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

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

**Tuesday January 30, 2024
9:00 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

**In support of
House Bill 2536
RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS**

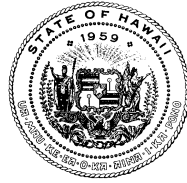
House Bill 2536 prohibits the use of plastic and non-biodegradable bioplastic food ware and beverage containers by 1/1/2025. The bill also prohibits the sale or distribution of certain bioplastic food and beverage containers after 1/1/2026. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Commission is a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different State and county departments, and Legislative committees. Much of the plastic waste that is disposed in landfills results in the release of both methane and carbon dioxide (CO₂). In 2008, 20 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent were released from the disposal of solid waste on land.ⁱ Materials consumption contributes directly to climate change because it requires energy to mine, extract, harvest, process and transport raw materials; and 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. Items that can be recycled often are not, and the best way to reduce emission from products is to eliminate packaging waste as much as possible. EPA estimates cutting the amount of waste generated by 5 percent could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10.2 million metric tons.ⁱⁱ

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

ⁱ Gregory, J (2010). Climate Change and Waste-The Missing Link <http://www.ccilap.org/pdf/EPR>

ⁱⁱ [Climate Change and Municipal Solid Waste Fact Sheet | Pay-As-You-Throw | US EPA](#)



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
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doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2536
RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS.**

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

Hearing Date: January 30, 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's) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** This measure proposes to prohibit state and local government from
5 purchasing, using, selling, or distributing disposable or single-use plastic food ware, beverage
6 cups, cup lids, or other food containers after January 1, 2025; prohibit businesses where food or
7 beverages are sold from using, selling, or distributing disposable or single-use plastic food ware,
8 beverage cups, lids, or other food containers, after January 1, 2025; and prohibit individual or
9 businesses from distributing, selling, or otherwise provide any form of disposable or single-use
10 plastic food ware, beverage cups, or lids after July 1, 2026.

11 The Department respectfully requests clarifications and revisions should the Legislature proceed
12 with this measure. For example, the prohibition appears to apply to only food ware, however,
13 there are a number of exemptions that apply to drugs, pesticides, and hazardous substances.

14 These exemptions cause confusion and do not appear necessary. Another exemption is for
15 pre-packaged foods and beverages, and catered foods. With this exemption, it appears that the
16 only food and beverage that this bill applies to are those that are packaged on the same premises
17 where they are being sold and packaged for individual consumption (not catered food). If this is
18 correct, then we suggest that the language in this bill be revised to state this directly, rather than
19 though various exemptions that adds ambiguity. If we are incorrect, and this bill is intended to

1 apply to a larger set of food products and packaging, then we suggest that Legislature ultimately
2 selects a unified direction on packaging, as we also understand that an extended-producer
3 responsibility on packaging could potentially apply to these containers too.

4 In addition, this bill considers the compostability of food ware, but does not consider the
5 potential contaminant risk to human health and the environment from the compostable food
6 ware products. The Department is concerned about the potential for PFAS in these containers.
7 Currently, we understand that third party certification programs may only evaluate PFAS content
8 by running one type of test, which we do not believe is sufficient to determine the concentration
9 of PFAS in the containers or its potential risk. We have also been told that when food ware is
10 said to be PFAS free, it means that PFAS was not intentionally added. Thus, more information on
11 this issue still needs to be obtained before the Department will be ready to permit composting
12 operations to accept this material that will eventually be distributed and land applied within our
13 communities. Similarly, we believe more information should be obtained before requiring
14 businesses to pursue this path.

15 Lastly, the Department lacks resources to implement this proposal. The Department does not
16 regulate state or local government procurement; nor have the resources to inspect businesses and
17 their records on the types and sources of supplies purchased or utilized in their operations. At
18 this time, the Department has not determined the increased number of staff required to
19 implement and enforce such a program.

20 **Offered Amendments: None**

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2536

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 7:16:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Kahn	PlanIt Branding	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I fully support the mission behind this bill, having been involved in the process of lobbying for and passing the single use plastic ban in Honolulu, I saw the difficulties in the loop holes, misinformation, and deceit.

While I think it's great that the exemptions were put in place for many of those items, I still believe that 1 year is too quick of a turnaround, considering that, despite this being a law on multiple islands, there are already too many loop holes and a major lack of reinforcement and therefore, way too many businesses are not following the law.

To get around the exemption of "reusable plastic containers" businesses are purchasing extremely thick and sturdy containers that, in theory, are reusable, but the average person still throws them in the trash and the thickness of plastic takes even more time to break down than thinner plastics. The only way around this I think is that no plastic containers can be distributed by vendors unless they are willing to accept the containers back.

Additionally, with the lack of enforcement on this island alone, so many businesses are still offering plastics items, bags, cutlery that is supposed to be "by request only" etc. I think that to have a bill like this, there needs to be implementation phases and funding set aside for reinforcement. Additionally, a fine system for businesses breaking the law, and businesses selling products against the law.

I think we are coming to the place where we will soon be able to do something this great for our islands, but appropriate staff and learning from the mistakes of county laws by dealing with potential loop holes is necessary.

Thanks!

Alex



Ave Kwok, Chairman - Jade Dynasty

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Date: January 27, 2024

To: Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Lead

Subject: HB2536 Relating to Single-Use Plastics

The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing 4,000 Eating and Drinking Place locations in Hawaii would like to offer the following comments for you.

1. Oahu and Maui has already implemented similar but not identical bills in their respected counties. The primary difference is that Maui doesn't regulate lids.
2. The cost difference of the fiber and PLA (plant based resin) is about 3 times more. This result in higher prices for the businesses and ultimately for the consumers.
3. The alternate products are usable but the heat and moisture tolerance vs plastic is much lower. Many businesses have switched to reusable plastic containers and hope that consumers are reusing these packaging. These are also more expensive for both the businesses and consumers.
4. As Section 2 (c) spell out that no business shall sell or distribute any form or disposable single-use plastic disposable food ware by July 1, 2026, then Section 2 (b) require restaurant, food vendor restriction should be 6 months after to January 1, 2027 to allow their existing inventories to be used up.
5. Contrary to popular belief supply chain is still erratic due to the many municipalities mandating changes around the world and occational hiccups in supply do happen.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to share our concerns.





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Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 30, 2024

TIME: 9am

PLACE: Conference Room 325

RE: HB2536 Relating to Single-Use Plastics

Position: Comments

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Food Industry Association (HFIA) to express our views on H.B. NO. 2536, a bill relating to single-use plastics. HFIA represents a diverse array of businesses across the food industry in Hawaii, and we appreciate the opportunity to share our insights on this critical issue.

HFIA acknowledges the growing concern surrounding the environmental impact of single-use plastics on Hawaii's islands and oceans. We understand the need for responsible and sustainable practices to address the increasing waste stream, and we support initiatives that contribute to the well-being of our communities and the preservation of our natural resources. However, we urge the committee to consider the potential impact of the proposed measures on Hawaii's businesses, particularly those within the food industry. While we recognize the importance of reducing plastic pollution, it is crucial to strike a balance between environmental considerations and the economic viability of local businesses.

The proposed legislation aims to phase in a prohibition on the purchase, use, sale, and distribution of certain plastic and non-biodegradable bioplastic food ware and beverage containers. HFIA appreciates the exemptions provided in the bill for prepackaged foods, and other items.

Nevertheless, we encourage the committee to consider the practicality and feasibility of the proposed timeline for implementation. The food industry, including restaurants, hotels, bars,

and food vendors, may need sufficient time to transition to alternative materials and practices. Adequate education and support for businesses during this transition period will be crucial. We understand the need for responsible and sustainable practices to address the increasing waste stream, and we support initiatives that contribute to the well-being of our communities and the preservation of our natural resources.

However, we would like to draw the committee's attention to a crucial aspect that needs consideration — Hawaii's current lack of a commercial composting facility. While we recognize the importance of transitioning away from non-biodegradable plastics, the absence of such a facility poses a significant challenge in realizing the full environmental benefits envisioned in the proposed legislation.

Without a commercial composting facility, many of the approved alternatives, such as certain plant-based plastics, may not achieve their intended environmental outcomes. As these materials often require specific conditions for proper degradation, their disposal in standard landfills may not differ significantly from traditional plastics. This gap in infrastructure raises concerns about the economic feasibility of the proposed measures, as businesses may face additional challenges in adhering to the legislation without the necessary waste management infrastructure in place.

It is worth noting that Hawaii currently has recycling programs, providing residents with avenues to responsibly dispose of certain plastic materials. These programs demonstrate the potential for diverse types of sustainable waste management. We believe that continued investment and enhancement of such programs could serve as a more practical approach to addressing plastic waste in our state.

While we support the overarching goal of reducing plastic waste in Hawaii, we encourage the committee to evaluate the potential economic ramifications on local businesses. HFIA suggests considering a phased implementation that aligns with the development of critical waste management infrastructure, such as commercial composting facilities, to ensure a more balanced and effective transition.

In conclusion, HFIA remains committed to collaborating with the committee and other stakeholders to find solutions that address both environmental concerns and the economic well-being of Hawaii's businesses. We appreciate your consideration of our perspective on H.B. NO. 2536 and look forward to continued engagement on this critical matter.

HB-2536

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:39:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Hawaii Young Republicans	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

On behalf of Hawaii Young Republicans, we support this legislation. Plastic pollution has become an alarmingly large part of our global pollution problem. We need to be more sustainable when it comes to plastic usage. This bill helps get us there.



January 29, 2023

To: The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair
Members, House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

Re: **HB 2536 – OPPOSE**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose HB 2536, legislation that would ban the use, sale, and distribution plastic and bioplastic food ware, beverage cups and lids beginning January 1, 2025.

ACC and its member companies support a variety of policies that aim to reduce plastic waste in the environment, increase the collection and processing of plastic material and create new market demand for recovered plastics. We have established industry targets that 100% of plastic packaging be recyclable or recoverable by 2030 and that plastic packaging contain a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled material by that same date.

In addition to taking away packaging choices and potentially increasing costs for businesses, HB 2536 would result in a shift to other packaging materials that may not be as widely recycled or use significantly more resources to manufacture and transport. Plastic packaging helps contribute to sustainability by reducing material use, energy use, waste, and greenhouse gas emissions. A recent study by Trucost¹ found that switching from plastics to alternatives would quadruple environmental costs, causing them to grow from \$139 billion to \$533 billion annually. Life cycle studies consistently find that plastic packaging delivers more food and other products with significantly less environmental impacts than alternatives.

A blanket prohibition on plastic food ware as proposed in HB 2536 does not fully consider the potential unintended environmental impacts and may result in simply shifting the composition of food ware waste. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)² has stated that “all packaging materials come from raw materials that have to be grown and harvested or extracted from the earth. Energy is required for electricity production, and fuels are used to manufacture and transport all kinds of packaging materials.” DEQ goes on to say “packaging serves several essential roles, including protecting products from damage. Taken to extremes, packaging waste prevention can lead to insufficient protection and product damage – and waste. Ideally, packaging waste prevention should reduce packaging waste without increasing waste (financial or environmental) elsewhere in the system.”

ACC believes there is an opportunity to craft meaningful and impactful packaging and food ware policy that considers the necessary role of packaging, including performance needs and assesses a multitude of attributes (e.g. recyclability, waste prevention, material efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions, collection and processing infrastructure, end markets, etc.) of all packaging materials. Combined, these considerations will help arrive at a policy solution that makes sense environmentally and provides the business community with practical and implementable compliance obligations.

A practical first step toward creating a more circular system for packaging, including food ware packaging made from all materials is to clearly understand the current recycling and composting collection system, including the types and quantities of food ware material in the waste stream, current recycling and composting rates for all food ware materials,

¹ https://www.marinelittersolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ACC-report_July-2016_v4.pdf

² [State of Oregon: Production and Design - Packaging](#)



sorting and processing infrastructure, end markets for collected materials, and funding necessary to achieve higher recovery rates for food ware material of all types. Simply replacing plastic food ware with alternative materials does not automatically mean those alternatives will be recycled or composted.

To that end, the Legislature will be considering HB 1688, legislation requiring the Department of Health conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to “determine what would be needed to transition to a more circular system with less waste generation, more reuse and the necessary infrastructure to sort and locally process recyclable materials through an extended producer responsibility program for packaging materials and paper products.”

ACC believes the information collected under a comprehensive needs assessment is a critical first step in helping craft a recycling and composting policy for packaging and food ware, regardless of material type. For these reasons, we are opposed to HB 2536.

Thank you in advance for considering our views. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at tim_shestek@americanchemistry.com. You may also contact ACC's Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551 or via email at ryamasaki@808cch.com





**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
JANUARY 30, 2024
Re: HB 2536 RELATING TO SINGLE USE PLASTICS**

Good morning, Chairperson Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901, RMH is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii understands the intent of this measure, we must respectfully OPPOSES HB 2536 Relating to Single Use Plastics. This measure would prohibit the use of plastic and non-biodegradable bioplastic food ware and beverage containers by 1/1/2025; and prohibits the sale or distribution of certain bioplastic food and beverage containers after 1/1/2026.

Businesses respond to the wants of the customers that patronize their establishments all while operating on a very thin profit margin. They look for cost effective food containers and utensils that ensure that products are durable enough to protect people from spills and burns as well as keep food protected and fresh longer by sustaining appropriate temperature. We also look for cost effective products that protect items from breakage and present appetizing products.

Bans are not the simple answer. This government mandate would place an undue burden on grocers, restaurants, mom & pop establishments, non-profits organizations and others as their cost of business would increase. Every day you hear about the excessive cost of living here in a paradise called Hawaii. We are also painfully aware that the cost of the containers is often more expensive than the containers currently being used. By mandating disposable food service containers, you would be forcing businesses to use alternative bio-degradable containers that often cost more than the current ones being used. Many businesses are already operating on a very thin profit margin. They look for cost effective food containers that ensure that products are durable enough to protect people from spills and burns as well as keep food protected and fresh longer by sustaining appropriate temperature. This is one more additional cost to the bottom line that many businesses may not be able to afford or where many customers are not willing to pay for.

The deadlines imposed to comply with this measure would be hard for many small locally owned businesses to comply. Retailers and small businesses often have contracts and buy in bulk and may not use up the products in time to make the deadline. Unlike national companies who can ship the unused containers to another store the local companies would have to absorb loss of the unused containers and most likely dump the products.

A mere substitution of current food containers, beverage containers and lids and more to another type will NOT result in reduced trash as more than likely the substitution product would be discarded in the same manner. The alternative products often create more waste in volume and energy as well as increase air and water pollution – in the manufacturing of and in the transportation to business.

We recognize that a state law would be more uniform for business operations and more beneficial than a diverse array of county ordinances dealing with this issue.

We have seen many small local businesses go out of business when the Styrofoam and plastic utensil ban took effect. The increase cost of products, ingredients, shipping, wages, health insurance with the added cost of the government mandated type containers and utensils were too much for many small locally owned businesses to absorb. Businesses could also not pass on the increase to their customers as it would price many of them out of business as there is only so much people are willing to spend on a plate lunch.

We need to be looking into a comprehensive litter reduction program that not only considers educating the public, but also looking for alternative solutions like public trash cans that are designed so that it will keep its content from flying out.

We urge you to hold this measure. Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.



NATIONAL MARINE TEAM

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 30, 2024 9:00AM Via Videoconference

In SUPPORT of HB 2536: Relating to Single Use Plastics

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 3.5 million members and supporters nationally, the Sierra Club's National Marine Team **strongly supports HB 2536**, which would prohibit the use of plastic and non-nature biodegradable bioplastic foodware and cups, unless there is a regional commercial composting facility that can manage the plastic.

Plastics and non-nature biodegradable bioplastics remain one of the most littered and pernicious items in our environment, breaking down into microplastics that enter the food chain and harm our ecosystems. The truth about bioplastics is that they can include toxic additives to increase their performance, and some bioplastics like PLA are only compostable in industrial facilities. They are sold as a sustainable solution but they can take hundreds of years to decompose. Furthermore, there is no opportunity to recycle PLAs like traditional plastics, so their best case scenario is to end up in the landfill or incinerated, neither of which is ideal for Hawaii's already challenging opala problem. Worse, some people may litter these plastics believing they will decompose in the environment.

While Hawaii has been a proud leader in phasing out single use plastics, in particular at the county level, many of the strongest single use plastic bans around the country also include non-nature biodegradable bioplastics like PLAs, which Hawaii's county bans do not. But we are more impacted by plastic litter than virtually anywhere else in the country, as we are surrounded by 360 degrees of stunning ocean and delicate marine ecosystems and species. Furthermore, our state's economy depends greatly on the continued health of our oceans and marine resources. As a beautiful island culture, we must consider everything we put into the environment.

This bill continues to allow nature biodegradable foodware and cups, including the widely used paper to go boxes and cups, nature biodegradable plastics, natural rubber, bamboo, sugarcane, coconut husk, cassava, naturally occurring polymers such as proteins or starches or other biomass, fully recyclable aluminum and glass, or reusable containers. Businesses will be

able to continue using their current distributors that already offer food ware and cups that would be compliant with this bill and existing similar laws.

With this bill, Hawaii has the opportunity to significantly make a difference in protecting our most valuable natural resources for future generations. Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 2536**. I am available to answer any questions you may have or work with you on this bill.

Mahalo,
Leilei Joy Shih, Ph.D.
Chair, National Marine Team, The Sierra Club
joy.shih@gmail.com



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Chair Lowen
Vice Chair Cochran
Members, House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

January 29, 2024

House Bill 2536 – Relating to Single-Use Plastics - OPPOSE

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our written testimony regarding *House Bill 2536 – Relating to Single-Use Plastics* (HB 2536), which we respectfully oppose.

Founded in 1933, the Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI) is the leading authority on foodservice packaging in North America. FPI supports the responsible use of all foodservice packaging, while advocating for a fair and open marketplace for all materials. Our core members include raw material and machinery suppliers as well as packaging manufacturers, which represent approximately 90 percent of the industry. Additionally, a number of distributors and purchasers of foodservice packaging are part of FPI's affiliate membership.

The foodservice packaging industry is committed to reducing the impact of its products on the environment and is dedicated to increasing their recovery. FPI has several special interest groups that bring together the supply chain to develop and promote economically viable and sustainable recovery solutions for foodservice packaging. These special interest groups include the Paper Recovery Alliance, Plastic Recovery Group, Paper Cup Alliance and Foam Recycling Coalition. More information on these groups and their efforts can be found [here](#).

FPI fully supports policies and programs that result in more recycling and/or composting of foodservice packaging. However, we oppose restrictions that limit the use of any foodservice packaging. We believe that each foodservice package must compete in the marketplace based on its own merits of product performance and suitability, price competitiveness and, of course, impact on the environment.

A free-market approach allows restaurants and other foodservice establishments to determine the most effective product that fits their business model. Based on various FPI surveys of foodservice operators, we know that cost and performance are the two most important criteria in selecting products for their operations.

In our view, the proposed bans on single-use plastic food ware and beverage service items will negatively impact the foodservice industry, leading to restricted choices, limited material availability, and potential cost escalations.

Further, it is our understanding that based on current infrastructure in Hawaii that no product would be able to meet the requirement that “there is regional access to such a facility” or that “the local facility actively accepts, manages, and processes the plastic” in reference to industrially compostable plastics. On the other hand, it is worth noting that Hawaii has residential recycling programs for plastics, which may present an avenue for expanded collection and diversion of single-use plastics.

FPI encourages the development of policy to support the expansion of infrastructure to improve the recovery of all foodservice packaging, rather than introducing product restrictions that will have unintended consequences.

Thank you for your consideration of this written testimony and our opposition to HB 2536.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "CPatterson".

Carol Patterson
Vice President, Government Relations
cpatterson@fpi.org

Island Plastic Bags

TO: Chair Nicole Lowen; Vice Chair Elle Cochran; and Committee

FROM: Adrian Hong, President of Island Plastic Bags, Inc.

RE: HB 2536 RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

POSITION: OPPOSE

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2536. My name is Adrian Hong and I am the president of Island Plastic Bags Inc. (IPB), a second-generation, family business in Halawa Valley that manufactures plastic trash liners and sells compostable cutlery, paper bags, and Colgate-Palmolive products. IPB opposes this bill as there are already six plastic, food ware bans and seven plastic bag bans across four counties. Adding another layer of legislation on top of all the regulation that already exists is unnecessary and would cause significant confusion in the marketplace.

It is already difficult enough for my customers who operate across counties to comply with six different plastic, food ware bans and seven plastic bags bans. Adding a state law on top of these ordinances would add additional compliance costs because each business would have to figure out in each circumstance whether the state law superseded the county law or if the county ordinance ruled. This additional compliance cost would have no benefit as the matter of single use plastics has been addressed multiple times by each county as noted by the number of ordinances already in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2536. Should you have any questions or comments about my testimony you can contact me by email at ahong@islandplasticbags.com or by phone at 808-484-4046.

Sincerely,

Adrian K. Hong, CPA

President

Island Plastic Bags, Inc.

www.islandplasticbags.com

Email: ahong@islandplasticbags.com | Phone: 808-484-4046 | Fax: 808-488-8505

HB-2536

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:55:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Truelove	Biodegradable Products Institute	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Written testimony will be submitted separately, asap.



January 29, 2024

To: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen,
Chair of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

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

Re: HB 2536 – OPPOSE – Scheduled for Hearing January 30, 2024

I respectfully write to express our opposition to House Bill 2536 – relative to single use plastic and bioplastic food ware and beverage containers. The Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) represents the entire supply chain of manufacturers of all plastic products. We are committed to manufacturing products that meet the environmental, social, and business needs of customers.

Plastic is the popular choice to meet consumer demands and there is a reason for this; the material can do things other materials cannot. It is 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.

PLASTICS fully supports policies and programs that result in more recycling and/or composting of foodservice packaging. However, we oppose restrictions that limit the use of any foodservice packaging. In addition, we recognize that manufacturers play a key role in being good stewards of the environment, which is why our industry implements sustainable materials management strategies and promotes concepts that consider the entire lifecycle of a product.

Further, it is our understanding that based on current infrastructure in Hawaii that no product would be able to meet the requirement that “there is regional access to such a facility” or that “the local facility actively accepts, manages, and processes the plastic” in reference to industrially compostable plastics. On the other hand, it is worth noting that Hawaii has residential recycling programs for plastics, which may present an avenue for expanded collection and diversion of single-use plastics.

PLASTICS advocates for the responsible recycling, reuse, and recovery of all plastic products. We encourage the development of policies to support the expansion of infrastructure to



improve the recovery of all foodservice packaging, rather than introducing product restrictions that will have unintended consequences.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our opposition to HB 2536. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at kquigley@plasticsindustry.org for further information or with any clarifying questions.

Regards,

Kris Quigley

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

Regional Director, State Government Affairs
Plastics Industry Association



**Hawaii
Legislative
Council
Members**

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country
Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family
Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Enlightened Energy
Honolulu

Chamber of
Sustainable
Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI
96823

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair
Comm. on Energy & Environmental Protection

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
9:00 am
Conference Room 325 or via Zoom

RE: HB2536 Relating to Single-Use Plastic - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State of Hawaii that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity – we know we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment. This is why we support HB2536.

Businesses large and small must constantly keep up with changes in the market place. Consumers also have to make changes to keep up with technology, culture and now climate – even when inconvenient. Obviously business owners are also consumers: we also need to remember to bring our own shopping bags to the farmers market or grocery store, we all carry around our own refillable water bottles and some of us have a stash of bamboo, glass or metal straws. A couple of us bring along our to go containers when we go out to eat and know we will be taking home left overs.

These are small behavioral modifications that we make as individuals and they may add up over a long period of time, but making statewide policy that speaks to our collective potential - that can have a substantial impact in a short amount of time.

With the Great Pacific Garbage Patch growing at the rate it is, businesses need clear guidance and a sustainable plan to move away from single use plastic. HB2536 provides this road map.

HB-2536

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:05:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Melody Young	CARES	Support	In Person

Comments:



Dear Chairs & Vice Chairs & Committee,

ROAR testifies in strong support.

CARES testifies in strong support. Plastic is one of the most hazardous materials known to humankind. It is not biodegradable and contains extremely toxic materials which causes irreversible environmental damage to our earth. Please review CARES' graphics in which we disseminate this information.

HB-2536

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 3:53:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HB2536. Biodegradable utensils work great (as do old-fashioned washable metal ones). Our planet is overwhelmed with plastic!

HB-2536

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 9:33:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **oppose** this Bill.

HB-2536

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 12:28:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ROXANNE RIVERO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill for eliminating single use plastics, this would be a huge win for our environment and ocean .. i cannot say enough how much plastic i find just alone on my neighborhood beach (cromwells which is a pretty local beach on oahu) as well as streets .. i alone when i order food say no to utensils yet 90 percent of the time receive it unwanted.. pls help our ocean stay clean and pass this bill to eliminate single use plastics thank you for your support of this bill passing and keeping our aina and ocean clean

HB-2536

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:04:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael EKM Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have reached the point where there is so much plastic in the world that it can be found in the blood of newborns. While this bill doesn't cover that issue, it takes a much-needed step to ensure our state and world stay green and healthy. I support this bill because it's a step in the right direction toward a cleaner tomorrow.

HB-2536

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:23:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
THOMAS KENT	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL

HB-2536

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:06:44 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Yukutake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2536.

I am against banning these items which increases costs for businesses and adds to our cost of living. Instead educate the public and teach morals and responsibility.

I'm tired of having paper straws dissolve in my drink and paper food containers melt away.