



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB1242 SD2  
RELATING TO SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL GOALS**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Hearing Date: March 12, 2019 Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) respectfully opposes  
3 SB1242 SD2. The current bill sets a 70% waste reduction goal, meaning that the goal is to  
4 produce 70% less waste than we do now. The bill also allows the use of landfilling, incineration,  
5 waste-to-energy, or recycling to reach the goal. This is confusing as all these processes manage  
6 waste after it is produced.

7 The Department's intent for the original version of this bill was to update the State's  
8 goals to reduce solid waste prior to landfill disposal. We therefore respectfully request that the  
9 bill be restored to the SD1 version.

10 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully requests to change the language for this  
11 bill back to the SB1242 SD1 version.

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



**SB1242 SD2**  
**RELATING TO SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL GOALS.**  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

March 12, 2019

8:30 a.m.

Room 325

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** SB1242 SD2, which aims to drastically reduce our solid waste production in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, as reflected in Hawai'i's own Aloha+ Challenge.

OHA is a devoted advocate for nurturing the resiliency and sustainability of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. OHA has also substantially invested and participated in state initiatives to improve the management and stewardship of the 'āina. Indeed, OHA's strategic priorities include 'Āina (Land & Water), which represents our commitment to maintain the connection to the past and a viable land base, and ensuring that Native Hawaiians can participate in and benefit from responsible stewardship of ka pae 'āina o Hawai'i; this priority includes increasing the percentage of ahupua'a that are managed sustainably. In line with this strategic priority, OHA most recently joined the Governor, four county mayors, the legislature, and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private partners across the State in the launch of the Aloha+ Challenge described in this measure. Since then, OHA has worked in collaboration to support these goals through partnerships across the state, including the Hawai'i Green Growth Local 2030 Hub public-private partnership.

The Aloha+ Challenge is a statewide commitment to achieve six interconnected sustainability goals for 2030, and is recognized as a localized framework for the global United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Aloha+ Challenge goals accordingly cover a broad range of issues related to making Hawai'i a more sustainable place, and, in alignment with OHA's strategic plan, priorities, and activities, will help to ensure the future sustainability, self-sufficiency, welfare, and well-being of Hawai'i's present and future populations. OHA accordingly supports the proposed statutory amendments in SB1242 SD2, which are consistent with and support the Aloha+ Challenge target of reducing our total solid waste by seventy per cent prior to disposal by 2030.

**OHA believes that the Aloha+ Challenge target adopted by this measure aligns with our historical and ongoing advocacy, programs, and initiatives relating to our own strategic priorities to ensure a more sustainable stewardship of ka pae 'āina o Hawai'i.**

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB1242 SD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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DIRECTOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
WAS 19-116

March 11, 2019

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Energy and the Environment  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 325  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members:

SUBJECT: SB 1242 SD2  
Relating to Solid Waste Disposal Goals

The Department of Environmental Services of the City and County of Honolulu (ENV) strongly supports the goals of the Aloha + Challenge and submits the following comments on the subject bill.

The City's H-POWER waste-to-energy facility processes 700,000 tons of waste per year, reducing the volume of waste by up to 90% prior to landfill disposal. Additionally, H-POWER is capable of generating up to 90 megawatts of reliable, renewable power for Oahu, reducing Hawaii's dependence on imported oil and advancing the State's commitment to achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045. It follows that waste-to-energy should be included among the solid waste management strategies that contribute to the solid waste reduction goal of the Aloha + Challenge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori M.K. Kahikina".

Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.  
Director



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

March 11, 2019

Aloha Chair Lowen EEP Committee Members:

My name is Nicole Chatterson, I am Mānoa resident and Director of Zero Waste O'ahu. I am writing in **support with comments to SB 1242 SD 2**, which updates state solid waste management goals.

**Comments:** While the intent of the bill to update and strengthen our waste reduction goals is important and necessary, the amended language of SD 2 leaves some room for confusion around what is meant by solid waste reduction. We confirmed with Sen. Baker (who passed this bill out of her committee as SD 2) that the intent of the language was to reduce the solid waste stream prior to disposal—not just to divert an ever growing amount of trash into one of many different types of waste management systems as the original bill language was written. After consulting our with our constituents, we suggest the following language more clearly communicate that intent:

*“It is the goal of the state to reduce total solid waste generation by 70% by 2030. Reduction in solid waste generation is a decrease in the total solid waste produced prior to any type of disposal. Disposal includes waste management technologies and methods (including, but not limited to, landfill disposal, WTE, incineration, and recycling) that manage waste only after it has been generated.”*

In the waste management field disposing of waste via landfill, incineration, waste-to-energy, and even recycling are all “downstream” waste management techniques. Downstream management focuses only on dealing with trash *after* it is created. Instead of working to reduce the total amount of waste created *prior to disposal*, if this measure is poorly worded it will allow the counties to continue increasing their total waste footprint. If we do not reduce the whole solid waste **prior to disposal of any kind**, this means we risk rampant waste production which results in upstream impacts through the extraction, production, and transportation of products-turned-trash. According to the U.S. EPA, **about 42% of the U.S. greenhouse gas footprint results from this production-disposal chain<sup>1</sup>**.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/smm/epa-sustainable-materials-management-program-strategic-plan-fiscal-years-2017-2022>



If single-use plastic consumption and waste maintains on the current trajectory, **plastic use will account of 20% of our fossil fuel use by 2050<sup>2</sup>**. While recycling and waste-to-energy are often cited as ways to deal with this plastic waste—we have recently seen that the recycling markets are too unstable to offer a consistent, sustainable solution to our waste. Compounding this, roughly 80% of the Global North's 'recyclable' plastics (exported from places like Hawai'i) are not recycled and instead escape into the marine environment.<sup>3</sup>

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.**<sup>4</sup> Further, **H-POWER requires 800,000 tons of waste annually** to maintain operations and profit margins.

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 (and waste reduction in general) 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 goals 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**

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nicole Chatterson

Director, Zero Waste O'ahu

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<sup>2</sup> UNEP (2018). SINGLE-USE PLASTICS: A Roadmap for Sustainability

<sup>3</sup> World Economic Forum (2015). The New Plastics Economy. Rethinking the future of plastics.

<sup>4</sup> <https://ghgdata.epa.gov/ghgp/main.do>



# sustainable coastlines Hawaii

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SB 1242: Support w/Comments & Amendments

Hearing: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 8:30 AM

Committee on EEP

Aloha Chair Lowen and Members of the House EEP Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii with comments about SB 1242 and its goals of waste diversion. After some positive amendments to this bill in Chair Baker's committee we believe that the language still needs slightly more clarification to assure that the intent is waste reduction prior to any form of disposal and thus suggest these words to amend:

*"It is the goal of the state to reduce total solid waste generation by 70% by 2030. Reduction in solid waste generation is a decrease in the total solid waste produced prior to any type of disposal. Disposal includes waste management technologies and methods (including, but not limited to, landfill disposal, WTE, incineration, and recycling) that manage waste only after it has been generated."*

If we truly are looking to reduce waste with goals of 70% reduction, we should focus on source reduction - which means stopping waste from being created in the first place - and when discussing bioconversion we should be looking at methods of composting efficiently and effectively.

We caution the State of Hawaii that continuing to find ways to uplift incineration as a viable method of waste reduction in an era of climate change is a dangerous path to walk. Globally incineration is finally being called out for what it is - one of the heaviest emitters of green house gases in the energy production sector. Our state has committed to both carbon neutrality and renewable energy - incineration will only hurt both of those goals as we continue to move towards being a leader in sustainability globally.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Rafael Bergstrom

Executive Director, Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 — 8:30 a.m. — Room 325

**Ulupono Initiative Supports SB 1242 SD 2, Relating to Solid Waste Disposal Goals**

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better manage waste and fresh water resources. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**Ulupono supports SB 1242 SD 2**, which updates the Department of Health's solid waste management goals to align with the Aloha+ Challenge, because it aligns with our goal of reducing waste in Hawai'i.

As an island state, Hawai'i is responsible for handling and diverting its waste streams. Waste goals help to unify a shared outcome expectation amongst various stakeholders. However, we believe H-POWER serves a role in reducing waste to the landfill, while also reducing imported fossil fuels. We believe H-POWER should be considered part of the calculation. Therefore, the target should be an 85 percent goal in 2030 with H-POWER as part of the calculation. Setting a goal would motivate stakeholders to collaborate their efforts.

As Hawai'i's waste issues become increasingly complex and challenging, we appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that address these issues.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay  
Managing Partner

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

**SB-1242-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 1:43:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Kokua Hawaii Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and committee members for considering this bill. Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation has long supported strong state waste reduction goals. We support the intent of this bill, but recommend that the language be amended for a clearer communication of which means of disposal are not included under "waste reduction." The following recommendation stems from discussion with multiple environmental organizations who are also submitting language amendments.

"It is the goal of the state to reduce total solid waste generation by 70% by 2030. Reduction in solid waste generation is a decrease in the total solid waste produced prior to any type of disposal. Disposal includes waste management technologies and methods (including, but not limited to, landfill disposal, waste to energy (WTE), incineration, and recycling) that manage waste only after it has been generated."

Mahalo for your consideration.



**SB-1242-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 1:47:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Marten	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Less wasteful packaging will save consumers money up front on their purchases and having less waste to process and store will save our State and our Counties money.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

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

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 12, 2019      8:30 AM      Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **SB 1242 SD2**: Relating to solid waste disposal goals

**LATE**

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

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **is in support of SB 1242 SD2**, which seeks to update the Department of Health's solid waste management goals to align with the Aloha+ Challenge.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is committed to supporting efforts seeking to reduce waste and consumption across the islands like the State's Aloha+ Challenge goal for solid waste reduction. We do offer **recommended amendments** to clarify previous amendments made on SD2 to ensure this path to solid waste reduction is done in the most effective, clean and sustainable way possible.

Amend as follows:

~~It is the goal of the State to reduce total solid waste prior to disposal by any means, including but not limited to landfill, incineration, waste-to-energy, or recycling, by seventy per cent by 2030.~~

to:

It is the goal of the state to reduce total solid waste generation by 70% by 2030. Reduction in solid waste generation is a decrease in the total solid waste produced prior to any type of disposal. Disposal includes waste management technologies and methods (including but not limited to landfill disposal, waste to energy, incineration, and recycling) that manage waste only after it has been generated.

We *urge the committee* to make the necessary amendments to SB 1242 SD2, which will help ensure an effective, clean and sustainable path towards solid waste reduction for the State of Hawaii.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,  
Lori Mallini  
Volunteer, Sierra Club of Hawaii