

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
WATER AND LAND  
and  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, March 16, 2020  
1:20PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 129/SENATE RESOLUTION 89  
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
ADDRESS MICROPLASTICS BY DESIGNATING PERSONNEL, IMPLEMENTING  
TECHNOLOGY, AND ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROJECT AT KAILUA BEACH  
PARK TO DEPLOY AND TEST NEW SAND CLEANING TECHNOLOGIES FOR  
STATEWIDE USE**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 129/Senate Resolution 89 urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to address microplastics by designating personnel to address the issue and implement technology that removes microplastic debris from the sand and ocean water; develop and implement a pilot program at Kailua Beach to deploy and test new sand cleaning technologies; and submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation. **The Department opposes these resolutions.**

Pursuant to Section 46-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the various counties, not the Department, have the responsibility for removing and clearing all seaweed, limu and debris which are likely to create an unsanitary condition or become a public nuisance from shores and beaches within the respective counties. Furthermore, the Department notes that no additional funding or other support is provided to assist with the implementation of the activities requested by this resolution. In addition to burdening the Department's limited staffing resources, implementing the pilot program to develop and test new technologies would incur significant costs and divert critically needed funding for the Department's existing resource management and protection programs.

Finally, in order to effectively achieve the goals of the resolution, it would be necessary to conduct ongoing, continuous clean-ups. This would require significant funding, especially if implementation is expanded on statewide basis. Additionally, the Department questions whether

**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

cleaning microplastics that have already washed ashore would be effective in preventing the ingestion by marine life. It is likely that most microplastics consumed by marine life would be done so while feeding at sea, not on the beaches and coastlines.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.