



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1645 HD1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 2/25/2022

Room Number: Via Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Costs to implement this measure will impact the priorities identified in the
2 Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department)
3 appropriations and personnel priorities. The Department estimates that one enforcement position
4 should be established and funded annually to implement this proposal.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports prohibiting single-use toiletries and other
6 single-use plastic products to reduce the amount of plastic waste that is incinerated or disposed in
7 State landfills. However, the Department does not have the staff and funds to implement
8 inspection and enforcement. The Department respectfully requests funding and the establishment
9 of one new position to receive complaints and inspect lodging establishments identified as
10 distributing single-use toiletries in violation of HB1645 HD1. In addition to conducting
11 enforcement actions and dispensing citations, this position would also provide education and
12 outreach to the regulated community.

13 The Department also respectfully requests that this measure be placed in a separate
14 chapter among Chapters 339 and 339D, for greater visibility by non-solid waste management
15 facilities.

16 **Offered Amendments:** None

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



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii-tourism-authority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 25, 2022
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol
via videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 1645 HD1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee on Finance.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on HB1645 HD1, which prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic bottles within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests. We agree with the intent of this legislation as it is in alignment with our Strategic Plan and our Destination Management Action Plans, and we humbly offer the committee some suggestions to consider incorporating in this proposed measure.

We appreciate the additional time that was provided by the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Labor & Tourism as part of House Draft 1 and would urge that these timeframes be supported by this committee. We are aware of many properties that are already moving in the direction of eliminating the use of small plastic bottles for their amenities. Due to the pandemic, amenity dispensers have become difficult to secure and time is needed to acquire an adequate supply to be in compliance.

We would also ask the committee to consider providing support to the many local small businesses that are selling their products as guest amenities in order to support this move away from small bottles. As part of this measure, perhaps the committee may consider funding that would support these local small businesses in their transition from small plastic bottles to dispenser-size containers of their products.

February 25, 2022

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Finally, as it relates to enforcement, we continue to remain concerned that the Department of Health may experience challenges while attempting to enforce this measure. We would recommend that the visitor industry be required to self-certify that they are in compliance with the law rather than requiring the Department of Health to conduct inspections. We would further recommend that a hotline or dedicated email address be made available to the public to report possible violations of this measure.

We believe that by supporting the reasonable implementation timeframe, providing support for our local small business community, and requiring the industry to self-certify through this legislation that we will be able to address and resolve the issue of small plastic bottles utilized by the industry here in Hawai'i. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments on HB1645 HD1. Mahalo.



2/23/2022

FIN Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

Position: Support HB1645.

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider Foundation maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 4 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. The Surfrider Foundation focuses on many aspects of the environment such as coastal protection, plastic pollution, and water quality.

As an organization that has strongly championed efforts in Hawai'i to reduce single-use plastics, Surfrider Foundation strongly supports HB1645. Shockingly, over 91% of plastics are not recycled. The hospitality industry in Hawai'i generates millions of single-use plastic personal care products each year, with the majority ending up in our local landfills or being burned at H-Power. For example, a single 200-room four-star hotel can use about **300,000 pieces of single-use plastic in a month** if it is at full-capacity and does not invest in any eco-friendly alternatives ([link](#)).

In early 2021, New York state banned single-use **plastic** containers of soap, **shampoo** and other toiletries provided by hotels by 2024. Per the New York law, hotels will have to make the switch to refillable dispensers and environmentally-friendly containers for all body and hair care products. Smaller businesses with under 50 rooms are given an extra year to get ready for the change. California passed a similar law in 2019. Note that the New York bill had the backing of the hospitality industry.

Multinational hotel chains like Marriott International are already making the switch, after the company conceded that it [sends 500 million toiletries to landfill every year](#). Pump dispensers can now be found at over 1,000 of its hotels, a seventh of their worldwide portfolio. However, laws such as HB1645 are needed to ensure that businesses commit to reducing their single-use plastic footprint.

HB1645 will represent an important step towards eliminating unnecessary single-use plastics and improving the sustainability of the hospitality industry in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB1645, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawai'i and all of our members who live in the state and visit to enjoy the many coastal recreational opportunities offered by all of the islands' coastlines.

Sincerely,

Lauren Blickley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation



House Committee on Finance
Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Kyle Yamashita

February 25, 2022, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 308 via videoconference

HB 1645 HD1--RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY

Nancy Davlantes, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 1645 HD1, which would prohibit lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic bottles within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests and would establish fines and civil penalties.

No one checking in to a hotel or other accommodation doesn't welcome having an assortment of personal care products ready to use. Unfortunately, the hospitality industry in Hawai'i generates millions of single-use plastic personal care products each year, with the majority ending up in our local landfills or adding to the plastics washing ashore on beaches and shorelines.

We applaud those facilities that have moved to bulk refillable dispensers and environmentally friendly packaging and support this bill to encourage others in the hospitality industry to join them.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:07:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **HB1645 HD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.**

Hearing: Friday, February 25, 2022, 1:30 p.m., CR 308 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) was formed in 2017 with coral scientists, educators, legislators, filmmakers and advocacy groups to protect coral reefs and marine life. **The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition SUPPORTS HB1645 HD1.**

Hawai'i has a big problem with plastic marine debris fouling our beaches, washing up from the Great Pacific Gyre, everything from small plastic bottles to large plastic fishing nets. We need to lead the world by example in reducing use of all kinds of plastic.

This bill would take a small step toward reducing plastic waste by prohibiting lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small single-use plastic bottles.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 308
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 AT 2:30 P.M.**

To The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Finance

COMMENTING ON HB1645 HD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like to comment on HB1645 HD1 which prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic bottles within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests. And establishes fines and civil penalties.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce appreciates the additional language recently added allowing for more time to comply with the regulations in this bill. We would ask for at least a one-year grace period once the law goes into effect for properties to be in full compliance. Due to the current supply chain issues, it may take even more time than allotted for the necessary hardware and product to be widely available. Many properties are already moving in the direction of eliminating the use of small plastic bottles for their amenities. Due to the pandemic, these amenity dispensers have become difficult to secure and time is needed to acquire an adequate supply.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:42:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cynthia Reves	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. I am a high school teacher and we are trying to help the younger generation learn the skills and knowledge they will need to make the best choices for themselves and their community. We adults need to lead by example and this bill does that.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 3:34:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
chris c.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Committee Members,
I support HB 1645 HD1 to reduce plastic waste.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 5:34:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

More Bull Shit!

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:05:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carl J. Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1645

It will help reduce plastic waste and lower costs to the visitor industry.

Large re-fillable dispensers are already being used in Waikkiki hotels, all hotels should join in.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:27:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ana Velasquez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Ana Velasquez, I am a marine biology student at UH Manoa and I am in strong support of HB1645. Did you know that despite what the public may think, over 91% of plastics are not recycled! Here in Hawaii, the hospitality industry generates millions of single-use plastic personal care products each year, with the majority ending up in our local landfills or being burned at H-Power. For example, a single 200-room four-star hotel can use about 300,000 pieces of single-use plastic in a month if it is at full-capacity and does not invest in any eco-friendly alternatives ([link](#)).

In early 2021, New York state banned single-use plastic containers of soap, shampoo and other toiletries provided by hotels by 2024. Per the New York law, hotels will have to make the switch to refillable dispensers and environmentally-friendly containers for all body and hair care products. [Smaller businesses with under 50 rooms](#) are given an extra year to get ready for the change. California passed a similar law in 2019. Note that the New York bill had the backing of the hospitality industry.

Multinational hotel chains like Marriott International are already making the switch, after the company conceded that it [sends 500 million toiletries to landfill every year](#). Pump dispensers can now be found at over 1,000 of its hotels, a seventh of their worldwide portfolio. However, laws such as HB1645 are needed to ensure that businesses commit to reducing their single-use plastic footprint.

HB1645 will represent an important step towards eliminating unnecessary single-use plastics and improving the sustainability of the hospitality industry in Hawai‘i.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB1645.

Sincerely,

Ana Velasquez

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 9:56:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sanne Berrig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testifying as an ocean-loving private citizen who works in landfill diversion on Hawai'i Island, I **strongly** support this. These personal size, single use containers are wasteful and unnecessary. We are out of time discussing the perils of plastic waste - the science is clear, the planet is choking on excessive plastic consumption mainly in the name of convenience. *Please* support this bill.

Mahalo nui

Sanne Berrig

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 11:21:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 11:30:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marina Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Position: Support HB1645.

As a Maui resident, mother and member of the Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter, I strongly support HB1645. We have local zero waste businesses that are able to help the vacation industry make the switch to refillable dispensers for body care products in hotel rooms and vacation rental units. Surfrider Foundation also has a program called 'Rise Above Plastics On Vacation' that would provide the content and marketing support needed to make this transition.

Shockingly, over 91% of plastics are not recycled. The hospitality industry in Hawai'i generates millions of single-use plastic personal care products each year, with the majority ending up in our local landfills or being burned at H-Power. For example, a single 200-room four-star hotel can use about 300,000 pieces of single-use plastic in a month if it is at full-capacity and does not invest in any eco-friendly alternatives ([link](#)).

HB1645 will represent an important step towards eliminating unnecessary single-use plastics and improving the sustainability of the hospitality industry in Hawai'i.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 11:47:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Claire C	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Claire Cea and I am in favor of house bill 1645. Our island is limited in what it recycles, especially regarding plastic so I believe eliminating an unnecessary source of plastic that has more environmentally friendly alternatives is a step in the right direction.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 11:51:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christy Pratt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have stayed at Hotels where there are dispensers for shampoos, and soaps in the showeres area, no single use bottles.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 1:14:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1645 HD1, prohibiting lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic bottles.

In other countries, I've seen lodging establishments provide soap, shampoo, conditioner and other products in large, refillable bottles. It seems that this change will not only reduce plastic waste in our environment, but it can also lower costs for lodging establishments. Further, this change can be one more way visitors are encouraged to be a part of respecting and protecting our land in general during their stay.

This legislation is much needed.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 1:15:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Navarra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This ban will not hurt any busniesses. Many have already adopted the more sustainable practice of refillable containers in hotels. It's an easy no brainer. Covid does not pass on surfaces and even if it did, refillable containers can be disinfected between guests.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 1:29:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kapua Medeiros	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Finance Chair and Committee members,

I SUPPORT HB1645 HD1

This Bill is a Great Solution to end Plastics in our Oceans, Landfills, and All around our Islands.

Mahalo nui,

Kapua Medeiros

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 4:05:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Camile Cleveland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 10:26:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicole Larson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There is no away. Not only will there be more plastic than fish in the sea by 2050, we are all eating a credit card's worth of plastic every week! I support this bill to remove the little plastic bottles from hotels! It is cost effective, better for the environment and not that hard to switch over to dispensers that can be filled. We must address the climate change and plastic pollution however and whenever possible, and these little bottles add up.

Thanks for making a smart choice for our future.