



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 24, 2024

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hon. Mike Gabbard, Chair
Hon. Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Hon. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Hon. Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Re: SCR 170 SR 146 Policies to Reduce PFAS in Packaging and Products

Hearing: Monday, March 25, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Room 224 & videoconference

Position: Strong Support

Aloha, Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment and the Committee on Health and Human Services:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i comprises of over 7,500 politically active members of Hawai'i's majority political party. We strongly support urging the Department of Health to investigate and implement policies to reduce the importation of products, packaging, or materials containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances into the State.

Reducing the importation of products, packaging, or materials containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) into the State is crucial for several reasons.

1. **HUMAN HEALTH.** PFAS is linked to several health problems, including immunotoxicity, thyroid and kidney disorders, and cancer. Reducing importation of PFAS-containing products can help protect the health of residents.
2. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.** PFAS are environmentally persistent and can accumulate in the soil and water. This can lead to long-term contamination of the environment, affecting both wildlife and human populations.
3. **REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.** The federal government has taken significant action to prevent PFAS release and expand PFAS cleanup and remediation. Reducing importation can ensure compliance with these regulations and help safeguard human health and protect the environment.



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4. RISK MANAGEMENT. By reducing the importation of PFAS-containing products, the state can proactively manage the risks associated with PFAS, ultimately protecting human health and the environment.

It is important for the Department of Health to investigate and implement policies to reduce the importation of products, packaging, or materials containing PFAS. This will help protect the government and public health, and ensure compliance with federal regulations.

On behalf of the Environmental Caucus, we thank you very much for your support of these resolutions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these important resolutions.

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Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus

SR-146

Submitted on: 3/21/2024 6:12:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/25/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are way too many toxins in our lives. These are among the most insidious. Please support this important bill. Mahalo.