:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 8:16:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii, and all other 49 states do not need straws, plastic, 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

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:14:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Plastics are deadly to marine and other wildlife. Plastic is the most common type of debris found on beaches around the world including Hawaii. Birds, turtles, fish and many other animals mistake plastic for food. Restricting the distribution of plastic straws in restaurants is a great step in the right direction. Plastic straws are not necessary and there are non-plastic alternatives.

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 12:04:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 12:42:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
KASI NUNES	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 2:22:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 3:01:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haruka Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 4:59:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caitlin Carrington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Single-use plastic straws are an unnecessary tool used in beverage service. Not providing straws in drinks will improve the health of our natural resources.

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 6:49:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulia Ferguson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB 762. Plastic is one of the most common types of marine debris found in Hawaii, and it can be deadly to wildlife. Plastics and polystyrene products never truly degrade, they just break up into smaller and smaller pieces that animals, including even corals, often mistaken as food. Ingested plastic can leach toxins which can bioaccumulate within an individual animal and biomagnify up the food chain threatening multiple animal species including humans. Ingested plastics can cause suffocation and/or blocked digestive tracts leading to starvation. Single-use plastics like utensils, straws, and bags are unnecessary and since there are a multitude of environmentally friendly alternatives.

Please ban the use of single-use straws in restaurants.

Thank you,

Tulia Ferguson

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:04:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Walker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:07:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 8:55:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimiko LaHaela Walter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 12:13:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laverne Salas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and my experience at Dolphin Quest has inspired me to become even more actively involved in environmental stewardship and the preservation of marine wildlife.

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 2:03:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laila Spina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our oceans are so important not only for conservation but for our own survival too. Please support this bill so that the earth, the animals and humans can all benefit. It is very sad to see our honu with straws stuck in their noses.

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 2:59:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Vote NO. The cost of enforcement/monitoring the program will exceed any benefit derived from the concept. Food service organizations will do what is most cost effective and responsive to the needs of their customers -- (for whom elected officials work). Hawaii is not the source of the "plastic problem". Regardless of how much plastic you ban in Hawaii -- there are other countries that dump plastic and other garbage into various water sources. Please concentrate on Hawaii's problems. Local problems have been festering for years with little attention with no noticeable success achieved.

Aloha Elected Officials.

I am writing you today in support of HB 762. Our beaches and coastlines on Kauai are covered with plastic marine debris. I am a volunteer with Surfrider Foundation and go out at least twice a week to clean up our beaches. In 2019, Surfrider Foundation removed over 10,000 lbs of debris per month. In 2018, our community cleanups removed about 115,000 lbs of debris off our coastlines, mostly net and plastics. We need to take action to reduce plastics in our oceans.

I support any bill that would reduce single use plastics.

Please support HB 762.

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

Mahalo Nui,

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

Plastics, health and saving the environment

By Dr. Carl J. Berg, Ph.D, and Dr. Gordon LaBedz, M.D. - Other Voices | Saturday, March 16, 2019, 12:05 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

•••

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

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 9:54:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
VanNghi Vo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:04:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair Members, House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Re: HB 762 SUPPORT

I am Yi Lin, a student from Kapiolani Community college (KCC). As a KCC student, I have learnt about the sustainable economic contents and care about our Hawaiian Islands' environment. I am fully support HB762 stating that prohibits a full-service restaurant from providing a single-use plastic straw to a consumer unless requested by the consumer.

Plastic straws are provided to consumers whether they need it or not. Overproviding plastic straw would increase environmental burden on the Hawaiian Islands. As most plastic straws are made from type 5 plastic, or polypropylene, they are unable to naturally recycled into new organic molecules and life and they are never fully degraded. When this uncycled plastic straws are littered into the ocean, ocean wildlife would under the harmful risk from plastic straws. We can see many videos in the internet that plastic straw embedded in the nostril of sea turtle and seabirds die from ingesting plastic.

Reducing use of plastic straws has become a commonsense among people these years and banning full-service restaurants from providing single-use plastic straws can motivate people in our society to realize that it is crucial to protect our environment. Reducing use of plastic straws will decrease plastic litter and decrease environmental burden. The reduction of plastic straws will positively improve everyone's life and contribute a healthy and sustainable environment.

Sincerely,

Yi Lin

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:24:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

March 16, 2019

To: Representative Chris Lee and the member of the committee
From: Mihoko Nakamura
RE: HB0762/ RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS - Support

Aloha, my name is Mihoko Nakamura and I am a student at Kapiolani Community College. This is my support letter for the bill HB0762, prohibition of single-use of plastic straws at full-service restaurants. I have learned the importance of sustainability and circular economy in my class and it has led me a conclusion that I am against single use of any plastics, includes plastic straws, plastic food containers, and plastic bags. The usage of plastic straws is unnecessary and is nothing but wasteful and harmful for our ecosystems and environment. Plastic straws also result ocean and landfill pollutions. The size of each straw is very small, but because the large number of straws are used everyday and everywhere in the world, the usage of plastic straws must be one of the major factors which causes the environmental problems. Also, we should end of the era of the linear economy and start to adopt the idea of circular economy. Circular economy is a economic model based on principles of three R; reduce, reuse, and recycle. It is time to replace plastic straws to natural material straws which can reduce waste, are reusable, and can be recycled. In addition, some animals, birds, and fish think plastic straws as food, and they mistakenly consume plastic straws and it causes them to die or severe conditions.

However, people in need of plastic straws should be allowed to use a plastic straw in any circumstances. This is very important especially for elderlies and people with disabilities.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,

Mihoko Nakamura

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 1:18:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judie Hoepner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I totally support the banning straws in Hawaii.

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 1:21:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Jin	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Plastics are often dumped into the sea, among which plastic straws have the greatest negative impact. Hawaii is a small island and to attracts visitors' and people's attention, they use the activity that could do in the ocean such as surf, snorkeling, and a sea turtle tour. Now people are attention about the sea turtle and one in five chance of death for a turtle who consumed just one item, rising to 50 percent for 14 pieces.

For the environment, nature, and a turtle that has to endure death because of the straw, please consider passing HB762.

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 1:22:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danny Melton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable Representatives of Hawaii

I oppose—quit trying to be like California. Focus on what helps the families of Hawaii be able to afford to live in Hawaii so they don't have to leave Hawaii like the families of California are leaving to states where there is less government control on the individual which leads to unaffordable taxes and high cost of living Don't waste your time on bills like this one.

Respectfully

Dan Melton

Col USMC (retired)

Waipahu

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 1:22:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Melling	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Presently we have a ban on plastic bags and I believe that straws are essential to fast food restaurants and drive thru. This seems like over reach on the part of the government. Lets keep Hawaii free.

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 1:39:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Kerr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a stupid virtue signaling nod to climate change and overly burdens small businesses in the food service business.

I strongly oppose this bill.

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 4:31:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toby Rushforth	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I know how much conservation votes mean to Legislators, but this is ridiculous. The State is nearly bankrupt and you are talking about straws????

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 8:20:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SUSAN P HUGHES	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

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

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 9:42:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 9:49:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee Member,

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

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

I fully support it.

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

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:09:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew N. Bodnar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:20:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Sirs:

Please help to fix this plasticgeddon . We need to take decisive action now.

This bill is a step in the right direction.

With warmest aloha,

Joanna Wheeler

Registered Voter

Kapaa, Hi

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:55:34 PM
Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 11:18:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB762 will benefit the state of Hawaii deeply because we cut back on the amount of plastic used and make the earth more eco-friendly even if it starts with something as small as this.

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 11:19:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm tired of spending my weekends picking up trash on the beaches. I've been seeing straws on the beaches tied in knots. I guess people have seen the video of the poor turtle with a straw stuck up it's nose and think that they can litter if they tie their straw in a knot. All of these single-use plastic items are breaking down into tiny particles creating a terrible mess that seems nearly impossible to clean up if that's all we are going to do. I've sifted sand with a collander on my neighborhood beach, Kalama Beach, for hours in one little spot only to stand up and look around at all that was left to do. It leaves you feeling so defeated and depressed. We have to stop using so much single-use plastic. Clean ups are not the solution to this problem.

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 11:40:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is so easy! I work at a cafe where we specialize in beverages. I imagine many people would reconsider if they were asked if they wanted a straw. Straws have become so normalized, but in most cases are completely unnecessary. When they are necessary, they can be substituted for reusable straws, paper straws, or bamboo straws.

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 6:41:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Hughes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an avid beachgoer that picks up plastic regularly, which appears to effect our east side shores the most, please ban single-use plastic straws.

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:22:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Ban straws! They're silly and wasteful! Have you ever pulled a straw from the nostril of a sea turtle? Google it, then support this bill.

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:25:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB762. Plastic straws are commonly given out every time a drink or even water is ordered, regardless of whether a straw has been requested or not. Why should those patrons have to specify no straw be given when it's far more eco-friendly, as well as cost-effective for a restaurant, to give them out only upon request? There's also nothing to stop servers from asking a patron if s/he would like a straw.

We must take whatever steps necessary to limit plastic pollution. Many plastics leach suspected carcinogens and neurotoxins as they degrade into smaller and smaller pieces, and studies show some of these toxins are slowly accumulating in the fatty tissues of humans and other animals.

Whales, fish, sea turtles and birds commonly mistake plastic for food. The great garbage patch between Hawaii and California is growing relentlessly. Most plastic is not biodegradable and only degrades into 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.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:40:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gabriella Sikorski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:53:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:42:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

LATE

HB-762-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:24:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/18/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adrienne Kimber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Plastic straws are an unnecessary waste that cause harm to marine life and use polluting plastic. We should reduce our use.