

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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB0582
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: 2/3/2021

Room Number: Via Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department acknowledges the intent of this measure but
5 respectfully opposes it and submits the following comments.

6 The addition of plastic to Section 342D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes is unnecessary and
7 redundant as plastics are a subset of garbage and solid refuse, both of which are identified as
8 pollutants.

9 The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes that most of the
10 trash that pollute the nation's waters are plastic trash in particular and that plastic trash threatens
11 human health and aquatic ecosystems; however, the EPA does not differentiate plastic from other
12 forms of trash. The definition of "pollutant" in the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) is
13 substantially similar to the definition in 342D-1. The CWA provides regulatory tools to address
14 aquatic trash that the Department has adopted, including Municipal Separate Storm Sewer
15 System (MS4) permits and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits for trash entering water
16 bodies.

17 **Offered Amendments:** None

- 1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



January 29, 2021

Agriculture and Environment Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee,

The Surfrider Foundation would like to offer this testimony in support of SB582.

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 4 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. Addressing plastic pollution and ensuring the protection of clean water are two of Surfrider Foundation's primary focus areas.

The impacts and presence of plastic pollution are clearly documented - not only in Hawai'i but across the world. Plastic pollution in Hawaii ranges from microplastics that contaminate coastal waters and harm marine life to massive piles of plastic waste along Kamilo Beach, nicknamed "Plastic Beach." Studies indicate that 17 water bodies around the Hawaiian islands are impaired by plastic pollution. Surfrider Foundation's chapters across the state have for years been removing and documenting plastic pollution in coastal areas. In 2020 alone, the Surfrider Foundation Kaua'i Chapter removed an estimated 60,000 pounds of plastic pollution from the island's shorelines.

In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acknowledges the need to incorporate plastic pollution into Hawaii's 303(d) List of Impaired Waters determinations. In a [final ruling](#) dated March 30, 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rescinded its approval of the State of Hawai'i 2018 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, citing specifically that "the State's submission does not demonstrate that it has satisfied its statutory and regulatory obligation to assemble and evaluate all existing and readily available data and information related to plastics." As a result, EPA Regional Administrator John W. Busterud unilaterally decided to list Tern Island and Kamilo Beach as "impaired" by plastic pollution and ordered Hawai'i to include them in water-quality management plans to reduce the impact of plastic pollution on its waters, beaches and wildlife.

Plastic pollution, however, impairs multiple beaches and coastlines across Hawai'i and poses serious threats to coastal ecosystems and public health. Surfrider Foundation therefore strongly supports SB 582 to amend [HRS § 342D-1](#) to explicitly include "plastic" within the definition of "Pollutant."

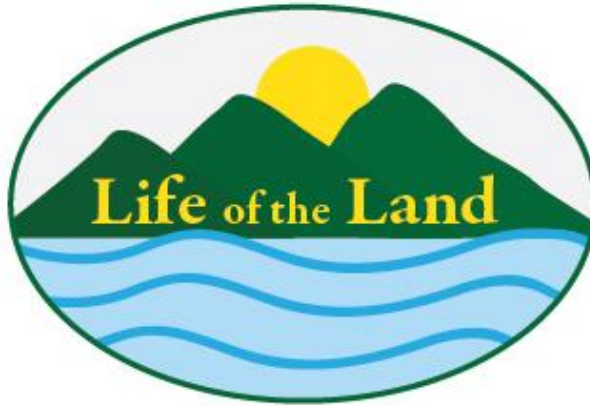
Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of SB 582, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Hawai'i Chapters and their 400+ members.

Sincerely,

Lauren Blickley

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Blickley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2021

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Via Videoconference

SB 582 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

Comments

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee,

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 51 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

SB 582 amends the definition of "water pollutant" as used in chapter 342D, HRS, relating to water pollution, to include plastic. "Microplastics, or plastic particles that are less than five millimeters in size, are especially a threat to marine wildlife and water quality."

The bill does not address how plastic producers and consumers should be regulated, how water should be cleaned, who will pay what, or anything else. The bill needs added substance if it advances.

The DOH Director apparently could inspect any site where someone is suspected of putting microplastic down the drain. (HRS §342D-8)

Mahalo

Henry Curtis

Executive Director

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 1:54:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Hearing: Wednesday February 3, 2021 1p.m. Videoconference

Re: SB582 Relating to the Environment

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SB582 amending the definition of “water pollution” as used in Chapter 342D, HRS to include plastic.

Plastic pollution is a huge problem throughout Hawaii’s coastal waters. It never disintegrates, but breaks down into smaller pieces that are dispersed by water and wind and become a part of the food chain. These microplastics tragically harm wildlife that ingest them. Further, microplastics also expose wildlife to dangerous toxins that are then promulgated through the food web, negatively impacting over 2,200 different species of plankton, invertebrates, fish, sea birds, sea turtles, and marine

mammals. Plastics also pose a threat to the fishing industry and people who eat seafood. It is clearly a serious water pollutant in our State.

Please support and pass SB582!

Respectfully,

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 10:14:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Michael Gabbard, Chair,

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and Members of the

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Re: Hearing SB 582– RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday February 3, 2021, 1:00 p.m., by videoconference

Position: **Support**

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawaii environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and other marine life. Plastic marine debris is one of a handful of topics HIROC is testifying on that affect the health of coral reefs and other aquatic life.

HIROC agrees strongly with the description of the severe harms of marine plastic to aquatic life set forth in Section 1 of the bill. If we are to heal the oceans, we need to stop producing, using, and disposing plastic into waters.

The bill would amend the definition of "water pollutant," as used in HRS Section 342D-1 relating to water pollution, to include plastic. The definition of "water pollutant" is already broad and inclusive. Plastic when discharged to water is already included implicitly as a water pollutant. Given the significance of plastic as a harmful and effectively indestructible water pollutant, however, HIROC would not object to its inclusion and therefore supports this bill.

Please pass this bill! Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 10:34:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawika Winter	Testifying for Heʻeia National Estuarine Research Reserve	Support	No

Comments:

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

As a resource manager, ecologist, and fisher person I am in strong support of this common-sense amendment to the definition of water pollution. There is a growing body of scientific evidence that plastics are ubiquitously impacting multiple levels of the food web, and are being found in the digestive systems of both aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates. The negative environmental impacts of plastic pollution in our waters is clear. While we don't yet fully know the negative impacts this will have on human health, I can tell you from first-hand experience that plastic pollution is negatively affecting community-based efforts to care for their places and fisheries. This proposed amendment is needed to enable us to more comprehensively address this problem before it overwhelms us.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kawika Winter, Ph.D.

Reserve Manager, Heʻeia National Estuarine Research Reserve



February 2, 2021

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

February 3, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 582 - RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Please accept these comments submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity (Center) in **strong support of SB 582** which amends the definition of “water pollutant” as used in chapter 342D, HRS, to include plastic.

The Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership corporation dedicated to the protection of native, threatened, and endangered species and the habitats they depend on to survive. Through science, policy, and environmental law, the Center is actively involved in conserving marine ecosystems. The Center has more than 88,000 members throughout the United States, including Hawai‘i, with a direct interest in ensuring that imperiled species are properly protected from destructive practices in our oceans. In pursuit of this mission, the Center has worked extensively to protect ocean ecosystems in Hawai‘i and nationwide from various threats including plastic pollution. The Center has engaged in efforts to protect endangered marine species threatened by plastic pollution in Hawai‘i, such as Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles, whales, and corals.

Plastic pollution poses a serious threat to Hawai‘i’s water quality and vulnerable marine ecosystems. Plastics pollution has a direct and deadly effect on wildlife. Thousands of seabirds and sea turtles, seals, and other marine mammals are killed each year after ingesting plastic or getting entangled in it. Microplastics, or plastics that have broken into tiny pieces, are emerging as a major threat to marine wildlife, water quality, and human health. Microplastics can absorb environmental toxins and get eaten by fish, other marine life, and can eventually be consumed by humans. Numerous studies have documented the presence of microplastics in Hawaiian waters, indicating that this is a serious water quality problem.

The ocean plastic pollution crisis is a public health crisis. Plastic permeates our waters, chokes wildlife and carries toxins onto our beaches, through our food web, and eventually onto our tables. Hawai'i must address this threat before it is too late.

By clearly defining plastic as a water pollutant under chapter 342D both state and federal regulators will be able to utilize the full extent of the law to protect our ocean, communities, and wildlife from this toxic threat. **Please pass SB 582 unamended.**

Mahalo for your consideration,

/s/ Maxx Phillips

Maxx Phillips, Esq.

Hawai'i Director and Staff Attorney

Center for Biological Diversity

1188 Bishop Street, Suite 2412

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

(808) 284-0007

MPhillips@biologicaldiversity.org

To: Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Re: Hearing SB 582

Wednesday February 3, 2021, 1:00 p.m., by videoconference

Position: **Support**

Aloha committee members,

My name is Rafael Bergstrom, the Executive Director of Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii (SCH) and a member of the State's Plastic Source Reduction Working Group (PSRWG). SCH is in strong support of SB 582, which amends HRS Section 342D-1 to add "plastic" to the definition of "water pollutant." To use straightforward language – if you have spent any time on Hawai'i's beaches, paddled in the near shore waters, looked under the surface of the ocean, or walked along most streams, you would be hard pressed to argue that plastics are not polluting our waterways.

Over the past 10 years SCH has removed 585,000 lbs. of debris from our coastlines, united 40,000 volunteers, educated 42,000 students, and waded through a destructive mess of plastic pollution. We are experts on plastic pollution, the consequences of inaction, and the solutions we have at our fingertips. Our citizens produce more than double per capita plastic waste of China and five times that of Indonesia, while (with Europe), housing 95% of the companies, lobbyists, and industries in the plastic economy (WEF 2016). Hawai'i beaches are inundated with the Pacific Gyre's rapidly increasing plastic pollution (CNN 2016).

As our ocean fills with more plastic by weight than fish (Washington Post 2016) by 2050, as we have seen a 610% increase in raw plastic production since 1975 (Jambeck 2015), and as 95% of plastic packaging globally (resulting in \$80-120 billion annual cost) is lost after a single-first use (WEF 2016), the solutions must be more geared towards a shift away from the fossil fuel based, greenhouse gas creating industry of plastics. The proliferation of plastic production will account for 20% of the global fossil fuel budget by 2050 (United Nations 2018). A recent study from UH Mānoa researchers, illustrates that plastics are also releasing methane as they degrade in water and sunlight.

A recent study published in the renowned journal of *Science* describes the mounting issues of plastics on our fragile and threatened reefs. The study describes corals as being 90% more likely to be diseased when plastic sits on the reef. The billions of pieces of plastic already in the ocean are scarring reefs and then likely infecting them with the contamination that comes from their chemical properties that allow for microbial colonization of pathogens. In other words, plastics bio-accumulate toxins in the water and thus can transfer such toxins to other organisms like coral. This is yet another toxic consequence of plastics in our oceans, of which many more are described in the points below.

The effects to marine life in our oceans are mounting. 50 to 80 percent of dead sea turtles have ingested plastic. Plastic bags, which resemble jellyfish, are the most commonly found item

in sea turtles' stomachs. Worldwide, 82 of 144 examined bird species contained plastic debris in their stomachs; and in some cases, 80 percent of the population had consumed plastic. Researchers found that 66 percent of Giant Petrel shorebirds regurgitated plastic when feeding their chicks. Commercial fish, such as Opah and Bigeye Tuna, consume plastic, which could significantly reduce global populations. A University of Hawaii study reports "[i]n the two [Opah] species found in Hawaiian waters, 58 percent of the small-eye opah and 43 percent of the big-eye opah had ingested some kind of debris."

The real question now is what more evidence do we need that plastic is a water pollutant? Any efforts to argue otherwise are built in a disconnect from the reality that we live in. Not only are plastics a pollutant to our waterways, but they are one of the most severe and damaging pollutants our modern world has seen. We have to start holding ourselves accountable to this industry and making rapid changes.

Mahalo for taking the time to read this and please continue to move SB 582 forward.

With Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafael Bergstrom', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rafael Bergstrom
Executive Director
Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i



Nicole Chatterson
Executive Director, Zero Waste O'ahu
oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com
808.561.7730

February 2, 2021

Aloha Chair Gabbard and AEN Committee Members:

My name is Nicole Chatterson. I am a Mānoa resident and the Executive Director of Zero Waste O'ahu. I am writing in **strong support of SB 582**, to amend the definition of "water pollutant" as used in chapter 342D, HRS, to include plastic.

By listing plastic as a pollutant, we can begin to hold large polluters responsible for the negative impacts they impart on both environmental and human health.

Zero Waste O'ahu is working on the topic of waste reduction in Hawai'i. Zero Waste O'ahu sat on the Rulemaking Advisory Committee for Ordinance 19-30 and was a member of the Statewide Plastic Reduction Working Group (created via SB 522 in the 2019 state legislative session).

If single-use plastic consumption maintains on the current trajectory, plastic use will account for 20% of our fossil fuel use by 2050.¹ While recycling and waste-to-energy are often cited as ways to deal with this plastic waste—we have recently seen that the recycling markets are too unstable to offer a consistent, sustainable solution to our waste, leading to plastic pollution. Compounding this, roughly 80% of the Global North's 'recyclable' plastics (exported from places like Hawai'i) are not recycled and instead escape into the marine environment.²

Plastic pollution can also block our waterways and lead to flooding. Polystyrene reduction has been recommended locally by the State Department of Transportation in their 2016 Waste Management Plan to prevent flooding from storm drain blockage produced by polystyrene and plastic bags.

We know animals are ingesting plastic and that chemicals related to certain plastics are found in the human body.^{3 4} We need to take action to ensure plastic is no longer mishandled.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nicole Chatterson

Director of Zero Waste O'ahu

¹ UNEP (2018). SINGLE-USE PLASTICS: A Roadmap for Sustainability

² World Economic Forum (2015). The New Plastics Economy. Rethinking the future of plastics.

³ [Plastic found in stomachs of commercially harvested fish.](#)

⁴ [Plastics risk human health](#)



February 2, 2021

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

RE: **SB 582 (Water Pollutant) – OPPOSE**

I am writing on behalf of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and its members to express our opposition to SB 582, which seeks to amend the current definition of water pollutant to specifically include plastic. ACC represents a diverse set of companies engaged in the business of chemistry, including the leading manufacturers of plastic resins.

ACC recognizes that plastic waste is a global problem that requires everyone from plastic producers, product manufacturers, brands, retailers, recyclers and waste haulers, as well as communities, nonprofits and federal, state and local government to come together to create a more circular economy for plastics. This means more efficiently using plastics by keeping them in use for as long as possible, getting the most from them during use, and recovering them to make new products.

In order to achieve these objectives, ACC recently announced our [Roadmap to Reuse](#)¹ and [Guiding Principles](#)² that will help us achieve our goal that [100% of all plastic packaging is reused, recycled or recovered by 2040](#)³. We continue to be engaged in developing policies and programs aimed at increasing the recovery of plastic packaging and developing new domestic markets for recycled materials. These efforts include building on recent domestic industry-announced investments of more than \$5 billion in traditional and advanced recycling; using recycled plastic as feedstock to produce new plastics and other products; improving plastic product design to increase recyclability; and developing plastics value chain financing for collecting and sorting various plastics packaging formats.

As you may know, litter of all kinds, including plastic litter, is already covered and regulated under the Clean Water Act (CWA) as it prohibits the “discharge of any pollutant by any person.” The CWA defines “discharge” very broadly as “any addition of any pollutant to navigable waters from any point source.”⁴ Further, the Act broadly defines “pollutant” to include any solid waste (and municipal waste). Litter and garbage in the environment are already considered solid waste under the Act.

It is also important to note that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took action in 2020 to require Hawaii to reevaluate its List of Impaired Waters to consider the impacts of plastic pollution. In July the EPA found the waters around Kamilo Beach and Tern Island to be impaired by trash and ordered the state to take corrective action.

¹ <https://www.reuseplastics.org/advocacy/the-roadmap-to-reuse>

² <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/CtQ1C31KPysmY40Jhg1eYS?domain=reuseplastics.org>

³ <https://www.americanchemistry.com/Media/PressReleasesTranscripts/ACC-news-releases/US-Plastics-Producers-Set-Circular-Economy-Goals-to-Recycle-or-Recover-100-Percent-of-Plastic-Packaging-by-2040.html>

⁴ US Supreme Court in County of Maui vs Hawaii Wildlife Fund (2020)



Amending the code to add “plastic” as a discrete category of pollution in Hawaii may potentially downplay the role of other pollutants in the environment. In fact, in 2015, Matson Terminals was forced to pay \$1 million in fines and restitution for discharging molasses into Honolulu Harbor.⁵ This is an example that further reinforces our contention that the definitions in current law are already appropriately broad and have been recognized as such by the EPA and the courts.

ACC believes SB 582 is unnecessary and the broad definition of “pollutant” should remain as it is. The focus should properly be on any trash or garbage, regardless of material composition. The terms “solid refuse,” “garbage” and “industrial, municipal and agricultural waste” currently in statute already cover garbage made in part or whole from plastic. As such, it is unclear what purpose this bill is seeking to achieve.

Lastly, ACC believes many of the findings contained in SB 582 are incorrect, over generalized and not supported by scientific data. For the reasons stated, ACC believes SB 582 is unnecessary and urge you to not move this bill forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 448-2581 or by email at Tim_Shestek@americanchemistry.com. You may also contact ACC’s Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551.

⁵ <https://archive.epa.gov/epa/newsreleases/epa-settlement-matson-resolves-2013-molasses-spill-honolulu-harbor.html>

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 3:17:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kealaponno Richardson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB582 that amends the definition of "water pollutant" as used in chapter 342D, HRS, to include "plastic." Mahalo!

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:05:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am in STRONG support of SB 582. Plastics are a pollutant in our waters that impact the health of our marine resources and resilience of our communities. Pollution of our ocean reduces the health and capacity of our reef ecosystems to protect our coastal communities.

Mahalo for your vote to support SB582

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:39:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert@bamboomoonvideo.com	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

aloha Senators - please pass SB 582 including plastic in definiion of water pollutants. Tiny bits of plastic are showing up inside fish. It is a pollutant.

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 11:20:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Wohner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB582 relating to microplastic! Plastic pollution has a devastating effect on the environment, marine life, and human health, and needs to be recognized as such. Mahalo for hearing my voice.

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 11:43:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in support of Bill **SB582**. As a scientist, surfer, and resident of Oahu, I am very concerned about the amount of plastic in the water and on the beaches of Hawaii. It is obvious that it is a pollutant, it does not belong in the ocean or in the guts of animals that rely on clean water to thrive. Please vote for legislation that prioritizes reef and human health instead of the interests of chemical corporations. Thank you. -Daniel Amato

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 8:32:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Benyshek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing to **SUPPORT** bill SB582, which is listing plastic as a water pollutant. We see plastic cover our beaches every day in Hawaii, and it is threatening our wildlife and environment. This pollution is widespread, and this categorization would allow for more direct action against the problem. Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:06:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl J. Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Non-profit organizations and NOAA remove approximately 500,000 pounds of marine debris, mainly plastic, from Hawaii's shoreline each year. This amount pollutes the waters and greatly impacts Hawaiian recreational resources, subsistence fishing, and the fishing industry.

EPA ordered the Hawaii Dept. of Health to consider plastic pollution in its 303d listing of impaired waters.

DOH MUST recognize as a pollutant, monitor its prevalence, and begin measures to reduce levels.

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:28:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Kandagawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a simple and extremely necessary step to acknowledge the central role of the oil and plastics industry in the degradation of 'Āina and the disconnection of people from relationship to place in Hawaii and around the world.

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:50:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Mahalo for hearing this bill representing an important step forward for plastics being legally identified as water pollutants.

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 12:02:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ekini Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

IN FULL "SUPPORT" OF THIS ACT TO BE AMENDED IMMEDIATELY!!!!

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 1:36:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kara Kelai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I agree with bill SB582 that amends the definition of "water pollutant" as used in chapter 342D, HRS, to include plastic.

My family and I have been doing our part to clean out beaches and we have noticed that plastic seems to be the heaviest pollutants we deal with. We can spend hours, in an area of 5 feet by 5 feet, sifting sand to remove micro plastics and as we do more washes up on shore. It seems to have no end.

Plastic is definitely a major water pollutant, and to keep my testimony short, my family's experience with micro plastics is one of the many reasons I support bill SB582.

Mahalo for your time.

-Kara Kelai

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 1:44:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrice Petrich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have spent many hours picking up various plastics on my beach walks. It is a never ending task. I support this bill

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 6:47:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm writing in full support of SB582. I believe that plastic should be added as part of the definition of a "water pollutant."

Please support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ā• ina,

Nanea Lo

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 7:36:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Desiree Hoover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There needs no details on this- obviously plastic is truly a form of pollutant. Even if you don't get into the eco systems deeply, it's a toxic pollutant from the very beginning to the microscopic of it. It needs to be listed and treated as a pollutant.

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:07:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mira Gurung	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha honorable senators, thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony as follows:

Please pass this bill, it is so vitally important that we recognize the harm of microplastics as pollution to our environment!

Mahalo,

Mira Gurung

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:32:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zara Nicholson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Senator Mike Gabbard,

My name is Zara Nicholson and I am testifying in support of Bill SB582.

I believe this bill will create a great positive impact in our community. Plastics should be included in the definition of “water pollutant”. Establishing this clear definition will support a cleaner environment, ocean, and home. Please push and approve this Bill SB582.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity,

Zara Nicholson

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:07:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hideki Kimukai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Commitee Members,

My name is Hideki Kimukai. I am in strong support of SB582.

I have been a part of Nihon University's research on plastic derived chemical contaminants in natural environment. This research has been led by Dr.Saido Katsuhiko whose data and studies has been published in NY times, United Nations Environment Programme and other major scientific publications. The research has proven that the chemical pollutants derived from plastics have been detected from our ocean, land and from daily usage of plastic products due to its lower temperature decomposition.

Not only we are introducing plastic derived chemical pollutants into our biogeochemical cycles at unprecedented rates but we are also extracting and releasing carbon in the shape of a plastic into our biosphere at unprecedented magnitude, contributing to a major shift in our climate.

It is our Kuleana to clean up our mess we made for our future generations. Mahalo nui for taking your time to read and lead us to build a better future.

Hideki Kimukai

LATE

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:36:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Dinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The pollution of plastic on our beaches and in the water may be the mos serious pollutant we face. Let's take every measure we can to turn this destructice force around. This is a great srep forward.

LATE

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:42:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Leveen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes I support this bill wholeheartedly. It is essential.

LATE

SB-582

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 12:34:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB 582 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

Lisa Diaz

76-223 Haoa Street

Kailua-Kona, HI