

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 Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Friday, March 6, 2020
1:15 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 17/SENATE RESOLUTION 18
URGING THE STATE TO BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC GOODS AND PLASTIC
BAGS AND TO SET A SUSTAINABILITY EXAMPLE BY ELIMINATING THE USE
OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC TABLEWARE AT STATE DEPARTMENT MEETINGS
AND FUNCTIONS

Senate Concurrent Resolution 17/Senate Resolution 18 urges the State to ban single-use plastic goods and plastic bags and to set a sustainability example by eliminating the use of single-use plastic tableware at State department meetings and functions. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the deleterious impacts of plastic debris on wildlife and their habitats as a primary natural resource issue throughout the State. Plastic debris degrade land and ocean-based habitat and impact a variety of wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial) through ingestion and entanglement. These measures would help reduce the plastic debris load entering Hawaii's environment and contribute to the improved health of our wildlife and their habitats.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

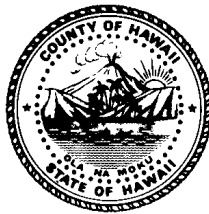
SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



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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 4, 2020

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON SCR 17/ SR 18, URGING THE STATE TO BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC GOODS AND
PLASTIC BAGS AND TO SET A SUSTAINABILITY PLASTIC TABLEWARE AT STATE
DEPARTMENT MEETINGS AND FUNCTIONS
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Government Operations
Friday, March 6, 2020
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224

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

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 17/SR 18 urging the State to ban single use plastic goods and plastic bags, and to set a sustainability plastic tableware at State Department meetings and functions. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Public Safety Committee.

The resolution outlines the concerns and actions needed to address reducing our carbon based waste stream of the State. The impact of our waste stream is unsustainable and detrimental to the future of Hawai'i's environment and people. Hawai'i County has passed an ordinance that bans polystyrene containers, and furthering protections provides an additional step forward in mitigating and adapting Hawai'i to inevitable change. Municipal waste, particularly plastics, has become a significant threat to Hawai'i's environment, ecosystems, and beaches on which the State's economy, culture, and native species rely on.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, and the Committee on Government Operations to support SCR 17/ SR 18 as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

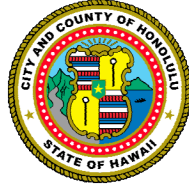
Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 9TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: resilientoahu@honolulu.gov • INTERNET: www.resilientoahu.org



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

JOSHUA W. STANBRO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020, 1:15 PM

STATE OF HAWAII
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 17
URGING THE STATE TO BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC GOODS AND PLASTIC
BAGS**

BY,

JOSHUA STANBRO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Thielen, and Members of the Committees:

The City and County of Honolulu (“City”) Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (“Resilience Office”) **strongly supports** SCR 17, which urges the state to ban single-use plastic goods and plastic bags and to set a sustainability example by eliminating the use of single-use plastic tableware at state department meetings and functions.

Disposable plastics that enter the environment have detrimental impacts to the ecological integrity of the state and the health and safety of its residents. Disposable plastic is neither degradable nor compostable and disposal of such waste contributes greenhouse gas emissions and poses a significant risk to the future of the State of Hawaii’s economy.

In December 2019, Mayor Caldwell signed Bill 40 (now Ordinance 19-30) into law banning certain disposable plastic goods. The adoption of Ordinance 19-30 is in alignment with the City’s Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, which includes goals of reducing per-capita waste generation by 25 percent, from 6.5 pounds per day to 4.9 pounds per day, by 2030 and reducing carbon emissions from the waste stream

Chair Gabbard and Chair Thielen
SCR 17
March 6, 2020
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by reducing or eliminating carbon-based single-use plastics and polystyrene from the waste stream by 2030. Specifically, the City has established a goal of reducing plastic waste going to H-POWER and landfill by one percentage point (from 10% to 9%) by 2030.

The Resilience Office strongly supports the purpose of this resolution to significantly reduce single-use plastic pollution state-wide through the same standards set forth in Ordinance 19-30. The Resilience Office also supports the State's effort to lead by example in eliminating the use of single-use plastic tableware at all state department meetings and functions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 17.

SCR-17

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 12:42:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

March 3, 2020

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
And members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Laura Thielen, Chair
And members of the Committee on Government Operations

Testimony in Support of SCR 17/SR 18 Urging the State to Ban Single-Use Plastic Goods and Plastic Bags and Set a Sustainability Example by Eliminating the Use of Single Use Plastic Tableware at State Department Meetings and Functions

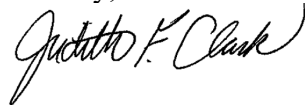
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SCR 17/SR 18 Urging the State to Ban Single-Use Plastic Goods and Plastic Bags and Set a Sustainability Example by Eliminating the Use of Single Use Plastic Tableware at State Department Meetings and Functions.

Hawaii's youth care strongly about preserving our environment. At the 2019 Children and Youth Summit at the State Capitol, reducing usage of single-use plastic goods was one of the top priorities that young people felt that Hawaii's Legislature should address.

On behalf of the youth who attended the Summit and care passionately about preserving the aina, we urge your support for this resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

SCR-17

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 5:53:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MELYNDA DANT	Testifying for Fair Wind Cruises	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am so impressed that so many of the legislature members use re-usable cups and hydro-flask containers at the capitol. Please support the non-use of single-use plastic everywhere we can. Our oceans are full of plastic, the garbage patch is criminal. Come to Kamilo Beach on the Big Island and see for yourself, too much plastic on our shore. Our ocean is expected to have more plastic than fish by 2050.

Make the example and stop using single-use plastic at all government meetings and events. People should be encouraged to bring their own water flasks and utensils or chopsticks. We can get creative when we have to and the time is NOW! Please SUPPORT SCR17

Sincerely,

Melynda Dant, Vice President

SCR-17

Submitted on: 3/5/2020 9:13:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Gregory	Testifying for EcoTipping Points Project	Support	No

Comments:



March 4, 2020

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Laura Thielen, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Government Operations

From: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

RE: SR 18/SCR 17 – OPPOSE

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose SR 18 and SCR 17, which urge the state to ban plastic foodservice packaging, bags, and tableware.

ACC membership includes the leading suppliers and manufacturers of plastics food service packaging products. ACC agrees that more can and should be done to increase the amount of plastic food service packaging material that is recycled and recovered. In fact, last year our industry set some very ambitious targets of ensuring 100% of plastic packaging is recyclable or recoverable by 2030 and that 100% of plastic packaging is re-used, recycled or recovered by 2040.

Additionally, global companies in the plastic value chain including many ACC members recently announced the creation of a new non-profit called the Alliance to End Plastic Waste. This new group is committing \$1.5 Billion over five years to end plastic waste in the environment through new packaging formats, more efficient recycling technologies, and new business models to create value in used plastic.

All packaging leaves an environmental footprint regardless of the material type. It takes energy and raw materials to produce, transport, and recover or dispose of any material. So it is important to measure all of these impacts throughout the entire lifecycle of a product. Plastics can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, require less energy and water to produce, require less fuel to transport, and help significantly reduce food waste¹. Phasing out its use does not fully consider unintended, yet important environmental tradeoffs.

Key questions that we urge the Committee to consider include:

- Are there environmental impacts (e.g. energy use, water use, impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, trash generation, landfill waste, etc.) associated with the manufacture, distribution, use and disposal of likely alternative replacement products?
- Are likely replacement products recycled or composted within the state's existing recycling infrastructure and do viable, end use markets exist for these products?

Focusing on one material type or solution will not lead to meaningful reductions in overall waste, but merely shift the composition of waste to alternative materials. In fact, litter studies conducted following the enactment of bans have

¹ <https://plastics.americanchemistry.com/Education-Resources/Publications/Impact-of-Plastics-Packaging.pdf>



shown an increase in the litter of alternative materials that is greater than the decline in the banned material. This was a primary reason why the California Water Board rejected the use of bans as a compliance mechanism for waterborne trash reduction.² Furthermore, the City Auditor of Honolulu, HI stated in a December 2018 audit to the City and County Council, “Polystyrene food containers are a small portion of litter and banning them would not meaningfully reduce the volume of litter or trash.”³

Last year Governor Ige signed into law, SB 522, which established the Plastic Source Reduction Working Group within the Department of Health. The Working Group includes representatives from business, government and the environmental community who have been tasked with making recommendations to reuse, reduce, recycle and recover plastic waste. We believe SR 18 and SCR 17 are premature given the charge of the Working Group. We would instead encourage the committee to hold off on advancing these resolutions pending the outcome and resulting recommendations of the Working Group.

Thank you in advance for considering our views. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at Tim_Shestek@americanchemistry.com. You may also contact ACC’s Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551.

² http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/trash_control/docs/trash_sr_040715.pdf

³ http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oca/oca_docs/PS_Ban_Study_Final_Report.pdf





Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, and
Government Operations
Friday, March 6, 2020 at 1:15 P.M.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

RE: SCR17/SR18, URGING THE STATE TO BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC GOODS AND PLASTIC BAGS AND TO SET A SUSTAINABILITY EXAMPLE BY ELIMINATING THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC TABLEWARE AT STATE DEPARTMENT MEETINGS AND FUNCTIONS

Chairs Gabbard and Thielen, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Inouye and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **provides the following comments on** Senate Concurrent Resolution 17/Senate Resolution 18, which urges the State to ban single-use plastic goods and plastic bags and to set a sustainability example by eliminating the use of single-use plastic tableware at State Department meetings and functions.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Last year Governor Ige signed into law Act 254, which created the Plastic Source Reduction Working Group with the intent to make recommendations to reuse, reduce, and recover plastic waste. Act 254 also requires the group to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, as well as any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular 2021 session. This working group is made up of several representatives from state and local governments, business, and environmental organizations and has already been meeting and working to carry out its responsibilities as stated in Act 254.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SCR17/SR18.

SCR-17

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 4:37:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SCR70, which would take steps 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, sea turtles, fish and birds commonly mistake plastic for food. The “Great Garbage Patch” circulating between Hawaii and California is steadily growing. Plastic is not biodegradable and only degrades into smaller and 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.

For these reasons, cities in the US and around the world are banning single use plastics such as polystyrene foam, plastic bags, straws, utensils and stirring sticks, or instituting measures to cut down on plastic pollution.

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

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

SCR-17

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 4:40:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I like resolutions like this where State Departments can set the example.

SCR-17

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 4:11:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stop wasting our time with all this Bull shit. Banning Plastic has only caused more harm than Good. Put this out to the People we should be able to Vote for or against. You are giving us no choice that means it is time to Clean House.

SCR-17

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 5:50:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

We should also ban balloons which pop in the sky, and when they fall, they either poison the land and sea life, or get eaten by birds and fish, subsequently causing detrimental results and contribute to killing off endangered species, having an overall negative global effect