



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
[doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov)

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1897  
RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS.**

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

Hearing Date: February 08, 2024

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will 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 The Department estimates that one enforcement position should be established and  
5 funded annually to implement this proposal.

6 **Department Testimony:** HB1897 prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal  
7 care products in small single-use plastic containers to guests and visitors and establishes civil  
8 penalties for violations as identified by the Department on inspection.

9 The Department is supportive of measures to reduce the amount of single-use plastic  
10 containers distributed in the State to reduce the amount of plastic waste that is incinerated or  
11 disposed in State landfills. However, the Department currently does not have the staff and  
12 funding available to implement the inspection and enforcement component of this bill. The  
13 Department respectfully requests funding and the establishment of one new position to receive  
14 complaints and conduct follow-up inspections of lodging establishments identified as distributing  
15 personal care products in small single-use plastic containers in violation of HB1897. In addition  
16 to conducting inspection and enforcement actions, dispensing citations, and coordinating with  
17 the Office of the Attorney General to pursue civil penalties, this position would also be tasked  
18 with providing education and outreach to the regulated community.

19 **Offered Amendments: None**

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION**  
**COMMISSION**  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of**  
**Leah Laramee**  
**Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the House Committee on**  
**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday February 8, 2024**  
**9:30 AM**  
**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325**

**In support of**  
**House Bill 1897**  
**RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS**

House Bill 1897 prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests and establishes civil penalties. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees, and counties. Much of the plastic waste that is disposed of in landfills results in the release of both methane and carbon dioxide. Per the most recent Inventory Report, U.S. landfills released an estimated 122.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO<sub>2e</sub>) of methane into the atmosphere in 2021; this represents 16.9 percent of the total U.S. anthropogenic methane emissions across all sectors.<sup>1</sup> Materials consumption contributes directly to climate change because it requires energy to mine, extract, harvest, process and transport raw materials; more energy to manufacture, transport and dispose of waste products. Landfills are the top human-caused source of methane and the incineration of waste produces carbon dioxide as a by-product. Methane is more than 28 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Those items that can be recycled often are not for a variety of factors. The best way to reduce greenhouse emission from products is to eliminate packaging waste as much as possible. EPA

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.epa.gov/lmop/frequent-questions-about-landfill-gas#:~:text=Per%20the%20most%20recent%20Inventory,methane%20emissions%20across%20all%20s,ectors.>

**Co-Chairs:**  
Chair, DLNR  
Director, OPSD

**Commissioners:**  
Chair, Senate AEN  
Chair, Senate WTL  
Chair, House EEP  
Chair, House WAL  
Chairperson, HTA  
Chairperson, DOA  
CEO, OHA  
Chairperson, DHHL  
Director, DBEDT  
Director, DOT  
Director, DOH  
Chairperson, DOE  
Director, C+C DPP  
Director, Maui DP  
Director, Hawai'i DP  
Director, Kaua'i DP  
The Adjutant General  
Manager, CZM

estimates by cutting the amount of waste we generate by just 5 percent, we could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10.2 million metric tons.<sup>2</sup>

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://archive.epa.gov/wastes/conserve/tools/payt/web/html/factfin.html>



TESTIMONY OF DANIEL NĀHO'OPI'I  
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO, HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Thursday, February 8, 2024 9:30 a.m.  
In consideration of  
**HB 1897**  
**RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers the following comments on HB1897 for your consideration. HTA supports the intent of this measure, which prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in single-use plastic containers.

We agree with the intent of this legislation as it is in alignment with our Strategic Plan priorities as recognized in Section 1 of this bill, action items articulated in our community-led Destination Management Action Plans, and HTA's commitment to the Mālama Mandate.

Additionally, we are aware of and would like to take this opportunity to recognize lodging establishments already working to eliminate the use of single-use plastic containers for their amenities.

We support the intent of HB1897, stand ready to assist in educating visitor industry stakeholders and visitors, and defer to our colleagues at the Department of Health on matters related to the implementation of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.

**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 10:34:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexandra Kahn	PlanIt Branding	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

I am in full support of this bill, especially as the owner of a sustainable marketing agency that works with many local businesses. A few different points to make:

- Many of my clients are in the bathroom/skincare product category and already produce bulk quantities of products locally that could supply the local hotels.
- I have witnessed hotels across the world that use refillable containers in their bathrooms and not only does it eliminate waste, but depending on the container chosen, looks way more elegant as well.
- The containers provided in hotels currently are so small that any extended stays require the use of more bottles, but larger, refillable containers suit both short and long term stays
- Using refillable containers and purchasing the containers once and then the bulk product only will save a lot of money over time
- The containers are not recyclable and therefore get burned and it is known to be toxic to burn plastic. On the other islands, these containers are adding to the landfills.
- It's such an easy switch to make that can have a positive impact on the environment and local suppliers of shampoo conditioner and soap
- As Hawaii continues to pursue rebranding itself in a more sustainable way, this is one step towards that goal.

I hope you consider passing this bill as it seems like a very practical thing to do.

Thank you for your time!

Alexandra Kahn



**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:46:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!



February 8, 2024

To: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen  
Members, House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: Kris Quigley, Regional Director, State Government Affairs  
Plastics Industry Association

Re: HB 1897 – OPPOSE – Scheduled for Hearing February 8, 2024

We respectfully write to express our opposition to House Bill 1897 – relative to single use plastics/personal care products. The Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) represents the entire supply chain of manufacturers of all plastic products. We are firmly committed to manufacturing products that meet the environment, social, and business needs of consumers.

Plastic is the popular choice to meet consumer demands and there is a reason for this; the material can do things other material cannot. It's efficient for manufacturers to produce and cost-effective for business to incorporate into their operations; and it is environmentally friendly to produce in terms of water/energy usage, greenhouse gas emissions and transportation costs and efficiencies.

Unfortunately, cities, counties, and states across the country are considering policy proposals to target marine debris concerns and plastics that are improperly disposed of that end up in landfills. Some of these proposals include product bans and material deselection which unfortunately are misguided and fail to address the mismanagement of discarding products.

Before banning plastic products, PLASTICS advocates for consumer education about proper disposal practices; reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering plastics. As your committee works to address litter and waste problems, we stand by to provide instruction on the role our products play in society and how to best arrive at a solution that makes environmental and business sense.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kris Quigley", enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Kris Quigley  
Regional Director, State Government Affairs  
Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS)







Date: February 8, 2024

To: The Honorable Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee  
From: Hawaii Environmental Change Agents (HECA) - Solid Waste Task Force  
Re: HB1897 - Bans Small Plastic Containers for Personal Care Products in Hotels

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of EEP Committee,

The HECA Solid Waste Task Force is **in support** of HB1896 which prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers within sleeping room accommodations. The Solid Waste Task Force supports policies that follow the zero waste hierarchy which prioritizes waste reduction and reuse ahead of recycling/composting and considers incineration as an unacceptable means to manage solid waste.

This legislation will formalize and require all overnight accommodation to do what many are already doing, which is offering shampoo, conditioners, and soaps in bulk refill bottles. This is a simple and cost-effective solution to prevent the creation of plastic waste that is not recyclable.

**We offer one amendment, which is to include lotions as one of the person care products to be included.**

Mahalo nui loa,

~HECA Solid Waste Task Force

Jennifer Navarra, Ted Bohlen, Ruta Jordans, Jolie Ryff, and Michele Mitsumori



*Maui Hotel & Lodging*  
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of  
Lisa H. Paulson  
Executive Director  
Maui Hotel & Lodging Association

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

**House Bill 1897: Relating to Single Use Plastics**

February 8, 2024, 9:30 am  
Conference Room 325

The Maui Hotel & Lodging Association (MHLA) is the legislative arm of the visitor industry for Maui County. We represent over 180 property and allied business members and 22,000 employees. **MHLA SUPPORTS House Bill 1897**, which prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests.

Many of our properties have already moved toward eliminating small plastic bottles for their amenities and embrace making changes to help from negatively impacting the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM**  
ASSOCIATION

**Testimony of Mufi Hannemann, President & CEO  
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association**

**House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP)  
HB1897 RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS  
February 8, 2023  
Position: SUPPORT**

Chair Lowen and members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the oldest and largest private sector tourism organization in the state, to **support HB1897 relating to single-use plastics.**

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers—represents an industry that has led the way on sustainability and environmental efforts. Tourism businesses of all types have opted to adopt green practices, update their infrastructure, and set new, sustainable policies. This has been done of their own volition and will continue to be the norm as we move forward.

As a principle, we are not in support of government mandates on private sector operations. However, we do support the intent of this measure and share this position with numerous resorts—many of whom have already started to shift away from single-use plastic bottles.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:37:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Owens	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

opposed.

**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:25:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Justin Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests. Establishes civil penalties

**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:52:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Single use plastics are major polluters. There is plastic all over our beaches in the form of very small plastic chips among grains of sand, there is plastic in our food, in our water, on our reefs, in the stomachs of endangered birds, fish and mammals and killing them. It is everywhere and the breakdown of these plastics is seriously harmful to the our health and the health of the planet. As all of these plastics physically breakdown, they produce major pollution that leads to increased global warming and climate change. This is serious. It is critical to do everything and anything we can to decrease plastics in the enviroment.

Thank you for creating this bill and considering my testimony.

**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 10:11:52 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1897!



**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 1:59:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must eliminate plaster whenever possible.

**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 3:27:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I can see hotels etc having these products available for the asking just not automatically stocked w/in the rooms which is very wasteful. Housekeeping likely tosses and restocks etc...

JN Makawao

**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:18:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dorothy Norris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a step in the right direction. The single use plastics are threatening our shorelines and filling up our landfills. These bottles can be replaced with dispensers and need not be part of the problem. Mahalo

**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:35:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:12:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denise	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**February 5, 2024**

**Chair Nicole E. Lowen**

**Chair Elle Cochran, Vice**

**Members of the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee**

**H.B. NO. 1897: Personal Care Products; Small Plastic Containers; Lodging Establishments; Prohibition**

**02/08/2024, 9:30am**

**Via VideoConference**

**In Support**

**My name is Denise Perdue and I have been a resident of Hawaii all my life. I am testifying in favor of H.B. NO. 1897, Personal Care Products; Small Plastic Containers; Lodging Establishments; Prohibition. I am a concerned resident about the amount of plastics that is encountered on a daily basis on Hawaii's beaches, land, and waterways, and feel this bill is a step in the right direction towards making a difference in the amount of waste accumulated on the island and overall in our state.**

**Passing this bill eliminating complimentary toiletries in hotel rooms and other areas within the hotel translates to a decrease in the amount of waste generated by the tourist industry. SFGate reports that hotels can use up to millions of bottles of shampoo and conditioner each year. Then adding in the waste from Hawaii's residents, this major waste increase burdens Hawaii's resources of adding to the residential waste in landfills or the incendiary. Though much of the small plastic containers end up in the ocean creating an unsafe and possibly deathly environment for marine life that may encounter the discarded plastics, causing harm to their reproduction and survival, as well as harm to humans that eat these marine life. Let alone the damage single-use plastic containers to Hawaii's environment by leaching poison into the ground during the centuries it takes to disintegrate.**

**In closing, I would like to urge the House Committee to support the ban of single-use toiletries in hotel rooms and hotel areas, and protect Hawaii's environment by passing H.B. NO. 1897. I would like to thank the committee for considering my testimony in support of H.B. NO. 1897.**

**Mahalo,**

**Denise Perdue**

**[denisegp@hawaii.edu](mailto:denisegp@hawaii.edu)**

**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:22:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ronald "Ron" Reilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the Committee On Energy & Environmental Protection,

**In support of HB1897.**

Prohibiting personal care products in small plastic containers in sleeping accommodations will help decrease Hawaii's plastic pollution, and send a good educational message to Hawaii's visitors.

I respectfully urge your support of this measure.

Sincerely, Ron Reilly  
Volcano Village, Hawaii

**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:30:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support. There are alternative methods available. Small plastic is not needed, but clogs the oceans.



**HB-1897**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:27:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

RE: House Bill 1897

Dear Representatives,

I support House Bill 1897, which would ban the ubiquitous deployment of small plastic containers in travel and tourism lodgings and public spaces. This is a small action that would quickly add up in terms of plastic waste not generated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dylan P. Armstrong, *individual capacity only*.