



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

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

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD H.K. ONISHI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & TOURISM

Hearing Date: 2/3/2022

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.

8 Currently, the Department does not have the staff and funds to implement inspection and  
9 enforcement. The Department respectfully requests funding and the establishment of one new  
10 position to receive complaints and inspect lodging establishments identified as distributing  
11 single-use toiletries in violation of HB1645. In addition to conducting enforcement actions and  
12 dispensing citations, this position would also provide education and outreach to the regulated  
13 community.

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

- 1 **Offered Amendments:** None
- 2 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](http://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 ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
&  
**COMMITTEE ON LABOR & TOURISM**

February 3, 2022  
9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol  
via videoconference

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

---

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and members of the Committee on Labor & Tourism.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on HB1645, 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 would request the committee consider including an extended timeframe of three years for full implementation of this bill. In discussing this issue with the industry, 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, these amenity dispensers have become difficult to secure and time is needed to acquire an adequate supply to be in compliance.

We would propose that, in addition to providing a three-year implementation timeframe, that the committees also consider aiding the many local small businesses that are selling their products as

February 3, 2021

Page 2

guest amenities. As part of this measure, perhaps the committees may consider funding that would support these local small businesses in their transition from small plastic bottles to dispenser-size containers of their products.

Finally, as it relates to enforcement, we are 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 establishing a reasonable implementation timeframe, providing support for our local small business community, and requiring the industry to self-certify through this legislation would be able to help 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. Mahalo.



To: Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee On Energy & Environmental Protection  
And Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Chair Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Labor & Tourism

DATE: Thursday, February 3, 2022 Time: 9:00AM PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

RE: STONG SUPPORT FOR HEARING HB1645 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, Chair Onishi, and Vice Chair Sayama,

The use of single toiletries in hotels and other lodging establishments contributes to plastic waste locally and globally. We should discourage these facilities from providing single-use & personal care products and instead encourage these establishments to incorporate bulk personal care products as the alternative. Also encourage re-usable water drinking containers for use while staying at the property or making the purchase, as they do with bathrobes in the hotel rooms.

On Hawaii Island our beach at Kamilo Bay is proof of the mass amounts of plastic washing ashore from all over the Pacific causing harm to our planet. The single-use plastic containers are a problem that we do not need to continue supporting by purchasing them. We all must make changes to our business practices to meet our states 2030 green initiatives as well as the worldwide goals. It is a cost that we all share in to make our planet a healthier place as soon as possible. This concept needs to go to all businesses, requiring us all to look where we can decrease our environmental impact. The larger the business the more of an impact it can make.

Our small business has provided our customers chemical free sunscreen in bulk size containers since 2018 and spend a little over \$10,000 each year. These changes are expenses business can either absorb or pass on to the customer with a higher room rate, in our case a higher snorkel tour ticket price. I have personally noticed customers are not questioning prices instead they seem to appreciate the environmental steps taken to make our planet a healthier one.

*The Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan: Charting a Course for the Decade of Action (2020-2030)* simultaneously serves as a reminder that cumulatively as a state, we must all collaboratively and actively work together on the sustainable development and climate adaptation of the state to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations of Hawai'i to meet their own needs.

Please support HB1645.

Sincerely,

Mendy Dant  
Executive Vice President

78-6775 MAKENAWAI ST., BOX A  
KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII 96740  
TELE: 808-322-2644  
FAX: 808-322-2913

WWW.FAIR-WIND.COM



2/2/2022

EEP Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lowen and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

**Position: Support HB1644.**

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 Hawaii to reduce single-use plastics, Surfrider Foundation strongly supports HB1645. Shockingly, over 91% of plastics are not recycled. The hospitality industry in Hawaii 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 Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB1645, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawaii 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  
Hawaii Regional Manager  
Surfrider Foundation



Hawai'i's voice for wildlife  
Kō Hawai'i o nā holoholona lōhiu

**Before the House Committee on  
Energy and Environmental Protection  
and  
Labor and Tourism**

**Thursday, February 3, 2022  
9:00am**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1645  
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT**

Conservation Council For Hawaii **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1645**. We believe plastic bottles should be universally band and therefor support this effort to ensure lodging accommodations throughout the state prohibit the use of small plastic bottles not only in the sleeping room accommodations but property wide. This effort would have a far-reaching impact due to the diversity of visitors from around the world. Modeling a no plastic approach shows action in our efforts to eliminating plastics from our environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB1645.

**HB-1645**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:45:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Angela Huntmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must use less plastic. Many personal care products can be supplied to guests in larger delivery systems. Please - let's switch to these! Mahalo.



**HB-1645**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:26:18 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Tabatha Knudson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill!

**HB-1645**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 3:03:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are not under Comunist Rule so take your Crap and shovit you no were!!

**HB-1645**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:31:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

This is a bill that will be useful for reducing single use plastics.

I strongly support this.

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

**HB-1645**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:12:31 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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,

Sanne Berrig

**HB-1645**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:15:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
James Trujillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1645  
we are facing a solid waste crisis and legislation like this is necessary to reduce the impact of plastic in society. steps like this will help move us towards a more sustainable future in Hawai'i please vote in favor of eliminating these nuisance single use disposable plastic bottles from our waste stream.

with respect and aloha,

james g trujillo  
po box 33  
kapa'a, HI

**HB-1645**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:56:44 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/3/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The 4Rs

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, MANUFACTURERS, CONSUMERS

REDUCE

RECYCLE

REFUSE