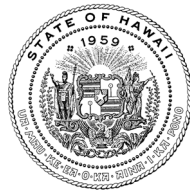


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1326, H.D. 1

March 2, 2023
2:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 1326, H.D. 1:

- Requires the Department of Health (DOH), by rule, to establish dates and interim goals to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill or incineration.
- Establishes a Packaging Waste Advisory Council (PWAC) and specifies the organization and duties and responsibilities of the PWAC.
- Requires DOH to establish a statewide needs assessment to detail the resources needed to reduce packaging waste in each county.
- Establishes a Packaging Waste Special Fund (PWSF) to be administered by DOH.
- Requires DOH to establish a producer-funded waste reduction and reuse plan to implement a packaging waste and reuse program.
- Requires: 1) DOH to issue a draft implementation plan by July 1, 2026; 2) the PWAC to provide recommendations based on a majority vote within 60 calendar days of receipt of the draft plan; 3) DOH to publish a final draft implementation plan

for public review by December 31, 2026; and 4) DOH to publish a final packaging waste reduction and reuse implementation plan by July 1, 2027.

- Allows DOH to adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 91, HRS, to implement this bill.
- Requires DOH to submit an annual report to the Legislature that contains a summary of the progress made toward achieving the packaging waste reduction goal, the needs assessments, and the revenues and expenditures of the PWSF.
- Appropriates an unspecified amount in general funds in FY 24 and FY 25 for deposit into the PWSF.
- Appropriates an unspecified amount from the PWSF in FY 24 and FY 25 for contractors or 2.00 full-time equivalent permanent packing reduction coordinator positions.
- Appropriates an unspecified amount from the PWSF in FY 24 and FY 25 to fund and manage the PWAC.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 1326, H.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1326 HD1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 3/2/2023

Room Number: 308

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 Personnel and resources necessary to implement HB1326 HD1 will be met by this
5 proposed bill. The Department estimates that \$350,000 of general revenues will be necessary in
6 fiscal year 2024 and \$350,000 of general revenues will be necessary in fiscal year 2025, to be
7 deposited into the packaging waste special fund. This would provide for two full-time equivalent
8 (2.0 FTE) permanent positions established by HB1326 HD1 at \$100,000 each in fiscal year 2024
9 and fiscal year 2025, and an additional \$150,000 each fiscal year for professional services and
10 other miscellaneous costs to facilitate the packaging waste advisory council meetings.

11 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports HB1326 HD1 to establish a zero-waste
12 initiative and address packaging waste by convening an advisory council, developing an
13 assessment and implementation plan with the advisory council, and implementing
14 recommendations to establish a Packaging Waste Reduction and Reuse Program to address
15 packaging waste in the State. Packaging waste is a significant pollutant and addressing
16 packaging waste will benefit the State and protect the environment, economy, and public health.
17 The cost to manage packaging waste is currently borne by taxpayers in the State and counties
18 through landfill fees and property taxes, and HB1326 HD1 proposes a solution that requires
19 producers of excessive packaging waste be accountable for their packaging decisions, otherwise
20 known as extended producer responsibility (EPR).

1 There are currently four states that have implemented significant EPR legislation:
2 California, Colorado, Maine, and Oregon. Each state has implemented its own variation of EPR
3 tailored to their respective markets and unique needs. In Hawai'i, the Department currently
4 implements the Electronic Device Recycling and Recovery Act, which is comparable to an EPR
5 model as it shifts the burden of recycling used electronics from the individual taxpayer and onto
6 the manufacturer of the eligible electronic device.

7 The Department continues to focus on improving the State's solid waste stream reduction
8 rate and achieving its reduction goals. In late-October 2022, the Department executed a contract
9 and encumbered funds to update the State Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) plan.
10 The State identified eight solid waste stream discussion topics to be addressed in the ISWM plan
11 update. One of the solid waste stream discussion topics is packaging. A ninth solid waste stream
12 discussion topic will involve the evaluation and assessment of current State recycling programs,
13 and a tenth solid waste stream discussion topic has been left open to address one additional solid
14 waste stream issue that is identified during discussions. The Department's contractor is tasked
15 with developing a problem statement centered around each solid waste stream discussion topic,
16 performing a comparative analysis that examines statutory and/or programmatic approaches that
17 other states take to address similar solid waste stream issues, and highlighting potential solutions
18 to address solid waste issues while considering the State's unique demographic and economic
19 variables. One of the potential solutions that the contractor is required to evaluate for each solid
20 waste stream discussion topic is EPR. An assembled task force that will be assisting the
21 Department with the State ISWM plan update will use the information provided by the
22 Department's contractor to address each solid waste stream topic. The Department estimates that
23 its ISWM plan update will be completed in 2024.

24 The Department is also applying for federal grant funds from the United States (US)
25 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the US EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for
26 Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program. SWIFR grant funds can be used by the Department to
27 develop comprehensive data collection efforts, and the Department has submitted a proposal to
28 the US EPA to conduct a statewide waste characterization study. The Department anticipates
29 learning of its funding allocation this summer and receiving its award in the fall. After award, the
30 Department will procure the services of a contractor to conduct the study, with an anticipated
31 start date in mid-2024 and completion in 2025.

1 The Department’s planning activities highlighted above will be instrumental in
2 facilitating the advisory council’s decision-making process and developing a packaging waste
3 reduction and reuse plan. The Department would like to note that the advisory council and
4 implementation plan may determine that legislative authority regarding program establishment,
5 funding, or fee structures will need to be enacted prior to implementation, and the Department
6 may need time to partner with the State Legislature to develop supporting legislation prior to full
7 Packaging Waste Reduction and Reuse Program implementation.

8 The Department respectfully requests a minor technical revision on page 20, line 7 to
9 change the date from July 1, 2026 to July 1, 2027, for consistency.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

11 **Offered Amendments:** Additions appear as underlined, and deletions appear as bracketed
12 strikeouts:

13 §342G-F (c) “... with funding in whole or in part from covered producers beginning on July
14 1, [~~2026~~] 2027.”

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 3:47:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglass S. Adams	Department of Research and Development, County of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **HB 1326 HD1**, which establishes the Hawai'i zero waste initiative to, among other things, manage the State's transition to zero solid waste to the landfill and to incineration, establishes the packaging waste advisory council, requires the department of health to develop an assessment of statewide needs to determine the resources required to reduce packaging waste by seventy percent from the baseline amount, and establishes a packaging waste reduction and reuse program. The bill also appropriates funds to support these activities. The department joins Hawaii County Department of Environmental Management in supporting this bill. Much needs to be done as we work to mitigate the impacts we have on our 'aina and our planet. This bill provides an impetus to move us in the right direction. I note that even the testimony in opposition does not take issue with the need to remove packaging from the waste stream.

We strongly encourage the Committee to move HB 1326 HD1 forward with a **POSITIVE** recommendation for House passage.

very respectfully,

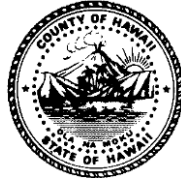
Douglass S Adams

Director, Department of Research & Development

County of Hawaii

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee Lord
Managing Director



Ramzi I. Mansour
Director

Brenda Iokepa-Moses
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 · cohdem@hawaiiicounty.gov

Ph: (808) 961-8083 · Fax: (808) 961-8086

March 1, 2023

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Yamashita and Committee Members,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management supports **HB 1326 HD1**, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027.

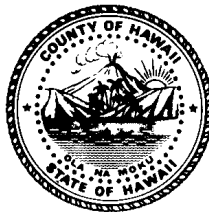
The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

This producer responsibility legislation, if enacted into law, will address the core issue of waste reduction by identifying, and by causing manufacturers to find, creative alternatives to divert and manage the many tons of packaging waste generated in the State each year, and will help us reach our sustainability goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Ramzi Mansour, Director
Department of Environmental Management, County of Hawai'i

HEATHER L. KIMBALL
COUNCIL CHAIR
Council District 1 (North Hilo,
Hāmākua, and portion of Waimea)



Phone: (808) 961-8828
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: Heather.Kimball@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402.
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 1, 2023

House Committee on Finance
Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Honorable Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Submission via online testimony

RE: Support of HB 1326 HD1

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee:

As the Chair of the Hawai'i County Council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1326 HD1**, which initiates a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program.

With my environmental science background and expertise as a consultant experienced in the development of carbon mitigation and climate change adaptation plans, I see HB 1326, HD1 as a perfect opportunity make progress toward our climate positive and sustainability goals statewide. This legislation provides a clear route to address waste reduction through the lens of packaging materials. The expertise and oversight of DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment, in determining the necessary resources to reduce packaging material going into landfills and incinerators, is critical in thereby outlining environmentally sound packaging mechanisms be utilized for the betterment of Hawai'i and beyond.

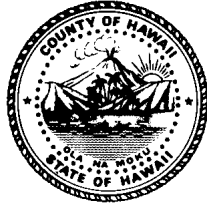
I encourage the passing of this bill as it will address the core issue of waste reduction, a focus that is critical for our environment going forward. Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

HEATHER L. KIMBALL

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: March 1, 2023
TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB 1326

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HB 1326 to establish the Hawai'i Zero Waste Initiative to help manage the State's transition to zero solid waste to the landfill and incineration, as well as developing a packaging waste advisory council. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste. We have a critical need to drastically reduce product packaging to help preserve our fragile environment and wildlife, with limited resources for recycling on our neighbor islands.

HB1326 HD1 would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

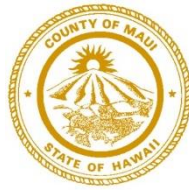
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Jenn Kagiwada

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

KEKUHAUPIO R. AKANA
Acting Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

March 1, 2023

TO: Honorable Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Honorable Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
Shayne R. Agawa, P.E., Acting Director of Environmental Management

DATE: March 1, 2023

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB1326, HD1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to protect the environment and reduce costs to taxpayers by establishing a zero-waste initiative and packaging waste reduction and reuse program, with participation and funding from large producers of consumer-packaged goods.

Packaging waste is of great concern for Maui County, specifically in addressing waste management, environmental related issues, and impacts to and from the business sector. It makes up for a large percentage of non-recyclable solid waste that must be managed, usually by municipalities at taxpayer expense. This problem must be addressed in order to further climate action goals, reduce dependence on landfills, as well as spur innovation and progress to support a circular economy.

Our administration **SUPPORTS** this measure for the following reasons:

1. The problem is extensive and complex, so it must be studied and understood before action can be taken. It is our position, that forming an advisory or working group will be the essential first step in that process. An advisory group will help us to better understand a complicated problem, study and determine baselines for the types and quantities of packaging waste on each island, and bring relevant stakeholders to the table to cooperatively plan for reduction strategies. This

includes efforts to improve packaging design, standardize materials, and to develop a potential Extended Producer Responsibility program for the State.

In comparison, the Department of Health convened the Plastics Source Reduction Working Group in 2019, mandated by Act 256. This Act offered the opportunity for a broad range of stakeholders, including the food service industry, beverage industry, all counties, state agencies, and environmental organizations to agree on specific policy recommendations. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented action on some of the recommend measures, however, the process was invaluable in generating collective recommendations.

2. This measure provides a reasonable way to approach the issue of packaging waste that will be inclusive of viewpoints from industry, government, and environmental advocacy groups. As a result, this group will be able to provide state-wide policy recommendations that represent all stakeholders.

We respectfully propose amendments to increase target dates by adding 2 years to comply. This will allow for a workable timeline for staff recruitment and preparation to implement the provisions of the bill.

For the foregoing reasons, we offer our **SUPPORT** of this measure.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 2, 2023 2:30 PM Conference Room 308

In SUPPORT of HB1326 HD1: Relating to the Environment

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee members,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB1326 HD1, which would establish a long-due foundation for a transition towards a more sustainable, resilient, and stable economy and way of life for Hawai'i's residents.

Our islands' failures to account for our continuous production of solid waste, and the externalized costs of our consumption-based economy, have resulted in significant and ever-growing impacts to our environment, our public health, and overall quality of life. Leachates from our landfills threaten to contaminate our water resources and nearshore areas; toxic emissions and ash from O'ahu's waste-to-energy facility have raised the risks of lung and heart disease, neurological complications, reproductive issues, and cancer in nearby, largely Native Hawaiian communities; and our limited land areas and our sensitive environments and groundwater sources severely limit the space we have available to receive and store our waste byproducts.

By establishing a foundational framework to reduce and repurpose our solid waste streams, this measure will help us to head off the looming crises posed by the ongoing neglect of our waste stream impacts. The focus on and investments in waste reduction, reuse, and recycling will also have the added benefit of creating a more resilient and sustainable economy, that is far less dependent on – and vulnerable to – an ever more volatile world beyond our shores. Notably, such approaches may also relieve some of our islands' energy challenges, as peer-reviewed life-cycle assessments of waste management have shown that three to five times more energy can be saved “through alternative strategies such as waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting than can be generated by burning.”

Accordingly, this measure represents a much-needed rethinking of our approach to waste production and management, one that will be critical to the long-term livability, stability, and resilience of our islands as a whole.

For the above reasons, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1326 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

TO: Chair Kyle T. Yamashita; Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa; and Committee

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

RE: HB 1326 HD1 Relating to the Environment

POSITION: OPPOSE

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 1326 HD1. 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 recycles plastic scraps. HB 1326 HD1 should not pass as it provides no details for how the packaging waste reduction program would work.

The bill provides no information on which companies would be affected, the fees that would be required of companies, the reporting requirements for producers that fall under the program, or even the materials that will be covered. HB 1326 HD1 does not provide how it arrived at the goal of a 70% reduction in packaging waste nor does it provide data to prove that such a reduction is obtainable. Given the lack of details, IPB cannot support this bill.

Island Plastic Bags is not against the idea of extended producer responsibility. There should be incentives to design packaging so it is easier to recycle and reuse. IPB recommends this bill be turned into a study of an EPR program that can flesh out the details noted above. Then citizens can decide for themselves if the program should become law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 1326 HD1. 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

**Testimony in Support of HB1326 HD1
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection**

Aloha Chair Nakashim, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Consumer Protections and Commerce Committee,

My name is Romina Silva and I am writing on behalf of my company FoodWare. We are a collect and return system provider for reusable to-go cups and containers in the Bay Area, California. We have been operating for almost two years and have successfully provided our service to multiple restaurants and institutions such as UC Berkeley - a leading university in the US. There is a big need for services like ours in order to tackle climate change and environmental pollution. However, we strongly believe a shift to a more sustainable future is not the work of reuse providers alone and that the future of our planet depends on having extended producer responsibility (EPR) in place.

I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. It has a high environmental and energy impact from its manufacturing, logistics and end-of-life stages, as well as health impacts for everyone of us. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging and by paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

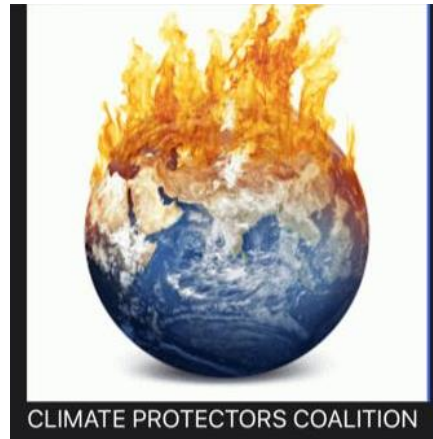
I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

Multiple countries in Europe have already established single-use waste bans and are working towards EPR schemes, with other EU countries to follow suit. Such countries include [the UK](#) and [Germany](#).

Reuse systems are the future and it is important to start building the required tools and infrastructure, together with education for the public, today. Making producers responsible for the packaging waste they create is not only going to make such systems a reality, but will also create new green jobs in local communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Romina Silva
Co-Founder & COO, FoodWare



To: The Honorable Chair Kyle Yamashita, the Honorable Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re Hearing: **HB1326 HD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Hearing: Thursday March 2, 2023, 2:30 p.m., room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. HIROC is deeply concerned about packaging waste, especially plastic waste, which never really goes away, it breaks down into smaller pieces of microplastics that kill marine species and birds that ingest it and moves up the food chain to humans eating seafood.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way

back to a safe and stable climate. Most plastic is made from petroleum and is therefore a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Creating less plastic packaging will help mitigate the climate crisis.

**The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and the Climate Protectors Hawai'i
STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1326 HD1!**

The State of Hawai'i faces a crisis in its handling of municipal solid waste. Every county in Hawai'i is running out of useable landfill capacity for solid waste and facing difficulties in siting more landfills.

Trash incineration reduces the volume of waste but is not a good solution. Incinerating trash is generally more expensive than landfilling. The World Bank reported in 2018 that both capital and operating expenditures for incinerators are higher than costs for other options such as composting, anaerobic digesting and landfills. Trash incineration is even worse for public health and the environment than coal and oil. It:

- releases into the air hazardous pollutants such as lead, mercury and dioxins that can be carcinogenic and harmful to the central nervous system;
- has been associated with birth defects;
- releases fine particle pollution that can exacerbate respiratory ailments such as chronic bronchitis, asthma, COPD, and emphysema;
- is twice as bad for the climate as landfilling, emitting greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, NO_x, ammonia, and total carbon; and
- produces toxic ash that, when placed in landfills, can pollute drinking water and surface waters, which can harm human health.

Neither incineration nor landfilling of solid waste are sustainable solutions.

Recycling alone is not the answer for Hawai'i, given our isolation, the costs of shipping, the lack of local commercial recycling facilities, poor sorting practices, and the fact that some types of plastic are not recyclable and others can only be recycled a few times.

Hawai'i needs to reduce packaging waste to help address our landfill capacity problems, reduce costs to taxpayers, protect our environment, and mitigate the climate crisis. We must create less packaging waste and recapture resources in our waste through reuse. A major goal of the State should be to move toward zero waste.

Currently, the county taxpayers in the State pay most of the costs of handling packaging waste. **The producers of packaging waste should shoulder more of the costs of handling the packaging waste they produce; the taxpayers should pay less.** It is fair that those who create packaging waste pollution should bear at least some of the costs. The packaging producers also are in the best position to redesign their packaging so it is less wasteful and can be reused or refilled. Developing packaging that circulates locally will reduce packaging costs, waste handling costs, and supply chain disruptions that harm local businesses.

This bill would begin to move Hawai'i toward these zero waste and packaging reduction goals. It would protect the environment, produce local green jobs in waste handling, and reduce costs to taxpayers by establishing a zero waste initiative and a packaging reduction and reuse program, with participation and funding from large producers of consumer packaged goods. Smaller producers would not be affected. The existing HI 5 deposit bottles would be exempt. A packaging waste special fund would be established to provide funding.

The bill calls for the Department of Health (DOH), with the assistance from each county, to first develop an assessment of statewide needs for resources to reduce packaging waste from the baseline amount, with priority on waste prevention, by eliminating unnecessary packaging and switching to reusable packaging systems.

To work through the complex issues of this transition, an advisory group of relevant stakeholders, including producers, county representatives and others,

would be established to advise the DOH on how to structure a producer-funded packaging reduction program. Funding for additional staffing at DOH should be provided to regulate the packaging waste reduction program. With input from the advisory group, the DOH will implement a packaging reduction program funded at least in part by large producers, with a target date of July 1, 2027.

The bill also would establish a Zero Waste Initiative in DOH to manage the State's transition from a throw-away linear economy, where we produce, use and discard solid waste, to a more circular economy where, as much as feasible, we **REDUCE, REUSE and REFILL!** The bill establishes a process for reasonable packaging waste reform that will help us deal with landfill capacity limitations, reduce packaging waste, lower costs to taxpayers, and move toward zero waste.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORT** this bill! Please pass it! Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



To: The House Committee on Finance (FIN)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023, 2:30pm

In support of HB1326 HD1

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the FIN Committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports HB1326 HD1** that establishes the Hawaii zero waste initiative to manage the State's transition to zero solid waste to the landfill and to incineration, and establish the packaging waste advisory council. In addition, this measure requires the department of health to develop an assessment of statewide needs to determine the resources required to reduce packaging waste by seventy percent from the baseline amount, and establishes a packaging waste reduction and reuse program.

Reducing, reusing and recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming, and are important strategies in our fight against the climate crisis. There is a proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers responsible for managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated.

As the State strives to fulfill its commitments to reduce waste and effectively mitigate the impacts of climate change, this measure offers an effective pathway forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. Please support and pass this important measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 11:40:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Okuma	NO APOHO	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita and members of Finance Committee,

I SUPPORT the passage of of HB 1326 HD1, relating to the reduction of single-use packaging, most of which is either landfilled or incinerated. Both means of dealing with solid waste contribute to climate change. Additionally, single-use packaging, such as that made from plastic, often leads to marine pollution from micro plastics.

One aspect of HB 1326 that I especially like is that it supports the State Department of Health, in collaboration with the counties, to conduct a state-wide needs assessment in order to reduce packaging waste by 70%.

Please pass HB 1326 forward. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ellen Okuma, Project Director

NO POHŌ

Hilo, HI



March 1, 2023

To: House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
From: Perpetual

House Bill 1326 - RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Position: Strong Support

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

Perpetual is a non-profit that partners at the city level to implement immersive reusable foodware systems that provide a great user experience, are affordable and convenient for businesses, and are designed through an inclusive process with the community to be economically viable, healthy and safe, integrated with city planning, and environmentally superior to disposables. Perpetual is currently partnering with Zero Waste Hawai'i Island and the County of Hawai'i to implement a reusable foodware system in Hilo, HI.

Perpetual strongly supports HB1326 that establishes a process for DOH, with assistance from an advisory council, to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program to address this critical pollution issue. Perpetual acknowledges that society's waste issue is closely tied into climate, economic, and social justice issues.

Given the lack of recycling infrastructure and supply chain challenges that Hawai'i faces, along with the increased costs associated, Perpetual sees reuse as a viable alternative to single-use foodware. Implementing reuse systems will bring good, well-paid jobs to the community, offer a better solution for consumers, and reduce the amount of waste that largely impacts the community's marginalized communities. .

Our organization believes that reusable foodware systems offer a compelling solution to the waste and pollution generated by single-use foodware. Life cycle assessments (LCA) show that reusable foodware systems outperform disposables on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, waste generation, and global warming potential ([Hitt et al., 2023](#)). Pilot projects deploying reusable items have proven that the technical capabilities exist and users can have a great experience. With sufficient scale, reusable foodware can be affordable and reliable for businesses. And when reuse systems are implemented city-wide, returning containers is convenient for customers and can become the social norm. However, establishing these well-designed reuse systems requires initial funding to scale.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB1326, submitted on behalf of Perpetual.

Sincerely,
Ellie Moss
Executive Director
Perpetual

**Testimony in Support of HB1326 HD1
Committee on Finance**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is **Michelle Pieper** and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriate funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

I run a small non-profit that focuses on carbon abatement through cardboard shredding. Through my program we make compostable pots and sheet mulching for farmers and nurseries. It is critical that we decrease the use of plastic and work collaboratively to create sustainable solutions for a healthier Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Michelle Pieper

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:59:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MELYNDA DANT	Fair Wind Cruises	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Mendy Dant and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

We purchase products with this in mind and we ask our distributors to be mindful and remove unnecessary plastic when sending to our company. Our particular island state is more vulnerable than many other places in the world, but this is a critical worldwide issue.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326, which would create a process for the Department of Health to develop and implement a plan for a producer-funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2026. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer-funded program, and appropriate funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

This is of immediate importance, we ask you to pass HB1326 and support our planet's health. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this vital solution to combat the overproduction of plastic.

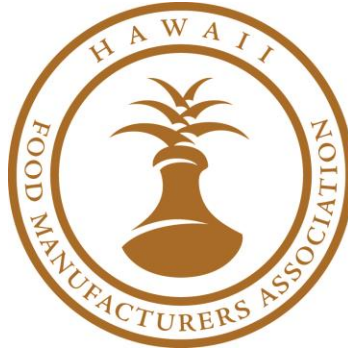
Sincerely,

Mendy Dant

Exec. Vice President

Fair Wind Cruises

Keauhou Kona Hawaii



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 2nd, 2023, at 2:30 P.M.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference**

RE: HB 1326 HD1 Relating to the Environment

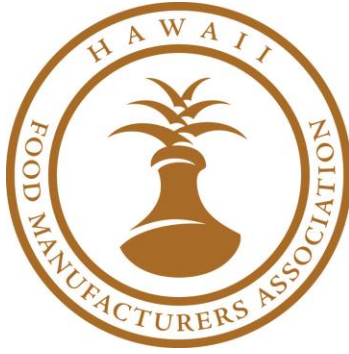
Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association **does not support** HB 1326 HD1, which establishes the Hawaii zero waste initiative program to, among other things, manage the State's transition to reduce and reuse solid waste. Establishes the packaging waste advisory council. Requires the department of health to develop an assessment of statewide needs to determine the resources required to reduce packaging waste by seventy percent from the baseline amount. Establishes a packaging waste reduction and reuse program.

The Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association (HFMA) is a non-profit organization of approximately 120 members that has been promoting Hawaiian grown or manufactured products since 1977. The HFMA works to increase the understanding and appreciation of the unique flavors, quality, and care that go into the production of Hawaii's fine foods and beverages represented by our valued members and enjoyed by our valued community.

The food manufacturing industry in Hawaii generates \$900 million in annual revenue and is the largest manufacturing sector in the state using local inputs according to the Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. The industry provides over 6,100 jobs in the state and an annual payroll of more than \$160 million.

HFMA believes that having this mandate on food manufacturers would be devastating to the industry and potentially shut down many small businesses here in Hawaii. We believe the way the bill is written there is a need for a creation of a producer responsibility organization (PRO), a nonprofit that is organized and run by the producers who can develop principles, objectives, and financing mechanisms for the packaging producer responsibility program. PROs play an important role in states that want to manage their packaging waste effectively by allowing producers to have an active role in funding changes but also on implementing a successful plan to reach the performance goals set out in the legislation.



As currently drafted, HB 1326 HD1 would place the Department in charge of functions normally fulfilled by the PRO. While the Department should have strong oversight of the packaging producer responsibility program, it should not take the lead role on behalf of producers in Hawaii.

We believe that the advisory council should have local food manufacturers and small businesses on there to provide industry knowledge and feedback on how these policies might affect our business.

We are happy to work with the sponsor of this bill and the committee representatives to come up with a policy that protects the environment but does not devastate our industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance Thursday, March 2nd, 2023 at 2:30pm Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

RE: HB 1326 HD1 Relating to the Environment

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **offers comments on** HB 1326 HD1, which establishes the Hawaii zero waste initiative program to, among other things, manage the State's transition to reduce and reuse solid waste. Establishes the packaging waste advisory council. Requires the department of health to develop an assessment of statewide needs to determine the resources required to reduce packaging waste by seventy percent from the baseline amount. Establishes a packaging waste reduction and reuse program.

We appreciate and understand the intent of this bill to reduce waste in our environment and managing the state's transition to reduce solid waste. We believe the way the bill is written there is a need for a creation of a producer responsibility organization (PRO), a nonprofit that is organized and run by the producers who can develop principles, objectives, and financing mechanisms for the packaging producer responsibility program. PROs play an important role in states that want to manage their packaging waste effectively by allowing producers to have an active role in funding changes but also on implementing a successful plan to reach the performance goals set out in the legislation.

As currently drafted, HB 1326 would place the Department in charge of functions normally fulfilled by the PRO. While the Department should have strong oversight of the packaging producer responsibility program, it should not take the lead role on behalf of producers in Hawaii.

The Chamber is supportive of the addition of an advisory council in the bill. The advisory council plays an important role in offering feedback and expertise on packaging producer responsibility and waste reduction and has become a common feature in best practice legislation in other states. In this advisory council, we would like to see local manufacturers represented so we have industry represented in the process.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 1, 2023

Re: HB 1326

The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) is North America's leading certifier of compostable materials, products, and packaging, with over 500 member companies worldwide. The BPI is science-driven and supports a shift to the circular economy by promoting the production, use, and appropriate end of lives for materials and products that are designed to fully biodegrade in specific biologically active environments.

The BPI certification program has verified claims of compostability on more than 17,000 items using ASTM standards as a baseline, plus additional requirements on PFAS, labeling, and eligibility criteria. These certified compostable products and packaging materials provide assistance in the broader effort to keep organic waste out of landfills.

As an organization dedicated to improving and expanding the use of compostable products in organic waste diversion programs, we sincerely appreciate that you are looking for ways that Hawaii can champion a healthier environment and support innovation in alternatives to single-use plastics that aren't being recycled or composted in high enough numbers. However, we believe HB 1326 is not ready, and specifically misses critical aspects for supporting the use of compostable packaging that is associated with food and food waste.

Hawaii is not alone in proposing EPR packaging bills that don't sufficient address composting and compostable packaging, which is why BPI partnered with the US Composting Council to develop shared principles. You can access those principles here: https://storage.googleapis.com/bpiworld-org/documents/USCC_BPI_EPR_Principles.pdf

Notably, HB 1326 only mentions composting in passing, and very little about the program structure is defined, since the advisory council recommends to the department what products are affected, who is the responsible producer, how fees are to be determined, the relevant timelines, and how the program should be implemented.

There are no composters or designated compostable products representative spots on the advisory council, and no requirements that a proportional amount of revenue go to composting (to ensure compostable packaging isn't funding traditional recycling). We would be happy to work with you on adding amendments to address the major points in the BPI / USCC principle document.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rh Yepsen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rhodes Yepsen
Executive Director



March 1, 2023

House Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of H.B. 1326

Dear Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding H.B. 1326. **Just Zero strongly supports this bill.**

Just Zero is a national non-profit environmental advocacy organization that works alongside communities, policy makers, scientists, educators, organizers, and others to implement just and equitable solutions to climate-damaging and toxic production, consumption, and waste disposal practices. We believe that all people deserve Zero Waste solutions with zero climate-damaging emissions and zero toxic exposures.

The way we think about and manage waste in this country is flawed, inherently unsustainable, and deeply unjust. This unfortunately isn't surprising given that the companies that design, package, and market fast moving consumer goods are completely detached from the end-of-life management of these materials. Instead, residents, towns, and counties are stuck paying to collect and manage a waste stream they have little control over. Even worse, because these companies have no responsibility for the waste associated with their products and packaging, they are increasingly overpackaging products and using unrecyclable materials like plastic.

H.B. 1326 would address this by requiring producers of fast-moving consumer goods to fund programs and the infrastructure needed to reduce the amount of packaging waste disposed of in landfills and incinerators by 70%. This will significantly reduce the economic burden on residents, businesses, and taxpayers in Hawaii who are currently paying to manage all this packaging waste.

Moreover, unlike other forms of producer responsibility for packaging laws, H.B. 1326 correctly identifies that the means of achieving this goal isn't through increased recycling alone. But instead, through the elimination of single-use packaging and the development of producer funded reuse and refill systems.



I. H.B. 1326 Correctly Prioritizes Waste Reduction Through Elimination and Producer Funded Reuse and Refill Programs

An effective and modern producer responsibility for packaging program needs to set strong waste reduction requirements that are achieved primarily through elimination of single-use packaging and producer funded reuse and refill programs. **This is exactly what H.B. 1326 does.** The bill will require producers to fund programs that will not only reduce waste but will benefit Hawaii’s environment and economy.

Implementing Zero Waste strategies to meet current and future waste management needs not only reduces pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, it also provides significantly more jobs than disposal based systems.¹ Reuse and refill systems create as many as 30 times more jobs than landfills.² Importantly, unlike disposal facilities which are centralized and require significant economic resources to build and upkeep, reuse and refill systems can be decentralized and rely on local community and businesses which helps spread the economic benefits.

For instance, a Chilean company called Algramo has developed vending machines where consumers can refill reusable bottles with common household products such as soap, cleaning products, detergent, shampoo, conditioner, salad dressing, and lotion. These vending machines can be installed in grocery and convenience stores and provide alternatives to single-use items. This type of system would work well in Hawaii and H.B. 1326 would provide not only the funding to get this system of the ground, but an incentive for producers to participate.

II. HB 1326 is Specifically Tailored to Work for Hawaii

While several states are considering similar proposals, HB 1326 is specifically designed to create a process to develop a system that will benefit Hawaii.

The bill creates a process where the Department of Health (“DOH”) will plan and implement a producer-funded packaging reduction and reuse program with the objective of holding these regulated producers accountable for the waste associated with their products. Given Hawaii’s geographic location and limited disposal capacity, this primarily means reduction of waste and development of reuse and refill programs. To ensure all stakeholders can provide input, the bill contains ample opportunity for residents, businesses, local government, and regulated producers to weigh-in on the development of this program.

¹ Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, [Zero Waste and Economic Recovery – The Job Creation Potential of Zero Waste Solutions](#), p. 4. (2021).

² Tellus Institute and Source Resource Management, [More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S.](#) (Nov. 2011)



Moreover, the bill also requires DOH to develop a comprehensive statewide needs assessment that will determine what resources, funding, infrastructure, and programs are necessary to meet the waste reduction goals. Similarly, the development of the needs assessment includes multiple opportunities for public engagement. Including engagement from the newly created Advisory Council. Ultimately, HB 1326 will empower Hawaii, through the DOH, with the tools and structure needed to transition to a new circular economy that will benefit all.

III. Producer Responsibility Organization

Just Zero understands that the Committee may consider amendments that would allow regulated producers the ability to form a Producer Responsibility Organization (“PRO”). Just Zero is supportive of this amendment, provided that it does not give the PRO authority over the reduction goals and other core functions of the program.

PROs are a common practice in EPR systems. However, there is a general misconception about the role these organizations provide. These non-profit entities are designed to provide technical and compliance assistance to regulated producers. They help ensure that producers are working to meet the requirements of the law and providing necessary information to the enforcement agency. PROs should not be given control over how the program is developed. That role is best left with the legislature and the DOH.

IV. Conclusion

The pollution and public health impacts associated with unfettered packaging generation and disposal are widespread and significant. Addressing this requires bold policy that is commensurate with the problem we are all facing. H.B. 1326 is a critical policy that will ensure Hawaii transitions away from the current toxic and unsustainable throw-away packaging system to one where disposal is limited, and resources are reused and recirculated into the economy. Just Zero urges you to support H.B. 1326. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Blair, Esq.
Policy Director
Just Zero



P.O. Box 726, Falls Church, VA 22046
tel (703) 592-9889 fax (703) 592-9864
email fpi@fpi.org web www.fpi.org

House Committee on Finance
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 1, 2023

Opposition re: House Bill 1326 – Packaging Waste Reduction Program Mandate

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our written testimony regarding *House Bill 1326 – Packaging Waste Reduction Program Mandate* (HB 1326-HD1), 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](#).

As part of our commitment to increasing the recovery of foodservice packaging, we are supportive of policy approaches that advance this effort through systems such as recycling and composting. With respect to extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs, it is our position that programs should be based on the principles of shared responsibility, fairness and system effectiveness and efficiency.

HB 1326-HD1, as drafted, would place the Hawaii State Department of Health (Department) in charge of functions normally fulfilled by a producer responsibility organization (PRO). We recommend that the bill allow for the creation of a nonprofit PRO, organized and run by the producers, to develop principles, objectives and financing mechanisms for the packaging producer responsibility program. The Department should have strong oversight of the packaging producer responsibility program; however, it should not take the lead role.

We also propose that the definition of “covered producer” provide more clarity concerning the brand owner obligations and that it is the brand using/on the packaging, and not the packaging producer, who is the responsible party.

FPI supports the state's efforts to evaluate solid-waste systems and expand the management of packaging in the municipal waste stream with a needs assessment. However, it is our perspective that, as drafted, the

needs assessment will not deliver what is needed to detail the resources needed to reduce packaging waste from each county's baseline amount by 70 percent by 2030.

As recommended by a coalition of organizations (including FPI) to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, the needs assessment should be developed through a collaborative public process and should include the following elements.

- Current recycling, composting, collection, and hauling systems in the state and the expanded access and additional recycling or composting options needed for enhancements to these systems.
- The processing capacity and infrastructure in the state and regionally and what is needed to improve that capacity.
- Consumer education needs for recycling, composting, reuse, and waste reduction.
- Funding needs and actions necessary to achieve reduction goals.
- Actions and investments necessary to provide sufficient access to collection, recycling, composting, processing, and transportation to viable responsible end markets.
- Funding needs for the transport of materials from remote or rural areas to centralized sorting facilities, brokers, or viable end markets.

Thank you for your consideration of this written testimony and our opposition to HB 1326-HD1.

Sincerely,



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



March 2, 2023

TO: Chair Kyle Yamashita
Members, House Committee on Finance

FR: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

RE: **HB1326 HD1 Relating to the Environment. – OPPOSE**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose **HB1326 HD1**, legislation that requires the Department of Health in conjunction with each county to conduct a needs assessment to determine what resources would be necessary to reduce packaging waste by seventy percent from the baseline amount by 2030; establishes an advisory council to advise the department on how to structure a producer-funded extended producer responsibility (EPR) program; and requires the department to ultimately develop and implement an EPR program. Though we support the objective of this legislation, we have concerns with the bill as drafted.

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, efforts to modernize and expand the nation's recycling infrastructure have significantly increased. Since 2017, there have been more than 90 projects worth more than \$8 billion in announced investments to modernize recycling technologies in the U.S. These projects have the potential to divert more than 19 billion pounds of waste annually from landfills and are aimed at revolutionizing the use and reuse of plastic resources.

As drafted, HB1326 HD1 would require the Department of Health in conjunction with each county to conduct a needs assessment to determine what resources would be necessary to reduce packaging waste by seventy percent from the baseline amount by 2030. We would encourage the committee to further bolster the needs assessment language in the bill by including the following considerations:

- Current recycling, composting, collection, and hauling systems in the state and the expanded access and additional recycling or composting options needed to achieve associated reduction goals.
- Consumer education needs for recycling, composting, reuse, and waste reduction.
- Funding needs necessary to achieve associated reduction goals.
- Investments needed to provide sufficient access to collection, recycling, composting, processing, and transportation to viable responsible end markets.
- The initial needs assessment, and any subsequent updates, should be developed through a public process that affords the public the opportunity for comment.

Following completion of the needs assessment, HB1326 HD1 requires the Department to develop and implement a state-run EPR program. Instead, we would encourage the committee to consider establishing a producer-led PRO that would oversee the completion of the needs assessment as well as the development and financing mechanisms for the packaging producer responsibility program. We support the Department having a strong oversight role in the program, but the producers should have the lead role in developing the program and ultimately ensuring the performance goals associated with the program are achieved.



Should HB1326 HD1 move forward, ACC encourages the committee to engage in further dialogue with producers, material suppliers, packaging producers, waste industry representatives, environmental organizations, local governments, and other stakeholders to discuss crafting an EPR program that is efficient, effective, and implementable. ACC looks forward to being part of such a discussion.

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.





Inspiring Generations of Play

1375 Broadway • Suite 1001 • New York, NY 10018
t. 212.675.1141 • e. info@toyassociation.org

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: House Bill 1326 (Lowen) - Packaging Waste Reduction Program Mandate—OPPOSE

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

I write today on behalf of the Toy Association (TTA), a not-for-profit trade association representing approximately eight hundred (800) toymakers, marketers, distributors, and retailers, large and small, located throughout North America. Toy Association members have been working diligently toward environmental goals by improving the recyclability of their toys, reducing packaging, and utilizing more sustainable materials in their products and packaging. While studies indicate that toy packaging accounts for less than 1% of the typical household's annual waste stream, all industries have an obligation to do what they can to reduce their environmental impact.

The Toy Association supports investment in improved recycling infrastructure through extended producer responsibility (EPR) in the form of a uniform national program which provides responsible entities with clear standards and criteria, and reasonable implementation timeframes. However, as states begin to act on their own, we encourage collaboration across jurisdictions to create viable end markets and streamline the compliance process for industry. Although no other state has fully implemented their packaging EPR program, they all include strong Producer Responsibility Organizations at their core. This bill doesn't establish such a framework. Other concerns include costs to consumers, manufacturers, and the state, definitions of producer and covered producer, lack of defined scope of the needs assessment, and use of funds from the Packaging Waste Special Fund. Additionally, with the implementation plan completion date of July 2027, it only leaves 2 ½ years to reach the goal of 70% reduction in the amount of packaging deposited in landfills or incinerated, this is simply not enough time.

We applaud the state's efforts to evaluate their solid-waste system and improve the management of packaging materials in the municipal waste stream; however, this bill sets overambitious goals without providing the appropriate foundation or structure to achieve them. For these reasons, the Toy Association must respectfully oppose HB 1326. Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

Erin Raden
Director, State Government Affairs
The Toy Association



March 1, 2022

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
State Capitol Conference Room 308
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for HB 1326 HD1, An act relating to the environment.

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support** of HB 1326 HD1, which will lay the foundation for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging in Hawaii that prioritizes reduction and reuse.

Upstream is a national non-profit organization that sparks innovative solutions to plastic pollution by helping people, businesses, and communities shift from single-use to reuse. We seek to live in a world where people and the planet are treated as indisposable and communities thrive without all the waste. We believe this bill represents a unique opportunity to enact EPR legislation that centers waste prevention rather than waste management.

HB 1326 HD1 will establish a strong framework for packaging EPR in Hawaii with ambitious targets for waste reduction and reuse. For too long, local governments and communities have shouldered the burden of managing packaging waste. Municipalities and community leaders are powerful catalysts for reuse and critical players in the transition to a circular economy, but they can't get there alone. There is limited control at the local level over the products and packaging that corporations place onto the market - and limited resources for managing the associated waste. To achieve reduction and reuse at scale, producers must be driven to shift their supply chains. This bill outlines a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to plan and implement a producer-funded packaging reduction and reuse program that will hold producers accountable for the packaging they use.

Upstream supports the collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach outlined in this bill to develop a program plan that suits Hawaii's communities. It is our understanding that local advocates feel this tailored approach to creating an EPR plan, with multiple avenues for public input, best addresses Hawaii's needs. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment in collaboration with counties that will determine the resources necessary to reduce packaging waste by 70% by 2030, and establishes a multi-stakeholder advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure the producer-funded packaging reduction and reuse program. Once enacted, the bill will empower Hawaii communities, businesses, and municipalities to lead the transition to the new reuse economy by shaping the program to meet their needs for packaging reduction and reuse.

We also understand the Committee is considering **amendments to the bill that would clarify options for producers, including allowances for producers to form a non-profit producer responsibility organization (PRO).** Upstream supports such an amendment. PROs are standard practice in EPR systems around the world. They provide technical assistance and compliance services to obligated producers while also facilitating streamlined oversight and enforcement for the state. Upstream believes that, with strong state oversight and transparency requirements, as well as multiple avenues for public input, a PRO will strengthen Hawaii's packaging EPR system and help covered producers redesign their packaging and products to enable reuse.

Upstream's vision is for 30% of consumer goods to be sold in reusables by 2030. To realize this vision, we need consumer brands to have real skin in the game when it comes to designing, packaging, and selling their products. HB 1326 HD1 creates the framework needed to achieve this goal while benefiting Hawaii's environment, communities, and economy. **We therefore strongly encourage you to favorably report HB1326 HD1 from your Committee.**

For any questions, please contact me at sydney@upstreamolutions.org.

Mahalo for all you do,

Sydney Harris
Strategic Policy Advisor



**Written Testimony of
David Thorp, American Beverage Association
Before the House Committee on Finance
Opposition to H.B. 1326, HD1: Relating to the Environment
March 2, 2023**

Good afternoon Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in opposition to H.B. 1326, HD1.

I am David Thorp, Vice President, State Government Affairs West for the American Beverage Association (ABA). The American Beverage Association is the trade association representing the non-alcoholic beverage industry across the country and here in Hawaii.

Beverage industry’s local impact on Hawaii’s economy

The beverage industry is an important part of Hawaii’s economy – and one of the few remaining industries still manufacturing on the Islands. Unlike most consumer products, many of our beverages, aluminum cans and plastic bottles are manufactured and distributed in Hawaii by local workers.

Non-alcoholic beverage companies in Hawaii provide 1,200 good-paying jobs across the state. The industry helps to support thousands more workers in businesses that rely in part on beverage sales for their livelihoods and, such as grocery stores, restaurants and theaters.

EPR is Top Priority for Beverage Industry

The beverage industry is taking an active role in advocating for EPR laws for packaging and printed paper that are well-designed, follow best practices, and can produce the kinds of improvements in recycling and markets that are necessary to create a circular economy. We are engaged in several states across the country, collaborating with stakeholders and legislators to shape this legislation: it is a top priority for our industry.

- **H.B. 1326, HD1 is not EPR.** EPR is a policy approach in which producers take financial and/or operational responsibility for managing products at their end of life. These programs can take many forms depending on the nature of the products affected and the policy’s emphasis, but all involve funding the management of material through engagement with producers and other stakeholders. This bill is too short on details about the processes and costs necessary to reduce packaging waste.

Because H.B. 1326, HD1 in no way aligns with our principles or with a common understanding of extended producer responsibility, we cannot support this legislation.

Sincerely,

David Thorp

David Thorp
American Beverage Association
Vice President, State Government Affairs West



March 1, 2023

The Honorable Kyle Yamashita
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: House Bill HB 1326 (Lowen) – Packaging Waste Reduction Program Mandate

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

Thank you for offering the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) and stakeholders the opportunity to provide comments on HB 1326 (Lowen) – the Packaging Waste Reduction Program Mandate. As the only association that represents the entire plastics manufacturing chain, with one million jobs across the country, PLASTICS has a personal stake in this issue. PLASTICS and our members believe that implementing a successful and well-crafted producer responsibility program can be beneficial in ensuring continued modernization and expansion of Hawaii’s recycling infrastructure. Many of our member companies are working to achieve goals made to improve the design of packaging through reasonable source reduction, improved recyclability, and increased recycled content. Unfortunately, as currently drafted, PLASTICS is opposed to HB 1326.

We support the state’s efforts to evaluate their solid-waste system and improve the management of packaging materials in the municipal waste stream with a needs assessment. However, the bill falls short of the necessary requirements that would aid in producing the best data available and ensuring the process is open to stakeholders and interested parties for public comment.

Further, PLASTICS believes it is necessary for the creation of a producer responsibility organization (PRO), a nonprofit that is organized and run by the producers who can develop principles, objectives, and financing mechanisms for the packaging producer responsibility program. PROs play an important role in states that want to manage their packaging waste effectively by allowing producers to have an active role in funding changes but also on implementing a successful plan to reach the performance goals set out in the legislation. As currently drafted, HB 1326 would place the Department in charge of functions normally fulfilled by the PRO. While the Department should have strong oversight of the packaging producer responsibility program, it should not take the lead role on behalf of producers in Hawaii.



PLASTICS fully supports the fact 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. We are committed to sustainability and work with our members to help them achieve their sustainability goals.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit our comments on this legislation. PLASTICS advocates for the responsible recycling, reuse, and recovery of all plastics products, and we welcome any opportunity to continue working with Representative Lowen and stakeholders to help create and implement a successful EPR program in Hawaii. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at kquigley@plasticsindustry.org for further information or with any clarifying questions.

Regards,

Kris Quigley
Regional Director, State Government Affairs
Plastics Industry Association

CC: Members of the House Finance Committee
The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen

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



Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 1326: RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT**

To the Committee Hearing of WAM

March 2, 2023 at 2:30 PM, Conference Room 308 via Videoconference

To: Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the WAM Committees

Date: March 1, 2023

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and WAM Committee Members,

As the Executive Director of Zero Waste O‘ahu, a local non-profit working to rebuild an equitable and waste-free Hawai‘i, I am testifying in **strong support of HB 1326**. This bill establishes a zero waste initiative that will enable local reuse and refill infrastructure and minimize packaging waste. This will have enormous benefits for our communities, for our climate, for our ecosystems, and for our economy. This measure is a smart economic move for the state – it will save taxpayers money on funding costly waste management infrastructure and will lead to the creation of new green jobs.

In 2020 a cross-sector group of stakeholders was convened via Act 254 to explore the topic of waste reduction through the Plastic Source Reduction Working Group. As seen in Recommendation 5 in the [report to the legislature](#), this varied group of stakeholders specifically highlighted the type of policy laid out in HB 1326.

Our counties need state support on the issue of waste management. On O‘ahu we are faced with siting a new landfill and the importance of **reducing the amount of waste we burn or bury is top of mind**. All of the counties will face the same tough conversations O‘ahu residents are having today.

The majority of Hawai‘i’s waste is generated within the City and County of Honolulu. In the recent update to the [County’s Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan](#) (ISWMP), the City Dept. of Environmental Services dedicated an entire chapter to mapping out waste reduction strategies and acknowledges the numerous positive community and ecosystem benefits of minimizing waste. **The County’s strategy to achieve waste reduction specifically highlights supporting legislation like HB 1326** and includes measurable waste reduction goals, which I have recapped below (see p. 3-1 of the ISWMP to read them in full):

Nicole Chatterson
Executive Director, Zero Waste O‘ahu
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“To move beyond its past commitments to source reduction, the City has established the following source reduction and landfill diversion goals:


- *Reduce per-capita waste generation 25 percent by 2030, from 6.5 pounds per day to 4.9 pounds per day.*
- *Reduce carbon emissions from the waste stream by reducing or eliminating carbon-based single-use plastics and polystyrene from the waste stream. Specifically, the City has established a goal of reducing plastic waste going to H-POWER and landfill by 1 percentage point (from 10 percent to 9 percent) by 2030.”*

In addition to what I have discussed above, it is important to remember that local taxpayers foot the bill to dispose of the excessive amounts of packaging waste produced by fast-moving goods companies. Currently, the **producers of these goods take no financial responsibility for the packaging waste they import to our islands.** This bill encourages large producers to change the way they package their goods, or, to contribute to the cost of the waste they are generating for our islands to manage.

We can see the impact of these fast-moving goods and their packaging on our waste stream already. **“Plastic film”, much of which is product packaging, is one of the 10 most prevalent items in each county's waste stream** according to their respective waste characterization studies (here is [O'ahu's recent waste study](#) for reference).

The fiscal, environmental and social benefits of reducing our waste stream are profound. We owe it to taxpayers and our community to pass this measure that will build reuse and refill infrastructure in Hawai‘i while tamping down the excessive amount of packaging waste imported to our islands.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,



Nicole Chatterson, Executive Director, Zero Waste O‘ahu





The power of packaging in balance.™

AMERIPEN
American Institute for Packaging and the Environment

Opposition---HB 1326-HD1 (Lowen)

House Finance Committee

March 2, 2023

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

AMERIPEN – the American Institute for Packaging and the Environment – appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 1326-HD1 that seeks to establish a packaging reduction and reuse program by 2027. While AMERIPEN has developed principles to aid packaging recovery and recycling systems and we support the goals of diverting packaging waste from landfills, we have concerns with HB 1326-HD1 in its current form and wish to offer suggestions to move it towards a more traditional packaging producer responsibility program and system.

AMERIPEN is a coalition of stakeholders dedicated to improving packaging and the environment. We are the only material neutral packaging association in the United States. Our membership represents the entire packaging supply chain, including materials suppliers, packaging producers, consumer packaged goods companies and end-of-life materials managers. We focus on science and data to define and support our public policy positions and our comments are based on this rigorous research rooted in our commitment to achieve sustainable packaging and efficient recycling policies. The packaging industry supports more than 2,500 jobs and accounts for more than \$728 million in total economic output in Hawaii.

Packaging plays a vital role in Hawaii, ensuring the quality of consumer goods as they are manufactured, shipped, stored, and consumed. Packaging has value and none of it belongs in landfills, roadsides or waterways. We need to recover it to be recycled and reused, and no one knows better how to do that than the AMERIPEN members who design, supply, produce, distribute, collect, and process it. They are driving innovation, designing for better environmental performance to boost recycling, modernize the recycling infrastructure and divert waste from landfills.

AMERIPEN supports policy solutions, including packaging producer responsibility, that are:

- **Results Based:** Designed to achieve the recycling and recovery results needed to create a circular economy.
- **Effective and Efficient:** Focused on best practices and solutions that spur positive behaviors, increase packaging recovery, recapture material values and limit administrative costs.
- **Equitable and Fair:** Focused on all material types and funded by shared cost allocations that are scaled to make the system work and perceived as fair among all contributors and stakeholders.

AMERIPEN recognizes the health of packaging recovery and recycling, and waste management systems are critical and there is a shared responsibility that producers can play in improving these systems.

Unfortunately, HB 1326-HD1 does not create shared responsibility where producers and local governments together would both contribute and work together to create better systems in Hawaii. There is no producer responsibility organization (PRO) where producers can manage the funds as well as create a plan that meets the goals proposed in the bill. In our previous testimonies we detailed out our key concerns and recommendations on the policy issues in this bill, below are the concerns summarized.

- 1. Problematic “Covered Producer” Definition:** HB 1326-HD1 definition of producer is too broad and gives too much authority to the Department and Advisory Council. The definition of producer is key to determining how the packaging producer responsibility structure will work in a state and the statutory definition in HB 1326-1 therefore needs to be far more specific.
- 2. Packaging Waste Special Fund:** The packaging waste special fund established in HB 1326-HD1 includes all fees, payments, and penalties collected by the Hawaii Department of Health, and any appropriation by the legislature into the special fund, and the Department would administer the fund. In traditional EPR programs, the funds are managed by a producer responsibility organization (PRO), which is how other states that have enacted similar legislation have set things up.
- 3. Unknown Administration and Producer Fees:** The producer registration and administration fees required to be paid to the Department under HB 1326-HD1 are unknown. Administration fees that go to the Department should be more clearly defined and capped annually.
- 4. Needs Assessment:** We agree that a needs assessment is always a critical part of creating packaging producer responsibility program and appreciate that this is included in HB 1326-HD1. However, the needs assessment in HB 1326-HD1 only determines how much funding each county will get to meet the reduction of materials going to landfill or being incinerated, rather than determining what the needs are for the state to meet the goals stated in the language of the bill.
- 5. Packaging Waste Reduction and Reuse Plan and Program:** As currently drafted in HB 1326-HD1, this plan would be created and administered by the Department. The packaging waste reduction and reuse plan and program should be created by the PRO with requirements outlined in statute determined by the legislature with final approval by the Department. This is a key design element of existing packaging producer responsibility programs and should not be underestimated or undervalued.

We continue to have concerns with the language that places the Hawaii Department of Health in charge of functions that normally would be fulfilled by a PRO or placed in statute by the legislature. These concerns grow when think of the potential costs to the state and to producers, including Hawaii based businesses that will be impacted by the passage of HB 1326-HD1. The state of Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality estimates that the implementation of their EPR program would cost \$4 million dollars a year for the first three years and move to \$3 million dollars a year for the implementation, administration and enforcement.¹ This number only shows a piece of the total cost of a system like the one created in HB1326-HD1, it does not include the cost of packaging changes, infrastructure, business costs and transportation which will have a direct impact on the prices to consumers in Hawaii. With Extended Producer Responsibility programs there is always a cost increase, which producers are willing to pay but, the system in place needs to be one that is effective and cost efficient.

AMERIPEN recognizes and supports the need to increase packaging recovery and reduce packaging waste in Hawaii through a shared responsibility program. HB 1326-HD1, is not the solution to Hawaii’s concern on

¹ <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/rulemaking/Documents/Recycling2023m23AAF.pdf>



The power of packaging in balance:

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packaging waste. We would very much like to partner with Representative Lowen and others on a results-based approach to reducing waste.



Sign on Letter in Support of Producer Funded Packaging Reduction and Reuse

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

The organizations and businesses listed in this letter are in support of legislation to create a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program. This legislation creates a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

The state is facing a crisis where every county is running out of capacity to landfill or otherwise dispose of its solid waste. The current practices of landfilling and incinerating packaging waste are neither cost-effective nor environmentally sustainable methods of handling solid waste. We must act now to reduce the volume of packaging waste through programs that eliminate unnecessary packaging and by **developing reusable packaging systems where packaging is reused/refilled through a service that recollects, sanitizes, and redistributes containers back to vendors and manufacturers.** To reduce the costs to taxpayers and reduce supply chain disruptions to local businesses, we must transition to reusable and refillable packaging alternatives where feasible.

Due to Hawaii's relatively small resident population, remote island location, and lack of existing recycling infrastructure, there is an urgent need to reform the existing packaging waste generation model with solutions that minimize the need for recycling. Reducing packaging waste will not only address Hawaii's landfill capacity problems but will also reduce costs to taxpayers and local businesses, protect the local environment, and mitigate the climate crisis. Although reduce and reuse strategies offer benefits beyond recycling programs, these strategies historically have not received the resources needed to develop and ensure success.

There is currently a national movement underway to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste. To date, four states (California, Colorado, Maine, and Oregon) have enacted producer responsibility laws that vary in approach to fit their unique needs. Corporations that produce the greatest amount of consumer-packaged goods should also help solve the problems caused by the proliferation of packaging waste, whether by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and the management of packaging waste.

This bill establishes a process to reduce the volume of packaging waste currently being landfilled and incinerated by engaging producers to assist with the financial costs of packaging. It is urgent that we start to address our solid waste crisis and this bill will help address a large portion of our waste stream that can be reduced or diverted.

Organizations and businesses that support a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program:

Businesses

- 1 Adaptations Inc
 - 2 Big Island Coffee Roasters
 - 3 Blackmountainbeauty
 - 4 Coconut Trader
 - 5 CupZero
 - 6 DeliverZero, Inc
 - 7 EarthEx, LLC
 - 8 FoodWare
 - 9 Hawaii Island Ocean Advocates
 - 10 Hilo Bottle Shop
 - 11 Kale'a Farms
 - 12 Koko kai Foods LLC
 - 13 Muuse
 - 14 NO POHŌ
 - 15 Ocean Kind HI
 - 16 Pop Culture Artisan Pops
 - 17 Protea Zero Waste Store
-

-
- 18 SKY Kombucha
 - 19 SUPERFUN Studio
 - 20 The Conservationist Collective
 - 21 The Locavore Store
 - 22 Village Seeds Design LLC
 - 23 Volcano Precious Plastic, LLC
 - 24 Zero Waste Hale
 - 25 Sojourner
 - 26 Hana Hou Recycling
-

Organizations

- 27 350Hawaii
 - 28 Blue Ocean Warriors
 - 29 Christienne de Tournay Zero Waste Consultancy
 - 30 Don't Waste Durham
 - 31 Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
 - 32 Going Home Hawaii
 - 33 Hanai Kaiaulu
 - 34 Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action
 - 35 Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
 - 36 Ho'omalau Ke Kai
 - 37 Just Zero
 - 38 Kingdom Pathways
 - 39 Perpetual
 - 40 Plastic Pollution Coalition
 - 41 Re-use Hawai'i
 - 42 Sheffield Saves
 - 43 Surfrider Foundation
 - 44 The Last Plastic Straw
 - 45 Upstream
 - 46 Zero Waste Hawai'i Island
 - 47 Zero Waste Maui Coalition
 - 48 HULI PAC
 - 49 Plastic Free Mail
-

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 1:23:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
R A Culbertson	Big Island Reef Keepers hui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives!

Please pass HB1326....

My friend here is also making this special request!



Mahalo nui loa!

R A Culbertson (& many friends)

members, Big Island Reef Keepers hui

Honokaa



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Energy & Climate Action Committee Agriculture & Food Security Committee

Thursday, March 2, 2023, 2:30 pm

House Committee on Finance

HOUSE BILL 1326 – RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

HB1326 establishes the Hawai'i zero waste initiative to manage a transition to zero solid waste to landfills and incineration. It requires the Department of Health to develop an assessment of statewide needs to explore the resources required to reduce packaging waste by seventy percent from a baseline. The initiative establishes a packaging waste reduction and reuse program, and appropriates funds.

The Energy & Climate Action and Agriculture & Food Security Committees join in enthusiastic support of this superb bill, which has anticipated most of our testimony in its preamble! Hawaii faces a crisis in (not) managing waste. First, in not being able to control the production of waste materials, it is allowing the littering and pollution of landscapes and nearshore waters. Second, the necessity of addressing the problem has landed on an equally untenable solution: adding to the volume and toxicity of both our clear skies and our diminishing landfill space by incinerating trash, compounding the toxicity of the inputs into stack emissions and landfill additions. The time is past when we can ignorantly pass on our emissions via the Trade winds; it all comes home to roost.

We note that our waste production, estimated as high as 30% of all extraction, production, and consumption, is out of control, costly, and unfriendly to all the environments they're in. HB1326 addresses the front end of this problem by beginning the process of waste reduction in the market; producers would fund the ongoing process of reducing packaging, encouraging reuse of packaging materials either directly or through composting. Supporting county waste management in assessing the needs is an important way of starting get in front of this issue, as climate change will bring many other costly challenges. We currently enjoy a revenue surplus, when some of these crucial efforts can be initiated. We can also fulfill the repeated requests for better staffing of essential public functions.

Our waste management systems have proven incapable of handling the load, not without tremendous and respected effort. We need more workable solutions that return us to a more modest and thoughtful relationship with resources and a liveable human and natural environment. Incineration, the subject of hopeful and optimistic technologies, is now the most expensive and contaminating way to dispose of waste. Landfills are everywhere a major concern both for running low on available space and for aging past their built-in safeguards against environmental pollution. They are a source of both materials that can be reused and of contaminants that threaten our fisheries and our recreationists.

The preferred alternatives includes a revisioning of packaging as compostables to replenish our chemically depleted soils, segregating all organic wastes and construction wastes for processing and reuse, producing repairable products, recycling metals, and extracting rarer materials for electronics and other high-tech production. This initiative is a breath of fresh air.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this matter.

/s/ Charley Ice & Ted Bohlen, Co-Chairs, Energy and Climate Action Committee

Charley Ice, Acting Chair, Agriculture and Food Security Committee

Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party



Date: March 1, 2023

To: The Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee

From: Zero Waste Hawai'i Island

Re: Hearing HBI326 HD1

Position: Strong Support

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Zero Waste Hawai'i Island's mission is to connect diverse Hawai'i Island Communities to support equitable systems redesign and policy change to achieve zero waste. In our early year's working within the community, we conducted outreach with a focus on personal behavior change and emphasized recycling of packaging waste. We quickly realized the problems with our current recycling system: much packaging was not recyclable because it was not designed to be recycled, and due to Hawaii's remote location and lack of recycling infrastructure, the costs (both in dollars and carbon emissions) to ship recyclables to facilities was high. We also learned that our "recyclables" were being shipped to pacific island nations with less infrastructure than our own to properly dispose of plastic packaging that is not economically recyclable, much of which escapes into the natural environment, polluting our oceans and impacting marine wildlife. Recycling of packaging waste is not a system that was designed to work, it instead has been an idea that has been marketed to us for decades by industry to make us feel better about the massive amounts of waste we create to get the products that we need, often only used for minutes before being discarded.

Part of the reason we have gotten into this huge mess with the proliferation of packaging waste is producers are not required to pay the costs of disposing of packaging, and there is little incentive for them to do anything other than what is best for their bottom line. There is now a movement underway in the United States to hold producers responsible for the costs of managing packaging waste and producers are willing to participate in these programs. Four state's have now passed bill's, and many others are introducing producer responsibility legislation.

In Hawaii, this is the third year that producer responsibility legislation has been introduced and as the topic is gaining traction, a diversity of opinions on what is the best model for Hawaii are emerging. **Producer responsibility legislation is detailed and nuanced, and dangerous if too much power is given to producers.** We must be careful how we craft a program, and we must design something that makes sense for Hawaii and brings all relevant stakeholders into the conversation to work out the details.

HB1326 HD1 formalizes the process of developing a producer funded program for packaging and differs from most states by prioritizing reducing and reusing packaging. **While producer trade groups are expressing some opposition to this bill, it can be amended to address producer concerns without the bill becoming too prescriptive.** The intention of this legislation is to engage relevant stakeholders, including producers, in developing the details of a program through a process where the Department of Health works with an advisory council to structure the program.

We could quickly transition to a circular system for packaging in Hawaii if the government and industry work together to develop innovative solutions. With landfill capacity issues on nearly every island, we need to quickly reduce all types of solid waste entering our landfills. This legislation will allow us to address a significant portion of our waste stream that can be prevented through elimination and reuse of packaging where feasible, and then recycling what remains.

Mahalo nui loa,

Jennifer Navarra
Program Director
Zero Waste Hawai'i Island

Zero Waste Hawai'i Island • Hilo, HI 96720
zerowastebigisland@gmail.com



Sally Jefferson
Director, Western States

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
March 2, 2023

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1326 HD 1

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 1326 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT. Wine Institute is a public policy association representing more than 1,000 California wineries and associate members. The California wine industry helps to support 6,000 jobs and accounts for more than \$762.5 million in total economic output in Hawaii. Our members are committed to sustainability with 80% of California's wine production certified under a statewide sustainability program that encourages waste reduction, reusability, the use of products with recycled content, takeback of recyclable packaging, and the use of non-toxic materials.

We also are committed to participating in discussions regarding the development of efficient, cost-effective means for handling wine packaging. While we support the objective of recovering more wine packaging, we have significant concerns with HB 1326.

It would require the development and implementation of a Department of Health packaging waste reduction and reuse program to achieve an arbitrary 70% reduction in packaging by 2030, a goal that is not informed by any data. It is broad and ambiguous in scope, cost and requirements and cedes the authority for making such determinations to the Department and an Advisory Council. It raises many significant concerns and questions in terms of its costs and compliance obligations. It also would require the producers of packaged goods to fund the costs without having any substantial involvement and responsibility in establishing and managing a workable data- and results-based plan and program for their post-consumer packaging through a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) which is traditionally required under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs globally.

We also are concerned that the legislation's need assessment is too narrowly focused. A needs assessment is imperative and should be conducted with the producers' and other stakeholders' input to help inform the establishment and implementation of a statewide program for successfully managing the reduction, reuse and recycling of consumer packaging waste. It should include analyzing existing waste management data collection and infrastructure and evaluating the capacity, costs, gaps and needs for recycling, reuse, reduction and recovery. It also should consider cost factors and other economic variables like ongoing supply chain shortages and inflationary pressures in determining the program's costs and the impact on the price and availability of consumer goods and services. It is imperative given the importance of a credible needs assessment that it not be limited in scope but be a comprehensive in-depth analysis that allows for significant producer input to fully inform the development of a packaging waste management program.

In addition to undertaking a comprehensive needs assessment, we strongly encourage engaging in extensive dialogue with stakeholders including producers and material suppliers in developing a feasible, efficient and effective packaging waste management program. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to hold this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1326 HD 1.

March 1, 2023

Committee on Finance
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: CTA Opposed – HB1326 HD1 – Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging

Dear Chairperson Yamashita and Committee Members:

The Consumer Technology Association™ (CTA®) respectfully submits written testimony to express our concerns and opposition to House Bill No. 1326 H.D. 1 (HB1326 HD1) which establishes an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for packaging in Hawaii.

For more than a decade, CTA's members have supported electronics recycling under Hawaii's Electronic Device Recycling and Recovery Law. We understand what it means for producers to be involved in the end-of-life management of products and bring that lens and experience to the dialogue on EPR for packaging. EPR is a complex policy and there is no "one size fits all" solution. Our member companies have been committed to achieving more sustainable packaging design by reducing their packaging, switching to more sustainable materials, and increasing recycled content rates. We support Hawaii's goal to improve their recycle infrastructure and offer the following comments.

Lack of Shared Responsibility. All entities – including consumers, governments, material recovery facilities (MRF), recyclers and producers – have a role and responsibility in improving upon and addressing the challenges of the current recycling system. Unfortunately, HB1326 HD1 not only places all responsibility on producers, but it also provides extremely limited control for producers – the entities ultimately held responsible for program goals – to drive efficiencies and push for improvements to the system in Hawaii. CTA believes there is a need for a producer responsibility organization (PRO), if EPR for packaging is going to succeed. Many other states who have passed EPR packaging laws have included a PRO to aid in upgrading their recycling infrastructure. PROs play an important role by allowing producers to have an active role in not only the funding mechanisms but also in giving feedback on achieving the performance goals outlined in the legislation. The Department and producers should share in the responsibility to have oversight in the packaging producer responsibility program.

Impractical goals. Goals for producers – the entities ultimately held responsible under an EPR structure – should also be connected to the needs assessment. CTA cannot support legislatively mandated recycling and reuse rates. Instead, goals should be focused on actions that move the needle toward those higher rates – increasing consumer access, reducing contamination, and addressing infrastructure needs and

inadequacies. As currently written, HB1326 HD1 would establish a 70% reduction in all packaging waste for the State of Hawaii. CTA believes that this number would be incredibly difficult for the durable goods industry to achieve without creating additional waste from the breakage of the products inside the packaging. If a recycling and reuse rate must be established, it should not be a percent established by law but rather a requirement for a recycling and reuse rate to be established by the producer responsibility organization (PRO) as informed by the needs assessment and in consultation with the Advisory Council, and Hawaii Department of Health.

The Durable Goods Perspective. CTA approaches the packaging conversation from the unique perspective that accompanies complex durable goods. Packaging design flexibility for producers to achieve desired environmental outcomes – including the reduction of damage to products during transport which is critical for the consumer technology industry - should be encouraged. Consumer technology products have unique protection needs – screen protection, protection against shock and vibration for sensitive components – that dictate and severely limit the packaging material types that adequately protect these products. Legislatively mandated source reduction rates are not informed by an assessment that studies the relationship between the package and the product itself and can result in the increased amount of product breakage – which would contribute to the waste stream and be counter to the zero waste initiative the bill advocates for.

Additionally, we request that any legislative or regulatory approach on packaging not hinder the rapid innovation of the consumer technology industry. Some mandates of EPR approaches can stifle packaging flexibility; impact the safe delivery of products in a cost-effective manner; and ultimately raise costs for consumers. CTA also notes that a patchwork of varying laws across multiple jurisdictions creates confusion for consumers, loses any hope for economies of scale and increases regulatory burdens on industry.

Conclusion: CTA appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB1326 HD1 and we welcome further discussion with the Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or requests for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ally Peck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ally" and last name "Peck" clearly distinguishable.

Ally Peck
Senior Manager, Environmental and Sustainability Policy
apec@cta.tech
C: (703) 395-4177



March 1, 2023

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita
Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa
Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol Building
Conference Room 308, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Comments for HB 1326 HD-1, Oppose as Drafted

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of Committee:

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), I offer the following comments and testimony **for HB 1326 HD-1**, which would create an extended producer responsibility program (EPR) for glass and other packaging. GPI opposes the legislation as drafted.

GPI is the North American trade association for the glass container manufacturers, glass recyclers and suppliers to the industry. Our member companies produce the vast majority of US food and beverage glass containers purchased in grocery stores and retail outlets. Glass is an environmentally friendly, endlessly recyclable and sustainable package.

Glass Container Recycling Background

The glass container manufacturing industry has a significant stake in the effectiveness of recycling programs. Recycled glass is a key component of the glass container manufacturing process. For every 10% of recycled glass included in the manufacturing process, energy costs can be reduced 2-3%. A corresponding reduction of plant greenhouse gas emissions also occurs when increasing levels of recycled glass are used to produce new containers.

Comments for HB 1326 HD-1

While GPI appreciates the primary goal of the legislation, to greatly reduce the number of recyclables and solid waste heading to landfills and incinerators, we have particular concern with waste reduction, future producer costs and the broader implications of packaging reduction efforts, when measured by weight or tonnage.

Glass is a long-standing package of choice for food and beverage brands, is sustainable, reusable, refillable, non-toxic and infinitely recyclable. By basing reductions and establishing primary packaging metrics on weight, the bill may unintentionally provide a financial incentive to producers to choose lighter weight, often lesser recycled packaging options.

Weight based metrics are also contrary to the goal of reducing the amount of plastic and other single use packaging sold in Hawaii. While we appreciate that the legislation directs the Dept. of Health to not base fees solely on weight, when it is the only currently defined data collection metric within the bill, it becomes the default option.

HB 1326 HD-1 also lacks clear direction to ensure better performance for outbound recyclable material (i.e., recyclables post-sorting), which would ultimately keep covered material out of Hawaii's landfills and incinerators, a primary goal of the bill. Quality and reduced contamination provide manufacturing based-end markets with the needed incentive to purchase recycled glass, and other recyclables collected.

We support the concept of the "needs assessment" provision within the bill, however, elements within the assessment should be clarified in the legislation, so the appropriate and needed information is collected. These elements include understanding the current recycling processing capacity and infrastructure, as well as consumer education needs, future funding to improve local recycling programs and a clear public stakeholder process.

GPI also notes the absence of a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) within the bill. PROs exist in states with approved and in-development EPR programs (California, Maine, and Oregon). While PROs, are driven by producers and brands responsible for the costs of the program, each of the PROs under development have regulatory and non-industry stakeholder involvement and oversight. PROs provide information and resources that will eventually be sought by any EPR program throughout the development phases and should be included in programs under consideration by the Hawaii legislature.

GPI appreciates the most recent amendment which includes the creation of an EPR advisory council. This council, with a mix of stakeholder and regulatory participants, can provide additional support and guidance to the PRO, as they develop a comprehensive EPR program.

GPI and its member companies look forward to additional opportunities to engage with Hawaii legislators and all stakeholders on the best ways to increasing recycling, recovery, reuse of glass.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,



Scott DeFife
President

Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)
Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i, and City & County of Honolulu
Website: hawaiicounties.org | Email: hsac@hawaiicounties.org



**Testimony of the
Hawai'i State Association of Counties
H.B. No. 1326 HD1
Relating to the Environment**

Committee on Finance

Thursday, March 2, 2023, 2:30 p.m.

The Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC) supports H.B. No. 1326, H.D.1, which establishes a waste reduction and reuse program, known as extended producer responsibility (EPR), by utilizing an advisory committee of stakeholders to advise the Department of Health on how to structure a producer-funded packaging reduction and reuse program.

The implementation of a waste reduction and reuse program will help Hawai'i to address our landfill capacity problems and involve the producers that contribute to the problems caused by packaging waste, particularly single-use packaging to reduce the costs of waste management.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State Association of Counties strongly supports H.B. 1326, HD1 and requests your favorable consideration of this measure.

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 5:17:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1326 HD1.

Sincerely,
Noel Morin
Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate
Hilo

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 5:27:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because we have to start somewhere to reduce the amount of packaging that is a major problem in our environment.

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 5:36:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kris Bordessa	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kris Bordessa and I am very concerned about the proliferation of plastic packaging waste. In fact, I write frequently about greener living and have published a book entitled Attainable Sustainable.

Our packaging problem -- here in Hawai'i and worldwide -- is **not sustainable**.

Manufacturers and producers need to be held responsible. We must encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste by eliminating single-use packaging and improving their package designs to include home-compostable materials. Additionally, they should be held liable for the cost of managing packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

Please think of the 'āina. Thank you for considering.

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 6:52:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Recycle Hawaii, Clean The Pacific	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. Everyone is asking that you do, even many of the corporations that create this pollution. If you listen to NPR, you may have heard the recent story about PFAS chemicals. Well, phthalates, PFAS, per-and polyfluoroalkyl, and thousands of other forever chemicals are constantly streaming into our environment, much of it from plastic packaging. Every animal on Earth has been poisoned and the affects are cancer, neurological disorders, endocrine disruption and genetic mutation. This is a red alert emergency and we need to act immediately to stop the flow of these chemicals into our environment. As a Board Member of Recycle Hawaii, I can assure you that we are well informed about this disaster and beseech you to act with decisive determination. We ask that you to not only support this and all related legislation that promotes EPR, extended producer responsibility, but to also work to convince your colleagues and other members of our government to join you. We also ask that you take the time to do the research about this crisis for yourself, so that you can see with your own eyes the empirical scientific data that unequivocally concludes that we are poisoning ourselves, our children and every organism on Earth.

Thank you for all your hard work and for giving this dire situation the attention it deserves.

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 7:34:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the FIN Committee,

I am in strong support of HB1326 HD1 to establish the Hawaii zero waste initiative to, among other things, manage the State's transition to zero solid waste to the landfill and to incineration.

Importantly it establishes the packaging waste advisory council. Requires the department of health to develop an assessment of statewide needs to determine the resources required to reduce packaging waste by seventy percent from the baseline amount. Establishes a packaging waste reduction and reuse program.

This is the most important long term solution to packaging waste - we must reduce it with an all hands on deck approach - producers, customers and the people who have to manage the waste.

As a customer I will do my part to ensure the success of the zero waste initiative.

I urge you to pass and allocate funding to HB1326 HD1

Virginia Tincher

Aina Haina, Oahu

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 8:10:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Diane Ware from Ka'u Moku and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

Mahalo for this hearing opportunity to testify on important climate and pollution bills.

99-7815 Kapoha Place, Volcano 96785

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 8:53:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Packaging waste is a significant pollutant. HB1326 HD1 creates a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. It requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

Addressing packaging waste will benefit the State and protect the environment, economy, and public health. HB 1326 is a strong step forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB1326.

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 8:56:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Ezgi Green, as a mama, I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and worldwide. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer-funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on structuring a producer-funded program, and appropriate funds for conducting the needs assessment and contracting or hiring DOH staff.

It's our responsibility to leave a better world for future generations.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kind Regards,

Ezgi Green

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 10:16:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Block	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill, to me, is one of the most important pieces of legislation I can think of and it is way overdue. Please make producers accountable for the waste they generate. We are drowning in plastic and it has to stop. I urge you to pass this bill. Thanks for the opportunity to express my thoughts.

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 4:32:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Romaine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Nancy Romaine

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 5:57:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 6:24:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1326 HD1

This bill has a process for reasonable packaging waste reform that will help us deal with landfill capacity limitations, reduce packaging waste, lower costs to taxpayers, and move toward zero waste.

Please pass this bill!

Keith Neal

Waimea

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 7:52:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1326 HD1

Committee on Finance

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Linda Morin and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. Producers must be financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste. We encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I think HB1326 HD1 is a start. It would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

I believe the state of Hawaii would do well to consult with Judith Enck of the organization Beyond Plastics to create a stronger bill. Please see the article link below for more information on her work. The onus should be on the waste producers (manufacturers) to eliminate their waste.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/christophermarquis/2022/06/27/beyond-plastics-shifting-the-waste-reduction-burden-from-consumers-to-producers/?sh=21e154541174>

Thank you,

Linda Morin

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:10:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Rich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Laurie Rich and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laurie

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:43:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Hunt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii.

We need to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste.

We also need to encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I strongly support HB 1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriate funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

America - Hawaii didn't use to be like this. I am old enough to remember... Simple paper wrappers, buying in bulk with my reused containers, and an attitude of personal responsibility and accountability rather than today's rampant consumerism and disposable plastic commodities.

Waste - especially plastic waste - is ruining our oceans and polluting our land and food stream.

HB 1326 HD1 is a good start towards restoring sustainability. Please support and pass it!

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:43:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Larson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Nicole Larson and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Nicole Larson

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:44:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sydney Kalawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

we should cut down on waste. this is great!

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:45:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juan Carlos Soto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the Finance Committee:

I am testifying in support of HB 1326 HD1. This is to create a process for the Department of Health to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1st of 2027.

This is not even a complete solution to a massive problem we keep ignoring. The consequences of failing to act now will only grow exponentially and will be our legacy to future generations. More than a legacy it would be a curse.

To tackle this gargantuan issue, we all have to deal with our own inconveniences, for truth be told, this is a problem of convenience. Us as consumers must make better choices when we purchase products with packaging or containers that cannot be reused or recycled in Hawai'i. That is our Kuleana. It's not easy. The cost of life in our State is high and many rely on low cost products to see to their family's needs. When given the choice of buying environment friendly options or putting food on the table, we know the only choice. Ultimately all this packaging ends in landfills or burned, if it ever makes it there. Mostly we're damaging our air, water and soils. It won't just go away.

But again, we have our responsibility. What about the producers and distributors making money out of this products? What is their responsibility? They introduce this products and make money out of Hawai'i residents and visitors so what is their part? Members of the Committee, this is your Kuleana. Your inconvenient responsibility. Your job. To look after the interests of Hawai'i and it's residents not just now but for the long term. Legacy. Is it convenient? No. Will there be pushback by this companies in order to avoid this responsibility. Most likely. Is it still your inconvenient job? Absolutely. You have the power to take the first step to protect our natural resources and the health of our people and even though this is not a recent issue, the time to act is now. Even imperfect action now is better than a perfect solution 10 years from now.

I hope you don't interpret my candor as disrespect, but the issue is a real one and affect us all. Please consider my words as a concerned father, human and resident of this beautiful land we must all strive to protect for ourselves and our children.

Mahalo,

Juan Carlos Soto

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:03:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Paio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

estimony in Support of HB1326 HD1

Committee on Finance

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Kawika Paio and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

I was born and raised on the west side of oahu in Waianae Nanakuli where there is one of 6 waist disposal plants and it is also one of the biggest on the island of oahu and i support this bill because we are running out of room the trash is not magically disappearing so this bill will really help and support my community. We must do better at producing less single use plastics.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kawika Paio

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:06:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Kay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1326 HD1

Committee on Finance

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Jordan Kay and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

I strongly support this bill because there are only a few landfills on the island of oahu. Due to the population and the amount of trash used; these landfills are overflowing. Plastic overflow had been a problem and the producers should also pay for our aina. The decreasing of plastic waste, our island would thrive and it would help our aina grow more food for the people. if we create more landfills, we will have less room to grow farms, and less animals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jordan Kay

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:06:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikona Basham-Hoohuli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Ikona Basham-Hoohuli and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

I feel that we should eliminate plastic waste so that the State of Hawaii can be healthier and we don't have to keep killing our lands and our marine animals. They are dying from these plastics coming in our ocean and choking our animals. I think that we should support this bill so that our marine animals can live.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ikona Basham-Hoohuli

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:06:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Britney Aki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Britney Aki and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

I am a student from Nanakuli High and Intermediate. I am deeply concerned about the waste in Hawaii, not just for myself but for our history and future generations. I think we should support this bill because not only are we running out of room but the reduction of plastic waste will reduce greenhouse gasses.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Britney Aki

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:07:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne P Salausa-Kaawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Wayne Salausa-Kaawa and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

I am a student of Nanakuli High and Intermediate school and I would like to see a change in our community especially being from the west side. I can confess that I buy the plastic products but I am willing to change my ways if that means making a better and safer place for Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

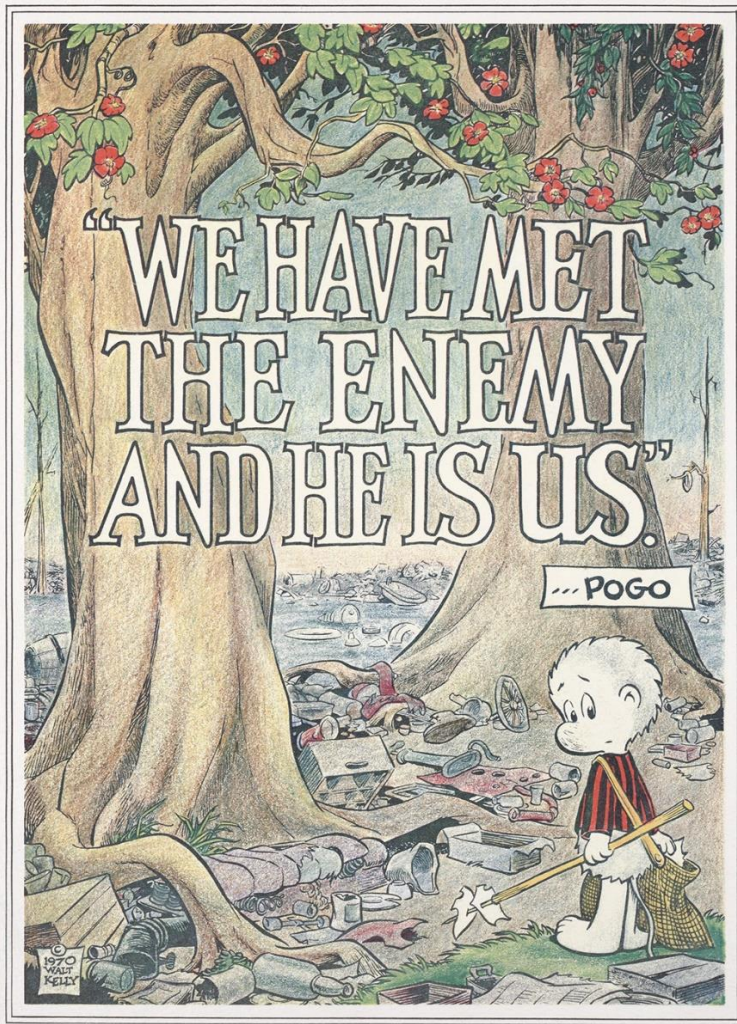
Wayne Salausa-Kaawa

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Hearing on March 2, 2023 at 2:30 pm

SUPPORTING HB 1326 HD 1

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support HB 1326 HD 1.

As Walt Kelly's Pogo character observed more than 50 years ago:



It's even worse than the scene that is depicted. Today we know, for example, that plastic waste endures indefinitely, breaking down into harmful microplastics that are ingested by fish, which are eaten by humans. Our trash is literally killing us.

Our "throw away" economy must be reformed. We have the technology and the expertise needed to reduce waste to zero, and this bill takes a critical step to apply that knowledge to the entire economy.

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:53:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keola Mahoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1326 HD1

Committee on Finance

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Keola Mahoe and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

I'm a part of a non-profit organization called Scrappahz Union 96792. We focus on stopping the use of plastic in our everyday life. We also focus on stopping greenhouse gases. It is important to me because my future will have to suffer with all of this single use of plastic in their food and water. If we don't make a change now then there will be no more Hawai'i and no one living in this world. So please consider passing this bill so we all don't have to suffer in the future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Keola Mahoe

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 10:02:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rik Masterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Rik Masterson and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2026. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriate funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Rik Masterson

Hilo HI

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 10:13:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1326 HD1. As the state strives to fulfill its commitments to reduce waste and effectively mitigate the impacts of climate change, this measure offers an effective pathway forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. Hawai‘i needs a zero waste initiative program to manage the state’s transition from a linear economy that disposes of solid waste, often after only a single use, to a circular economy that prioritizes reducing and reusing much of the state’s solid waste. Please support HB1326 HD1.

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 10:30:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michdelle Melendez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Plz pass this bill for the aina! 😊👍

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 10:41:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I respectfully ask that you support HB1326 HD1 which would establish the Hawaii zero waste initiative program to manage the State's transition to reduce and reuse.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 10:54:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jhanz Kaawa-kawai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Jhanz Kaawa-Kawai and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

As a resident of the Wai’anae coast & a student of Nanakuli High and Intermediate school, we’d like to reduce plastic usage. In everybody’s everyday lives, plastic is involved somehow. The trash and plastic is being sent over to the westside and is making mountains out of trash. I support this bill because it is the right thing to do. The plastic in the landfill will live on and on and on, even after some of us leave this land. Big plastics break down into small plastics and from there it becomes microplastics and that doesn’t help our ‘āina. Our ‘āina is a part of who we are and we need to do better at taking care of it. “It is our Kuleana to Kōkua our Kaiāulu”, that’s basically saying that it is our responsibility to help take care of our community, our land and our homes. It is so hard for us to do that if there’s trash and plastic being put all over the place. It is so sad and tragic that this is happening to our ‘āina and some people don’t care about that and about how much plastic they use. We have to reduce single use plastic usage somehow and this bill is going to be a big step forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jhanz Kaawa-Kawai

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 11:00:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harley Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Harley Lee and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

I Harley Lee strongly agree that we should reduce the usage of plastic because it ends up in our ocean and in our 'aina. Plastic is not healthy for the ecosystem; it does not support our natural dirt and takes a long time to break down. The plastic in our ocean is what hurts the animals in the ocean by getting tangled and eating the plastic that's in the ocean. We use old cardboard to make pots for plants and cardboard naturally from wood so it helps a lot. It breaks down faster and it's good for the 'aina. So that's my reason that we should start reducing plastic use. So we want to hold whoever is producing the plastic make a more compostable plastic that is better for the 'aina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Harley Lee

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 11:03:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayleanna-Louise K Yomes-Hooks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Kayleanna-Louise Yomes-Hooks and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

Now I go to Nanakuli High and Intermediate School, and in Kumu Michelle Pieper’s class we’ve learned so much about plastic waste and our carbon footprint. In fact, we are finding solutions to problems that have not only change the way our school functions, but can possibly change entire state of Hawai’i. Within the past year, we’ve implemented composting into our daily school life. We turn leftover food into scraps that eventually gets turned into rich soil for planting. We’ve also created another way to eliminate the use of plastic pots for planting by producing pots made of only cardboard and glue. This bill is important to me because it will help our mission on the westside of this moku to reduce the numerous landfills being made and garbage being thrown to us. My generation is gradually shifting our minds to care more about the environmental problems and we are taking action for our future, all we need is your help to decrease manufacturing of the plastic

waste and make the producers more accountable for what they produce for us as consumers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kayleanna-Louise Yomes-Hooks

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 11:04:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Thank you for hearing HB1326 HD1.

Please Support HB1326 HD1 in it's efforts to reduce packaging waste. Reducing our packaging waste is critically important to reducing pollution in our air, water and land. If the packaging waste is disposed of incorrectly, it could end up in our streams, oceans or land. As it slowly degrades over the next thousand years, the chemicals in the plastic packaging waste end up in our air, water and land.

Even if it is disposed of correctly, the majority is not recycled or unrecyclable, so it will end up being burned and dumped in a landfill, and landfills are at their breaking points already.

We need to stop allowing all this unnecessary waste from coming to Hawaii, we can't handle this huge stream of plastic waste any more.

Again, please support HB1326 HD1

Mahalo

Matthew Geyer

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 11:30:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Lyle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I have been a volunteer at Volcano Village's Farmer's Market, Book and Thrift Shop and Community Center for over 20 years, putting in 20+ hours/week. A major part of my work is removing items which we can not use or sell at our shop. This also includes trash. I take away 200-500 pounds of materials every week, 54 weeks/year for two decades. I try to find places for all the items that are still useful, including Goodwill, Salvation Army, churches and transfer station reuse sites. But sadly, a good part of everything I take away ends up in the landfill and much of it is packaging, particularly paper products. I do my best but it still pains me to see what needlessly ends up in our landfill. This is why I support this bill, HB 1326. I have been a member of Recycle Hawai'i since its beginning and will continue to do whatever I can to reduce waste, roadside garbage and toxics, but we need more than individuals. We need your help. Please, I hope you see the value in passing this piece of legislation. Thank you so much for your time and concern. Respectively from Hawai'i Island, John Lyle and Family.

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 11:31:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KATRINA ZAVALNEY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1326 HD1

Committee on Finance

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Katrina Zavalney and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

There are many great resources and other states that have developed similar measures, such as Oregon. I encourage you to learn from and work with them as well as local support, nonprofits, and organizations that have done the research and can provide direction and support. We need to know that our government cares. Please do the right thing, the citizens are counting on you.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Katrina Zavalney

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 11:39:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brad Bordessa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Business is expensive, but we should not subsidize it by continuing to dump more trash in the ground. The blow-away from the Waikoloa landfill is appalling - bags and styrofoam miles away stuck in the lava fields. 70% less trash would be a wonderful thing, every single time.

If your business relies on passing excess packaging waste to the consumer, your business plan isn't viable. Period. We've survived without plastic bags. We can figure out alternatives to wider-sweeping measures.

And *what a privilege it would be* to find alternatives to needless trash! Support HB1326!

Brad Bordessa - Āhualoa, Hawai'i

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 12:16:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1326. It is imperative that we establish a Hawaii Zero Waste Initiative Program if we are to effectively and efficiently address our solid waste. This will not nly extend the life of landfills but it address the climate crisis we face. Mahalo

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 12:16:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members:

I support HB 1326, HD1. This state needs a zero-waste initiative program to manage the state's transition from a linear economy that disposes of solid waste, often after only a single use, to a circular economy that prioritizes the reduction and re-use of much of the state's solid waste.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 12:17:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 12:29:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. I urge committee leadership to move HB1326 forward to establish, fund and develop a packaging waste reduction and reuse plan by Dec. 31, 2026 with a process for public review and comment. Support Implementing a producer funded packaging waste reduction and reuse program, beginning on or before July 1, 2027.

Mahalo for your attention towards advancing HB1326

Sincerely & respectfully,

Marsha Hee

(808) 985-8725

hulahee@gmail.com

Life-long resident, currently of Volcano, Hawaii Island

**Testimony in OPPOSITION
to
House Bill 1326
in
Hawaii House Committee on Finance
On
March 2, 2023**

The Flexible Packaging Association (FPA) is submitting testimony in opposition to HB 1326, “Zero Waste Initiative and Packaging Reduction and Reuse Program,” which would establish and extended producer responsibility for packaging and paper.

I am Sam Schlaich, Counsel, Government Affairs of FPA, which represents flexible packaging manufacturers and suppliers to the industry in the U.S. Flexible packaging represents over \$39 billion in annual sales; is the second-largest and fastest-growing segment of the packaging industry; and employs approximately 79,000 workers in the United States. Flexible packaging is produced from paper, plastic, film, aluminum foil, or any combination of these materials, and includes bags, pouches, labels, liners, wraps, rollstock, and other flexible products.

These are products that you and I use every day – including hermetically sealed food and beverage products such as cereal, bread, frozen meals, infant formula, and juice; as well as sterile health and beauty items and pharmaceuticals, such as aspirin, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, and disinfecting wipes. Even packaging for pet food uses flexible packaging to deliver fresh and healthy meals to a variety of animals. Flexible packaging is also used for medical device packaging to ensure that the products packaged, diagnostic tests, IV solutions and sets, syringes, catheters, intubation tubes, isolation gowns, and other personal protective equipment maintain their sterility and efficacy at the time of use. Trash and medical waste receptacles use can liners to manage business, institutional, medical, and household waste. Carry-out and takeout food containers and e-commerce delivery are also heavily supported by the flexible packaging industry.

Thus, FPA and its members are particularly interested in solving the plastic pollution issue, increasing the recycling of solid waste from packaging, and creating a working, circular economy. We are appreciative of all of the hard work that has already been done on this legislation and I would also like to point out that FPA is fully supportive of sound, effective EPR programs but we believe HB 1326 needs further work before it is ready for consideration.

Specifically, FPA would like to highlight three issues of concern:

1. **Definition of Producer:** The definition of producer is unclear and opens the door to confusion in the future. Under the current definition, packaging converters could

- potentially be brought within the scope of covered producers. Packaging producers (converters) have no way to determine where the packaging is sold and even in some cases to what brand – packaging producers sell packaging to CPGs, which may then use it for multiple brands within their portfolio and sell throughout the country. We would strongly urge you to adopt a clearer definition of producer that would bring Hawaii in line with the four other states that have passed EPR laws.
2. **Needs Assessment:** The needs assessment is a critical part of the development of an effective EPR program and is in many ways the foundation on which the program is built. The needs assessment in HB 1326 is underdeveloped and should specify certain requirements. A successful needs assessment should conduct an accurate in-depth analysis of the current systems and infrastructure, processing capacities, funding needs, identify issues unique to certain counties or populations, provide for education on end-of-life solutions, and should include opportunities for community and stakeholder input.
 3. **No Producer Responsibility Organization:** We strongly believe that another element which is critical to the success of an EPR program is the inclusion of a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO). House Bill 1326 currently places responsibility on the Department to create and administer the plan. PROs are non-profit organizations created by and made up of the producers covered under the program under the oversight of the Department. This provides industry with a voice and brings stakeholders into program, allowing them to play an important, active role and offer their expertise in ensuring the program is effective in meeting its performance goals.

We look forward to continued engagement and stand ready to provide input, so that with some modification, HB 1326 will incorporate the necessary elements for the enhancement of current collection, investment in new infrastructure, and development of advanced recycling systems, that will allow for collection and recycling to a broader array of today's packaging materials, including flexible packaging; and quality sorting and markets for currently difficult-to-recycle materials. For the above outlined reasons, FPA must remain **opposed to HB 1326** in its current form and respectfully request an unfavorable report.

In advance, thank you for your consideration. If we can provide further information or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-694-0800 or SSchlaich@Flexpack.org.

Respectfully,

Sam Schlaich

Sam H. Schlaich, J.D.

Government Affairs Counsel, FP

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 1:12:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanna-Lei Ventura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1326 HD1

Committee on Finance

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Jeanna-Lei Ventura and I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of packaging waste in Hawaii and around the world. We must take action to hold producers financially responsible for the cost of managing packaging waste and encourage them to reduce the volume of packaging waste being landfilled and incinerated by eliminating single-use packaging, improving packaging design, or paying the costs to establish the infrastructure needed to support systems for reusable packaging and to manage packaging waste.

I am testifying in strong support of HB1326 HD1, which would create a process for the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and implement a plan for a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program beginning July 1, 2027. The bill requires DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine resources necessary to reduce packaging waste, establish an advisory council to advise DOH on how to structure a producer funded program, and appropriates funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff.

As a student of Nānākuli high school and resident of the Nānākuli and Waianae district, I personally feel like the producers of plastic should be more responsible about the plastic that they are creating and find better ways to create plastic and control the waste of plastic. I support this bill because I live on the westside of Oahu and I hate seeing all the trash on

the side of the road and on the beaches and seeing how much pollution and litter there is all over the 'āina, not only on the westside but all over the island.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jeanna-Lei Ventura

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 1:46:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

One option for paying for solid waste is to have an extended producer responsibility bill. HB1326, looking at packaging reduce and reuse, is a good way to start - by focusing on packaging, which is a large part of our solid waste.

[HB1326 HD1](#) create a producer funded packaging reduction and reuse program by:

- Establishing the Hawai'i zero waste initiative program to manage the State's transition to reduce and reuse
- Requiring the Department of Health (DOH) to develop, with assistance from each county, a statewide needs assessment to reduce packaging waste by 70%
- Establishing an advisory council to advise the DOH on how to structure a producer-funded packaging waste reduction and reuse program
- Appropriating funds for conducting the needs assessment and to contract or hire DOH staff
- Developing a packaging waste reduction and reuse plan by December 31, 2026 with a process for public review and comment
- Implementing a producer funded packaging waste reduction and reuse program, beginning on or before July 1, 2027

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 2:17:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harley Didriksen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representative Yamashita and Representative Kitagawa,

Mahalo nui loa for hearing HB1326. The implementation of this bill is essential to (re)cultivating a circular economy in Hawai'i for the sake of protecting our air, water, and land for generations to come. As the state is in the process of looking for a new landfill site, we have to look at the root of the problem and implement solutions. Thank you for your consideration to Hawai'i's future.

Sincerely,

Harley Didriksen

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 2:37:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony today as a concerned constituent and ask that hb1326 is passed because i completely agree in the reduction of ptducer plastic packaging so it doesnt end up on our dinner plates of fish, our aina, our birds nests our land fills.

Mahalo for your time,

Lsurie Boyle

HB-1326-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 7:18:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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