

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:30:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chastity Malacas	Testifying for UHWO	Support	No

Comments:

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 Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, February 5, 2020
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2781
RELATING TO LITTER CONTROL

Senate Bill 2781 proposes to prohibit the intentional release of balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (“Department”) supports this bill and provides the following comments.**

The Division recognize the deleterious impacts that marine debris, including balloons, has on wildlife and their habitats, leading to an alarming natural resource concern throughout the state. Marine debris harms land and ocean-based habitat through smothering and abrasion and impacts a variety of wildlife through ingestion and entanglement.

A study conducted by the University of Tasmania (research conducted outside of Hawaii) found that 1 in 3 birds out of a sample of 1,733 sea birds, representing 51 different species, had ingested plastic marine debris. Balloons, as soft plastics, posed the highest risk for the sea birds since they can cause fatal obstruction. Sea turtles, as well, were susceptible to mortality from soft plastics, due to experiencing a blockage through the gastrointestinal tract lasting anywhere between 4 to 6 months. Gut-content studies from Australia have indicated that turtles may selectively ingest balloons and other soft plastics due to their similar appearances to a species of jellyfish consumed by all species of turtles.

The negative impact of ingestion is compounded by the fact that plastics of all sizes absorb and release Persistent Organic Pollutants, toxic chemicals which adversely affect the health and longevity of marine organisms.

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

Although a large amount of marine plastic debris arrives from the ocean, it is all of our responsibility to reduce the amount of plastic debris entering and re-entering our ocean and beaches. Senate Bill 2781 would help reduce the balloon waste load entering Hawaii's waters and shorelines and contribute to the improved health of our wildlife and their habitats.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 3:50:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Although many people consider balloons to be festive, they have been proven to severely hurt marine life~ turtles, sea birds and marine mammals often mistake balloons for jelly fish and ingest them; necropsies of dead sea animals have shown the catastrophic effect of the balloons. Please support SB2781 !

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 11:03:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Kahn	Testifying for Surfrider Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

P. O. Box 25284 · Honolulu · Hawai'i · 96825

(808) 393 2168 · www.b-e-a-c-h.org

DATE: Tuesday 4th February, 2020

TO: Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

FROM: Suzanne Frazer, President, Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

RE: **TESTIMONY IN VERY STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2781**
Relating to litter control. Prohibits the intentional release of balloons.
Committee meeting on Wednesday 5th February, 2020 at 1:30PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i (B.E.A.C.H.) in very strong support of SB2781 which will ban intentional balloon releases throughout Hawai'i.

Releasing balloons is littering. This type of litter is one of the most harmful there is to marine life. Sea turtles, albatrosses and other marine life that eat squid and jellyfish can mistake a balloon in the ocean for food. When balloons are ingested they cause blockages of the gastro-intestinal tract that then leads to starvation and death. The plastic ribbon attached to balloons is also a danger as it can cause injury or death to marine life that become entangled in it or ingest it.

It is unnecessary to release balloons into the air for celebration or commemoration of events. There are many other non-lethal ways to celebrate such as planting a tree, giving a lei or lighting a candle. B.E.A.C.H. has found that balloon litter on beaches increases particularly around May and June which indicates that the litter originates locally most likely from balloons released at graduation. One of our B.E.A.C.H. members was saddened to see a group of people celebrating graduation come out of a restaurant and release balloons into the air. A law in Hawai'i is needed to stop this from happening.

A number of states have passed laws related to balloon releases including California, Connecticut, Florida, Tennessee and Virginia. Several cities have also passed laws including San Francisco and Baltimore.

Hawai'i is a state surrounded by water and therefore it is imperative that action is taken to prevent one of the most hazardous types of litter from getting into the ocean and becoming marine debris. SB2781 will achieve the goal of preventing balloon litter.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in very strong support of SB2781. Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

Sincerely,



Suzanne Frazer.

B.E.A.C.H. Co-Founder & President



Balloon floating in ocean at Kahuku
photo: Thomas Engstrom



Balloons collected from shoreline
photo: B.E.A.C.H.



From: Howzitish
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 9:15 PM
To: sclerk
Subject: Requesting for a Correction

Aloha Senate Clerk's office!

I made a mistake on my SB2781 testimony - I am representing myself and not the B.E.A.C.H organization. If you could please correct it by removing "organization B.E.A.C.H" and correct to "individual", that would be greatly appreciated. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Trisha Mae Guillermo

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:22:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trisha Mae Guillermo	Testifying for BEACH	Support	No

Comments:

I agree with the petition of banning balloons because a lot are found in our oceans and balloons are one of the factors to harming our marine organisms.

From: Honielyn Felipe
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 5:30 PM
To: sclerk
Subject: Correcting testimony for SB2781

Hi,

My name is Honielyn Felipe and I recently submitted a testimony for SB2781. I made a mistake when choosing who I am representing. I would appreciate it if you were to take "organization, B.E.A.C.H." off my testimony and correct it to "individual". Sorry for the confusion.

Thank you,
Honielyn Felipe

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:20:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Honielyn Felipe	Testifying for BEACH	Support	No

Comments:

Help communities to be more conscious about what they're actually doing to the environment.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:15:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Lamson Leatherman	Testifying for Hawai'i Wildlife Fund	Support	No

Comments:

Plastic pollution (aka marine debris) is a threat to our native wildlife and coastal communities here in Hawai'i nei. Although it's a global problem in scale, we must act locally to stem the rising tide of trash. It's important that we take whatever steps are needed to reduce any local sources of marine debris, such as what is being proposed in SB 2781 with the prohibition of intentional balloon releases. We wholeheartedly support this endeavor and hope to see it pass into law soon.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund is a non-profit organization founded in 1996 to protect native wildlife through research, conservation, and education efforts. Since that time, we have removed over 325 tons of marine debris from the reefs and shorelines of the Hawaiian archipelago with the help of over 50,000 volunteer hours. We have seen first-hand the impact that plastic pollution has on our coastal and marine ecosystems. Please take the time to be part of this solution: Vote AYE and pass this bill!



LATE

5 February 2020

Senate Bill 2781 proposes to prohibit the intentional release of balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air. Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge supports this bill.

Oikonos is a non-profit organization with headquarters in Hawaii and a mission to protect imperiled ecosystems. One of our flagship research and conservation programs is Biological Indicators of Ocean Plastic Pollution (BIOPs). For 15 years, Oikonos researchers have studied the plastic ingested by oceanic birds and pelagic fishes. Finding balloons in the stomachs of seabirds is one of the most upsetting findings because it converts to a messy, sticky goo in their digestive juices and often can't be processed by the gizzard so the toxic additives are retained in the digestive track for a long time. Even if a balloon doesn't block the digestive track, it likely has a more acute release of toxins into tissue than hard plastic fragments that seabirds and fish also frequently ingest.



Removing consumer temptation to buy helium balloons is an easy solution. Most people who grew up giving balloons as a loving and fun gesture don't know the danger to ocean wildlife. An education campaign can help, but the quickest way is for vendors to tell people when they inquire about buying them. On islands, and all coastal and lake areas, this is a great way for the government to help inform the public and protect their wildlife.

It won't hurt businesses to stop selling helium balloons as there are better party materials with a higher margin of profit. Let's have guilt free Ohana parties!

Here are 20 alternative materials to make a pretty and fun party or celebration.
<https://balloonsblow.org/environmentally-friendly-alternatives/>

Thank you for considering Bill 2781. We enthusiastically support this action and hope other island and coastal governments follow your lead.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hester
President and Lead Ecologist
Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge
michelle@oikonos.org
www.oikonos.org
(808) 228-4463



SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:53:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Vanderlip	Testifying for Kure Atoll Conservancy	Support	No

Comments:

Plastic pollution (marine debris) is a serious threat to wildlife in the protected Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument where wildlife is abundant. Plastic pollution from Hawaii Island has been documented to drift all the way to Kure Atoll in less than one year. We must do what we can by acting locally to stop all point-source plastic pollution. Hawaii has become a world leader in reducing single use plastic. This action is an opportunity to increase world awareness of the dangers of balloon releases.

Kure Atoll Conservancy is a non-profit organization founded in 2008 to protect and restore Kure Atoll Wildlife Sanctuary through habitat restoration and education efforts. Since that time, we have collected thousands of albatross boluses, which contain heavy loads plastic including balloons and the attached ribbons. With our partner Oikonos we distributed them to universities for research and to schools to help educate students about plastic problems.

Staff and volunteers from the State of Hawaii DLNR/DOFAW collect approximately 10,000 pounds of marine pollution capable of entangling wildlife per year at Kure Atoll. Last year Kure biologists found Brown Booby that died from entanglement in a ribbon with the Mylar balloon still attached. We have seen first-hand the impact that plastic pollution has on our wildlife and coastal ecosystems. Please visit our website for further information: <http://kureatollconservancy.org>

Please pass Senate bill 2781 and protect our precious wildlife.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 1:09:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
camille erickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Latex is a common allergy which affects my 3 year old son, among many others. Allowing latex balloons to be released into the atmosphere creates a danger to those with the allergy when ballon particles fall down, not to mention the pollution and negative impact on animals and the environment. Please make balloon releases illegal in Hawaii to protect those with this serious allergy. Thank you.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 4:21:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Marie Jacintho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Balloon releases are not only litter pollution, dangerous to livestock, Marine life and wildlife. Balloon releases also are dangerous for those with Latex Allergy. What goes up must come down and no one knows how far a latex balloon will go before it returns to the earth. Latex Proteins are airborne pathogens, there are 4700 parts of latex protein per 1 mL in balloons (Yungiger JW, etal. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 1994)

Per CDC up to 6% of the general population has a latex allergy. Balloon releases put these people at risk by the time they see a balloon it is too late, they have already been exposed to the airborne latex proteins like glitter leaving its residue everywhere.

My daughter has a latex allergy a couple weeks ago we were walking into a store there at the store entrance were balloons. She immediately had a reaction, ran to the car, luckily she was able to medicate before she developed anaphylaxis.

We are also ranchers and have come across balloon debris in our pastures. If cattle digest the balloon it does not break down in their gut and they can die. A farmer in the UK won compensation after a Balloon killed his cow. The Balloon still had the school label attached to it sticking out of the dead animals mouth. (telegraph.co.uk May 5, 2011).

Balloon releases could end up in fields that are used for hay. Balers can suck the balloons in with the grass, creating ballon-filled hay bales as was reported in Washington state.

BalloonsBlow.org has many pictures and factsheets of the dangers of latex Balloons. Latex Balloons are dangerous for our environment, our animals and humans.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and I ask the you Please Pass SB2781

Anne Marie Owens Jacintho

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 6:26:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Russo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the prohibition of balloon releases for many reasons: not only is it littering, in general, but it is dangerous to our environment and the wildlife that become entangled in the litter, as well as mistaking the balloons for food. There are no safe biodegradable balloons. It takes years for them to break down. Most importantly, for me, as a person with a latex allergy, latex balloons are life threatening, as I am airborne reactive to latex protein particles and being anywhere near balloons (even if I can not see them) will result in an anaphylactic reaction.

Using helium to inflate balloons is also a waste of a precious finite gas. Helium is necessary for medical procedures, such as MRIs and we can not afford to be wasting a finite resource on frivolous balloons that endanger humans and wildlife.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 6:11:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruth Simonton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing in support of HAWII SB2781. Intentional balloon releases are not only a danger to animals and the environment, they are also a danger to those of us with latex allergies.

I have a severe airborne and contact latex allergy. One latex balloon has the potential to cause me to have an allergic reaction, and I don't even have to touch it. If there is a balloon or has been a balloon in my air space, for example stuck in a tree or caught on a sign, I immediately become hoarse, I develop itchy red eczema around my eyes and behind my ears, my chest hurts, my blood pressure drops, and I become lightheaded. I have to carry epinephrine, benadryl and a rescue inhaler at all times. Fortunately, I have only had two anaphylactic reactions, but since latex allergy is progressive and incurable, it is likely that I will have more.

Please consider those of us with diagnosed latex allergies as well as those with undiagnosed latex allergies, especially children, and adopt a policy banning the intentional release of balloons inflated with a gas lighter than air.

Sincerely,
Ruth Simonton

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 7:37:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trisha Malone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I strongly support SB2781. Not only will this help prevent balloon litter from endangering precious sea life and birds, but this bill would also help those of us with a latex allergy.

Per balloonsblow.org, <https://balloonsblow.org/latex-balloons-still-kill/>, "The balloon industry has set "standards" for themselves claiming that releasing balloons that are hand-tied, so-called, "biodegradable" latex balloons without any attachments of ribbon is environmentally friendly. This is just a marketing gimmick to get people to litter with their product. The balloons pictured below were released to their standards. Some are months old, some are years old. *Natural* latex may be biodegradable, but after adding chemicals, plasticizers and artificial dyes, how natural could it be? It may *degrade* after several years, but it's surely not "biodegradable." Many people think it's okay to release latex balloons because they are marketed as "biodegradable". Sadly, this costs lives.. Latex balloons are the type most commonly found in the stomachs of dead animals." Since what goes up must come down, passing of this bill will help protect the environment and wildlife from this deadly form of litter.

Both my 13 year old daughter and I have a severe allergy to latex. There is no cure for latex allergy, which affects my little girl and I along with up to 6% people in the United States, and in fact symptoms generally get worse with repeated exposure. That means it can change from an annoying allergy one day to a life threatening one the next. Somebody who today gets an itchy rash from a Band-Aid might be fighting for their life tomorrow after having been in the same room as a balloon. For those of us with this allergy, our bodies cannot handle being exposed to latex. Our bodies see latex as a foreign invader that it must fight off and our bodies go haywire in doing so. For me that used to mean if I came into contact with latex I would get a skin reaction, a red rash and blisters, but with repeated exposure it now means when I come into contact with latex, my body reacts with anaphylaxis. In my case along with other symptoms, my tongue swells and my throat closes which, if not immediately treated, can be fatal. I take daily antihistamines to try to dull my body's automatic reaction. I also must keep multiple Epi-pens and more antihistamines on me at all times. However, this does not prevent reactions. Every minute of every day is spent trying to keep myself and my daughter safe from an often invisible invader.

Latex balloons contain a powder which helps release them from molds when they are manufactured. This powder carries latex proteins, which can cause those with a latex allergy to have a severe allergic reaction. Latex balloons have an extremely high level of latex proteins, especially when compared to other products made with latex rubber. Latex balloons that are released into the environment pose a risk to us because they can land anywhere including on the property or in the vicinity of somebody with a latex allergy. This can bring latex into our own homes and personal spaces that we work so very hard to keep free of this deadly allergen.

I thank you for your efforts to ban balloon releases for our environment, our wildlife, and for the millions of people worldwide suffering with a latex allergy.

Sincerely,

Trisha Malone

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 6:54:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Salanti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Senate Bill 2781 prohibiting the intentional release of balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air. One consequence of this legislation would be diminishing the impact on animals and the environment. Another would be reducing exposure to latex to millions of latex allergic people, roughly up to 6% of the US population. Some like me react to airborne latex particles with anaphylaxis. Thank you.

Anna Salanti

503-977-2660

asalanti@gmail.com

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 4:40:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alan geisenheimer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in support of the legislation. I have testified in other states to the banning of any latex product, especially in food preparation. At one time, I was flying as a private pilot and we were warned of lighter than air balloons released by individuals, schools and organizations that rose to 1,000 to 3,000 feet and could interfere with operational aircraft. As such, besides the latex issue there is public safety in the air as planes are most vulnerable at low speed approaches to landing. I hope you pass this legislation for the safety and wellbeing of the general public with no downside to anyone else.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 10:34:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support Senate Bill 2781 prohibiting the intentional release of balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air. One consequence of this legislation would be diminishing the impact on animals and the environment. Another consequence would be reducing exposure to latex to millions of latex allergic people, roughly up to 6% of the US population. Some people react to airborne latex particles with anaphylaxis. Thank you.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 12:28:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen E Mallov	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Senate Bill 2781 in order to stop voluntary release of helium-filled balloons into the atmosphere.

When the balloons burst and fall into the ocean, sea birds think they are food. We have already lost tens of thousands of seabirds due to the ocean warming. We must protect the others. Birds are more likely to die from eating soft plastic than hard plastic. Also, my neighbor is highly sensitive to latex, and the process of bringing many latex-filled balloons in her vicinity could cause her harm. Why take a risk for a few moments of pleasure?

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Mallov

kmallov@gmail.com

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 7:09:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mirella Rizzatti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to save the animals and nature

SB-2781

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 10:12:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Janezic	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair Gabbard and AEN Committee Members

From: Carol Janezic

Re: SB2781 - Litter

Hearing: Wednesday Feb 5th, 2020 at 1:30pm, Conference room 224

Committee: Agriculture & Environment

Hello Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment. I'm Carol Janezic, a resident of Temple Valley, Kahaluu, and I strongly support Bill SB2781 banning balloon releases. I'm writing to you today because birds and sea turtles cannot. Please pass Bill 2781 as is.

Mahalo. Don't forget, Bill 2781 is the one to pass in protection of our precious native wildlife.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 7:50:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Kevin R. Gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for considering this important measure. Unfortunately, many citizens can't imagine the impact any rubbish has on our ecosystem and the idea that a joyful balloon could hurt wildlife is just not on their minds.

So, it seems legislation is necessary. As much as more laws on the books is cumbersome, our planets survival is at stake.

Please **SUPPORT SB 2781**.

Mahalo,

Kevin R. Gibson

Environmental Scientist and Primary Care Physician

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 9:54:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanne Amberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please protect our ocean life from this unnecessary man made litter.

Mahalo.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 4:12:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristi Ingel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment:

My name is Kristi Ingel and I am a resident of Aiea. I am writing in strong support of Bill SB2781, which will ban balloon releases.

While balloons may be fun for people for a few minutes at parties and such, they can be a death sentence to animals, including marine life. Balloons which are released, will of course, eventually descend, and then become litter. Ballons on the ground and in the water are often mistaken for food by animals such as birds and sea turtles, who eat them and then die an agonizing death. The short enjoyment time that humans spend watching balloons fly away is not worth the lives of our fellow creatures. I for one prefer to see birds and turtles rather than floating balloons.

Please pass this bill as it is written and thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kristi Ingel

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 8:29:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

My name is Mrs. Amy Cady and I am a resident of Ewa Beach. I am writing in strong SUPPORT of SB2781 banning balloon releases for the sake of our honu, birds, and other marine creatures we are blessed to share life with in and around our beautiful State. Please pass this bill as is.

Thank you for working toward the greater good for all.

Mahalo,

Mrs. Amy Cady

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:29:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Savannah, I am a Junior at Radford Highschool. I am a resident of Aiea, Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of SB2781, banning balloon release.

I think ts important to ban balloon release because I care about the environment I live in, and I would like it to be taken better care of. Not only that, but it is another reason we are losing many beautiful marine life.

Please pass the bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide a written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahlo,

Savannah

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:30:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Shane Vogt, And i am a senior at Radford Highschool. I am a resident of Halawa. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases. A study done by the University of Texas Marine Science Institute concluded that 5 percent of the dead sea turtles had ingested Balloons

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Thank You,

Shane Vogt

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:29:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse Dickerson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Jesse Dickerson, I go to Radford High School. I am a resident of Honolulu. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases. Seeing the balloons being released is always interesting but wondering where they ended up always got to me. Now knowing that they end up popping and landing in the ocean only to litter and harm hungry sea turtles who don't know any better. These sea turtles that end up eating the balloons don't have any way of getting rid of the plastic in their stomachs meaning once it starts accumulating there's no way of getting rid of it. Coming to a place as beautiful as Hawaii and learning we're killing beautiful sea creatures like sea turtles with balloons is awful and one of the easiest things we can begin to fix.

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,

Jesse Dickerson

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:30:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ok boomer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Dakota. I am 18 years old and I am a junior and I am a resident of Honolulu Hawaii and I am writing in Strong opposition to SB2781 banning balloon releases. I think that people should be allowed to celebrate how we want they shouldn't ban balloon releases. I feel like people would still release balloons even if told not too.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:30:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon R.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

My name is Brandon Revilla and I am a 12th grade senior currently attending Radford High school and I am a resident of Waikele. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases.

All released balloons, including those falsely marketed as “biodegradable latex,” return to Earth as ugly litter. They kill countless animals and cause dangerous power outages. Balloons are also a waste of Helium, a finite resource. Balloons can travel thousands of miles and pollute the most remote and pristine places. Many turtles, like the leatherback turtles, eat the balloon debris as they mistake shredded balloons for jellyfish. We need to start taking action and help save the planet, our ecosystem, and the life that inhabits it.

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,

Brandon Revilla

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:33:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:34:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Viktoria W	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Viktoria and I am in 10th grade and I am a resident of Honolulu. I am witing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases. I is very imporant because marine animals for example think it is food so they eat it and die in adverse consequences. Because they can not eat any thing else and the balloon strangulises them from the inside.

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo, Viktoria

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:32:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taniya Hooper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:34:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyla S	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

My name is Kyla, and I'm 17 years old and a senior at Radford High School. I am a resident of Honolulu, I live on Hickam Air Force base. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases. I think it's important to pass the ban because many of the balloons are ending up in the ocean and they are mistaken for food by marine animals like Sea Turtles, Dolphins, Whales, etc. I've found balloons on the beach myself. Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,

Kyla Saylor

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:35:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Bree Kipilii, I am a Senior at Radford High School and I am a resident of Ewa Beach. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases.

The importance that this bill holds is unimaganly significant impact on Hawai'i marine life, the consequences of releasing balloons are not only harmful but also deadly to a number of marine animals. For example turtles mistake these balloons as jellyfish and eat them, which can result in a painful death such as starvation and even getting strangled from the ribbon. After further research I have found out that a significant number of balloons are released during the graduations season and end up washing up on our beaches. I have also discovered that there are many alternatives to releasing balloons for different events that don't harm the environment.

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,

Bree Kipili

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:35:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Migel G.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Migel Graciano, I am a 17 year old senior at Radford High School and I am a resident of Salt Lake. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning ballon releases.

Throughout the years I have seen many post on socia media regarding the rising numbers in death of the many marine animals. There are many new ways to celebrate birthdays, graduations and other celebrations without the releasing of balloons. People can light candles, fly kites, use ribbons without releasing them, or even blow bubbles. I strongly advise others to do research and find new and safe ways to replace releasing balloons.

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this oppportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,

Migel Graciano

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:36:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard and Memeners of the Committe on Agriculture and the Environment,

My name is Helen Wilson, I am a senior at Radford High School and a resident of JBPHH. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon release. It is highly important for our society to take action for the lives of not only marine animals, but any animal in our environment. Sea turtles prey on mainly jellyfish and in their perspective a balloon does not look that much different from a jellyfish. If these turtles consume a balloon, they will not be able to digest it properly and starve after 60 days. This is a painful death that no animal should experience. Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opprotunity to provide a written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Thank you,

Helen Wilson

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:37:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

To :Chair Gabbard & AEN Committee Members

From: Kaelan Bryant

Re: SB2781 Relating to Litter Control

Hearing: Wednesday February 5th,2020 at 1:30pm in COnference room 224

Committee:Agriculture & Environment

Aloha Chiar Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

My name is Kaelan Bryant, I'm 16 year old in my Junior year of High School and I am a Resident of Kapoelei, Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases.

It is important to ban the balloon releases because it will help our marine animals such as sea turtles, whales, and dolphins have a better chance at life in the ocean and banning the balloon releases will help our environment with less plastic in the lands and seas. When I'm at an event such as parties,anniversaires, and graduations, it will be common to release a bunch of balloons as a celebration and remembrance and I never realize how bad the balloon releasing was until I saw many balloons in the summertime scattered on the beaches and waters. I never realize that the balloons can affect the marine life animal in such a negative way and I want to make a change to that so no more of our marine animals and our environment is no longer damaged in these balloon releases.

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781

Mahalo,

Kaelan Bryant

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:39:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

To: Chair Gabbard & AEN Committee Members

From: Isaiah Salado

Re: SB2781 Relating to Litter Control

Hearing: Wednesday February 5th, 2020 at 1:30pm in Conference room 224

Committee: Agriculture & Environment

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee and Agriculture and Environment,

My name is Isaiah and I am a resident of Nuuanu. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases. I think that it's really important to stop releasing balloons in the air since it has caused a big problem for our marine life and beaches. I have seen first hand experience of people letting go of balloons being that I live in town I see it at the UH Stadium, the Blaisdale. Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of bill SB7821

Mahalo, Isaiah

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:39:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Hicks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair Gabbard & AEN Committee Members

From: Stephanie Hicks

Re: SB2781 Relating to Litter Control

Hearing: Wenesday, February 5th, 2020 at 1:30pm in Conference room 224

Committee: Agriculture & Enviroment

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Enviroment,

My name is Stephanie Hicks, I am a sophomore at Radford High School and I live on Hickam AFB in Honolulu. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases.

It is important to pass this bill because turtles and other sea life eat the balloons thinking that it is food, and it eventually kills them from the inside. I have learned from school that the turtles cannot throw up the balloons, so it stays in their system until they die. The marine life suffer from painful deaths and it is bad for the species and for the island.

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this oppurtunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,

Stephanie H.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:39:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aidan Range	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair Gabbard and AEN Committee Members

From: Aidan Range

Re: SB2781 Relating to Litter Control

Hearing: Wednesday February 5th, 2020 at 1:30pm in Conference room 224

Committee: Agriculture and Environment

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

My name is Aidan Range, I am a senior at Radford High School and I live on JBPHH in Honolulu. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases.

It is important to pass this bill because turtles and other marine life eat the balloons thinking it is food, and it is eventually deadly and kills them. I have learned in school that the turtles cannot poop out balloons, so it stays in their system until they die. The marine life suffer painful and long deaths that can be stopped with this ban.

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,

Aidan R.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:42:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

To: Chair Gabbard & AEN Committee Members

From: Desmond Burress

Re: SB2781 Relating to Litter Control

Hearing : Wednesday February 5th, 2020 at 1:30pm in Conference room

Committee : Agriculture & Environment

My name is Desmond Burress, I am a highschool student from radford highschool. I am 18 years old in the 12th grade, i am a resident of Honolulu Hawaii. I am writing a strong support on SB2781 banning balloon release. I think it is important banning balloons release because after the balloons get released they come right back down and since we are on an island the balloons can go to the ocean. Turtles like to eat jellyfish and they can easily mistake a balloon for an jellyfish. If we ban the release maybe we can help stop most of the plastic building into the ocean and maybe stop the rise of the death toll in the ocean.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:42:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

My name is Carla from Radford Highschool, 17 years old, and I am from Pearl City. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases. Throughout my life so far I have seen trash being thrown around like the Earth is a giant garbage bag. Global warming has gotten worse by the minute and many people don't seem to care. I have seen balloons being relased at birthdays, graduations, weddings, etc. I firmly believe that these actions should not be allowed because we need to take any action we can in order to keep this Earth alive. I am very concernd about how our planet will turn out to be for the future. It is honeslty heartbreaking thinking of the many animals starving, choking, and dying because of the ations of humans. People are very careless about topics related to this and that is a world I don't want to live in. We need change and we need it now, our animals and sources of life are starting to vanish. What are we going to do when there is nothng more we can do? I hope that Bills like this will pass in order to keep our planet and future alive. Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,

Carla K

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:43:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amari H	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Amari Helmany i am in 12 grade, and i am i resident of honolulu hawaii. I am writing because i am in strong support of SB2781 banning of ballon release. I support this because there are alternatives ways to show support or congraulations with ballon realease so they cant kill tge marine animals like turtles who shee these ballons as jelly fish

so please pass the bill as is, thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in stro g support of SB2781,

mahalo

amari

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:16:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Virginia Schweiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

Balloon releases are an activity that provides short-term excitement with long-lasting detrimental consequences. I have participated in numerous beach clean-up on islands throughout the world, and I honestly cannot count the number of balloon and ribbon pieces I have collected from remote islands where these balloons landed. People do not seem to realize these balloons and streamers do not simply disappear--they end up on land and in the ocean, or even worse in the stomachs and intestines of our fragile marine organisms. As a marine biologist, I can testify to the fragility of our marine ecosystems and the documented evidence showing these balloons and the ribbons tied to them ending up in the digestive systems of marine organisms. As a mother, I can testify that my son will not be deprived by not having balloons at his birthday and graduation celebrations--there are so many alternative decorations that will not litter our planet and harm organisms. Please give due consideration to this important and I believe necessary bill, if not for yourself then for future generations.

Sincerely,

Dr. Virginia Schweiss

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:03:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chanelle Vincent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the ban on releasing balloons because after you release the balloons and watch they float away and record them floating away, where do they go? They eventually run out of helium inside the ballon and flatten out and fall into the ocean hurting our marine life. After the balloon is released, people leave it up to the winds and God for it to go anywhere it desires but eventually the balloon will end up in the ocean in the mouth of the marine life because it is possible stuck and/or inside the food for that marine organism. Once the balloons leave the people's hands, it is not longer in their care or control about where it goes and where it lands.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:08:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nyah Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair Gabbard & AEN Committee Members

From: Nyah Kahaloa

Re: SB2781 Relating to Litter Control

Hearing: Wednesday February 5th, 2020 at 1:30pm in Conference room 224

Committee: Agriculture & Environment

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

My name is Nyah Kahaloa, Im 18 years old and attend the University of Hawaii at West Oahu and I am a resident of Ewa Beach. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases.

I believe it is important to ban balloons being released because of how it affects our oceans and marine life. All together, plastic has been such a huge issue regarding our oceans that taking steps to eradicate plastic is also being taken place. However, around graduation season balloons are found everywhere in our oceans, being eaten by our marine animals and killing them.

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,
Nyah Kahaloa

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:14:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasha-Ann Ah Nee-Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair Gabbard & AEN Committee Members

From: Jasha-Ann Ah Nee-Green

Re: SB2781 Relating to Litter Control

Hearing: Wednesday February 5th, 2020 at 1:30pm in Conference room 224

Committee: Agriculture & Environment

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

My name is Jasha-Ann Ah Nee-Green. I am 18 years old and a freshman in college and I am a resident of Ewa Beach. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases.

I believe it is important to ban balloon releases because it will decrease the pollution going into our oceans and killing marine life. I have seen many people carelessly release balloons into the sky and not knowing what happens to that balloon or where it goes. Many balloons wash up on the beach and it is sad to see knowing the damage it caused.

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,

Jasha-Ann Ah Nee-Green

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:30:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Littering doesn't help whatsoever. It hurts the marine life.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:53:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Malasig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair Gabbard & AEN Committee Members

From: (your first and last name)

Re: SB2781 Relating to Litter Control

Hearing: Wednesday February 5th, 2020 at 1:30pm in Conference room 224

Committee: Agriculture & Environment

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

My name is Julia Malasig I am a student at University of Hawaii West Oahu; I am 18 years old and a first year student. and I am a resident of Waianae, Oahu. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases.

(Write about why you think it is important to ban balloon releases such as saving sea turtles. Do you have first hand experience seeing people release balloons? or have found some on the beach? If so, please include your experience in your testimony)

I think it is important to ban ballon releases because littering is illegal and when a balloon is released in the air we do not know where it blows to. A Balloon can potentially travel thousands of miles and pollute anywhere and everywhere in the world including places where humans do not live. This means we are littering and polluting maybe not right that moment but in the future when the balloon lands wherever it lands. This includes the ocean if the poisonous latex falls into the ocean this can cause marine organisms to eat this and cause death to this organism and possibly kill off this species. There are many other ways to celebrate without polluting our Mother Earth.

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,
Julia Malasig

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:23:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kylah Sagucio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If balloons lose their helium, they usually land in the ocean, contributing to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Thus harming our ocean environment. This bill helps to prevent debris in our environment and to prevent harm amongst marine life ecosystems.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:24:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I believe that, plastics are harming the marine animals in a way because the number of organisms are decreasing. Therefore plastics should be banned.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:30:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

It's nasty if I found a balloon while swimming at the beach. Or in an animal. Just put the ban up please.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:31:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Save our environment and marine life.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:36:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CESAR CARRERA	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

To: Chair Gabbard & AEN Committee Members

From: Cesar Carrera

Re: SB2781 Relating to Litter Control

Hearing: Wednesday February 5th, 2020 at 1:30pm in Conference room 224

Committee: Agriculture & Environment

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

My name is Cesar Carrera a 36 year old UH student, and I am a resident of Pupukea, Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases.

There are way too many balloons that are released, which end up in the oceans. The use of these balloons does not equal the damage caused to wildlife and our oceans. Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,

Cesar Carrera

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:38:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
calsea	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:54:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
L Schro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:51:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

In many other coastal communities, balloons are banned because they are a severe threat to marine life and are highly unnecessary.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:29:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:03:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noelle Trieu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill strongly, we as humans have put earth through so much. It's time to put our enviroment first, coral reefs are a huge part of the ocean were lucky to still have the coral thats here. Let this be the beginng of something beautiful, Please pass this bill!!

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:32:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:57:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzie Wallace	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

To: Chair Gabbard & AEN Committee Members

From: Suzie Wallace

Re: SB2781 Relating to Litter Control

Hearing: Wednesday February 5th, 2020 at 1:30pm in Conference room 224

Committee: Agriculture & Environment

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

My name is Suzie Wallace and I am a resident of Puowaina (Punchbowl), Honolulu. I am also a marine science teacher at Radford High School. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases.

I have personally seen littered bits of balloons at Ala Moana Beach Park and have witnessed many graduations over the past decade where balloons were released. It is well documented within the scientific community the impact that plastics, including balloons, has on marine animals especially juvenile sea turtles that mistake plastics for jellyfish, which is their main food source. Unlike humans, turtles cannot regurgitate ingested plastics and can die from starvation when they eat plastics mistaking it for food. Given the impact that releasing balloons can have on our local sea turtle population and the fact that there are many other ways to celebrate occasions other than releasing balloons, it seems to me fair to enact a law that protects our marine animals for our future generations.

Personally, my most difficult task as an educator is having to explain to students how the judicial process works. Many children just absolutely love sea turtles but what they don't understand is why our judicial system is unjust and why they would need to submit testimony to have laws that protect their beloved sea turtles in the first place. Many students simply assume that our laws would not allow pollutants to be made in the first place if they were to have harmful impacts on wildlife. However, they are typically not pleased to learn that they must first thoroughly research a topic then use their words to sway politicians to enact laws that aim to conserve animals that were once plentiful in previous generations in order for these laws to be made.

I implore you to also research this topic thoroughly as well and not dismiss the advice of these experts. It is what my students expect that you have done to show your due diligence before making your decision today.

Please pass this bill as is. Thank you for your careful consideration and the opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781.

Mahalo,
Suzie Wallace

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:00:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill. I walk and take the bus and live near the ocean in Waikiki. I repeatedly find remnants of balloons and their strings on the beach and as litter along roadways and sidewalks. They are viewed by many as a symbol of joy and celebration but the reality is balloons and their string harm our marine life and birds as well as our land environment. Please support this bill and let's encourage celebration with natural, benign elements that support all life.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:25:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa-ann Pang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senate Chair Gabbard & Members of the Committee on Agriculture & the Environment, my name is Lisa-Ann Pang, resident of Kaneohe. I am writing in strong support of SB2781 banning balloon releases. Thank you for bringing this serious matter to discussion and a law. This is a step towards education and awareness of people's actions. Balloons released into the environment are a threat to electrical lines, littering the oceans and being mistaken for food by marine life, wherever a balloon lands causes litter and a hazard to wildlife getting tangled in ribbons. Mankind needs concern and compassion for our environment and the wildlife that needs

to survive in it. Please pass this important bill as is. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB2781. Sincerely, Lisa-Ann Pang

TO: Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

NAME: Dean Otsuki

RE: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2781**
Relating to litter control
Committee hearing on Wednesday 5th February, 2020 at 1:30PM.

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I am writing in strong support of SB2781 which would prohibit the intentional release of balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air.

Balloons are flying trash. They end up as pollution wherever they land. They are a threat to marine and land animals because they are colorful and are mistaken for their food. The plastic ribbons are also an entanglement hazard for animals. I've done many beach clean-ups and find dead balloons on the beach.

In addition, metallic balloons can cause a short circuit that can knock out power to thousands of residents. According to Hawaiian Electric Companies, in 2016 there were 25 power outages on Oahu affecting 37,221 customers, 3 power outages in Maui County affecting 3,977 customers and 2 on Hawaii Island affecting 963 power outages. "Graduation Balloons Present Power Outage Concern", May 16, 2017, (bigislandwatch.com)

There are other alternatives to balloons to celebrate such as blowing bubbles, writing in chalk, giving flowers or lei, having a nice meal, planting a tree or a flower/ butterfly garden.

Please pass SB2781 to end the harmful practice of releasing balloons in the environment.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Otsuki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "O".

Dean Otsuki

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 1:14:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2781

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:04:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Inga Gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: