



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB0348HD1
RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS.**

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

February 13, 2025, 10:15 A.M, Conference Room 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (Department) requests that this measure be
2 considered as a vehicle to provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the
3 priorities and requests outlined in the Governors executive budget request.

4 **Department Position:** The Department offers the following comments.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division Solid and Hazardous Waste
6 Branch (EMD-SHWB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

7 This measure prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in
8 small single-use plastic containers to guests and visitors and establishes civil penalties for
9 violations as identified by a Department inspection.

10 The Department supports measures to reduce the amount of waste generated in the
11 state as it reduces the amount of waste that may require landfill disposal. However, the
12 Department currently doesn't have the staff or funding necessary to properly implement the
13 inspection and enforcement component of this measure.

14 The Department respectfully requests funding and the establishment of one full-time
15 equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to receive complaints and conduct follow-up inspections of lodging

1 establishments identified as distributing personal care products in small single-use plastic
2 containers in violation of this measure. In addition to conducting inspection and enforcement
3 actions, dispensing citations, and coordinating with the Office of the Attorney General to
4 pursue civil penalties, this position would also be tasked with providing education and outreach
5 to the regulated community.

6 Should the legislature pass this measure without granting the Department the position
7 and funding, we note that the Department will not be able to proactively enforce the
8 requirements and may only be able to enforce them when resources are available and based on
9 complaints.

10 **Offered Amendments:** None

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

STARN • O'TOOLE • MARCUS & FISHER

A LAW CORPORATION

February 7, 2025

Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair,
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Energy
& Environmental Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025
Time: 10:15 AM
Place: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony Regarding House Bill 348 HD1
Relating to Single-Use Plastics

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso
and Members of the House Committee
on Energy & Environmental Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding House Bill 348 HD1 relating to single-use plastics, as it pertains to prohibiting lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests. The lodging industry recognizes that plastic pollution is a major threat to oceans, the environment and human health and seeks to do its part in promoting sustainable and responsible tourism in Hawaii that minimizes environmental impacts and preserves natural resources.

The lodging industry has moved toward bulk dispenser usage of its personal care products. Accordingly, the lodging industry agrees with the amendment added by the House Committee on Tourism to define “personal care product” as “shampoo, hair conditioner, bath soap or lotion.” This succinct definition tracks with what other states have set as industry precedent.

Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair,
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection
February 7, 2025
Page 2

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "I. M. Lui-Kwan".

Ivan M. Lui-Kwan
Sara T. Strona
Cori J. Terayama



February 11 , 2025

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hawai'i State Legislature
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 348, Relating Single-Use Plastics
Hearing: Thursday, February 13, 2025, 10:15 AM CR 325 Via Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee

Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region strongly supports House Bill 348 which prohibits lodging establishments in the State from providing personal products packaged in small plastic containers in any sleeping room accommodations, space within sleeping room accommodations, and bathrooms used by the public or guests.

Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots activist network dedicated to the protection of our oceans, waves, and beaches. Surfrider Foundation has been tackling plastic pollution for over a decade and has established various plastic reduction initiatives to address plastic pollution at the source. This last year we unveiled our [Ocean Friendly Hotel program](#) which helps hotels to reduce single-use plastic and make more sustainable choices for the ocean. One of the mandatory criteria is that toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, lotion, etc.) are not packaged in small plastic bottles. HB 348 is a proactive measure that directly aligns with our Ocean Friendly Hotel Program.

As of December, the State of Hawai'i received over [9.5 million visitors in 2024](#), over six times the state's population. The visitor industry significantly contributes to plastic pollution which often ends up on beaches and in the ocean. With [over 150 hotels](#) in Hawai'i, this would save millions of single-use bottles every year. By starting at the source and reducing plastic pollution at lodging facilities, we believe that one hotel, one traveler at a time, this bill will create a scalable impact to reduce the plastic footprint within the tourism industry.

Not only will HB 348 reduce plastic pollution, but it will also save hotels money. In 2018, [Marriott stated](#) that they could save about \$2,000 per hotel every year by switching from single-use toiletry bottles to bulk containers. According to Marriot, a large pump bottle contains the same amount of product as around 10-12 small single-use toiletry bottles. Additionally, we estimate that hotels spend about \$0.37 per ounce on shampoo, conditioner, and lotion bottles packaged in small plastic containers compared to \$0.17 per ounce on

shampoo, condition, and lotion packaged in bulk.

This aligns with feedback received from hotels participating in Surfrider's Ocean Friendly Hotels Program. Since switching to refillable bulk toiletries, an Ocean Friendly Hotel in Alaska has noticed significant cost savings and found that tracking bulk containers is more efficient than tracking thousands of tiny bottles. Similarly to Hawai'i, Alaska has limited supply chains and logistical hurdles, making refillable personal care products a common-sense approach to saving businesses time and money, while also reducing plastic pollution.

While a number of lodging establishments may be actively moving towards a more sustainable future, most hotels and motels have yet to adopt refillable toiletry containers. A regulatory approach sets the standard and provides a much needed jump start to reducing the environmental impact generated by lodging establishments. Washington, New York, California and Illinois all have similar regulations to ban or limit hotel toiletries. Considering the scale of the visitor industry in Hawai'i, it is time that Hawai'i follows suit.

In summary, we are in strong support of HB 348 and the larger mission to reduce single-use plastic in lodging establishments here in Hawai'i. We believe in a combination of policy and grassroots initiatives within the tourism industry to address the plastic pollution crisis. Mahalo for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Hanna Lilley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 12:29:32 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii **SUPPORT** eliminating unnecessary plastic use. Please pass this bill



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325
Thursday, February 13, 2025, 10:15 A.M.

To The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

COMMENTS ON HB348 HD1 RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like to offer **COMMENTS on HB348 HD1**, which prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests.

The Chamber emphasizes that we have long supported sustainability efforts and fully support accommodations that are already moving in this direction. We recognize that many establishments have already made the switch. However, before advancing legislation that adds to the overall regulatory burden on businesses, we would prefer the state to conduct a public education campaign to inform accommodations about the benefits of making the switch and to survey them about the reasons some have not yet adopted these changes. Given the growing movement away from individual toiletries, it is important to understand the factors preventing others from making the switch. If many cite cost as a barrier, the state could explore offering incentives or tax credits to help offset the additional costs. If shipping challenges are a concern, a state agency such as DBEDT could potentially provide recommendations or explore bulk purchasing options. Depending on the survey results, the state could consider other ways to support accommodations in making the transition.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer **COMMENTS on HB348 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:31:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:26:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brissa Christophersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB348 because it includes a way forward for Hawai'i to reduce single use disposables. Further perpetuation of creating and using single use disposables is irresponsible when there are reusable and bulk options for consumable products.

Mahalo,

Brissa

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:39:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cat Orlans	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the legislature,

I write to you today to raise a concern regarding the bill aimed at banning small plastic containers of personal care products in lodging establishments. While I wholeheartedly support the effort to reduce plastic waste and protect our environment, I believe this bill, as currently written, fails to address the root of the problem and may inadvertently create a false sense of progress. By focusing exclusively on one industry — the lodging sector — this bill may not do enough to curb the widespread plastic pollution that continues to affect our island and our planet.

The bill’s intent is clear: reduce single-use plastics in lodging establishments by prohibiting the use of small plastic containers for personal care products. This is a step in the right direction, especially given the environmental impact of plastic waste. However, I urge this body to recognize that plastic pollution is not confined to only the tourism or hospitality industries. Single-use plastics are pervasive across nearly every sector of our economy, from grocery stores to retail outlets to restaurants. These businesses continue to sell products in plastic packaging at an alarming rate, contributing far more to the overall problem than the limited scope of small plastic containers in hotel rooms.

By micromanaging only one industry — lodging establishments — we are neglecting a much broader issue. Single-use plastic products are EVERYWHERE, and as long as they remain readily available for purchase at grocery stores, convenience stores, and retail shops, the fight against plastic pollution will remain half-fought. Visitors and residents alike can purchase plastic items in nearly every corner of the island, undermining the purpose of this bill in its current form.

If the goal is truly to protect our oceans, land, and ecosystems, we cannot afford to focus narrowly on one industry while leaving the rest unchecked. To make a meaningful impact on plastic pollution, we must adopt a holistic approach that addresses both the supply and demand of plastic products in all sectors. The bill should not only target the lodging industry but also work toward larger initiatives, such as encouraging plastic-free alternatives in retail and foodservice, instituting broader bans on plastic packaging, and promoting sustainable consumer behavior like creating more accessible recycling receptacles around our island.

I encourage you to consider the bigger picture and the interconnectedness of these issues. A piecemeal approach, while commendable, will ultimately fall short of the significant environmental changes that are desperately needed.

Thank you for your time and for considering this important perspective.

Cat Orlans

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:18:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maureen Brock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB348 and the larger mission to reduce single-use plastic in lodging establishments in Hawai'i. I believe in a combination of policy and grassroots initiatives within the tourism industry to address the plastic pollution crisis. Mahalo for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:25:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and Committee,

My name is Andrew Evans and I am a resident of O'ahu's windward side. I am greatly concerned by our dependence on and legally required use of plastic in all aspects of our lives, and I hope you pass HB 348 and continue to pursue legislation that boldly addresses plastics in our society and on our islands.

We live on islands where we tout our natural beauty, or native wildlife, and our clean, beautiful, and abundant oceans. Meanwhile, we live in a reality where our islands are in reach of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a threatening look at the consequences of our past and current operations. Yet plastics still permeate our every sphere of our lives, from groceries and food safety requirements, our hospitals, our restaurants and take-out containers, to our cars, phones, and reusable water bottles. Recycling is not a viable solution—most plastics are not recyclable in Hawai'i, much of what is recycled is rendered contaminated, and throughout the whole process of recycling and waste management, plastics are escaping into our environment.

These plastics pollute our land and our waters—I work in habitat restoration and it is chilling how deep in the forest you'll come upon plastic debris. These plastics threaten our personal health, the health of our ecosystems, and the health of those things which we call food.

A comprehensive and radical plan to address and *greatly* reduce the stream of plastic goods and packaging on our islands is vital to the persistence of our people and the beauty of our 'āina—legislation similar to HB 1326 which you, Rep Lowen, introduced in 2023.

In pursuing the goal of drastically reducing plastic waste in our state, I hope your pass HB 348 and other bills related to plastics in the highly single-use tourism industry.

Mahalo for your time and effort in passing this bill,

Andrew Evans

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:26:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suparna Vashisht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB348. The visitor industry significantly contributes to plastic pollution which often ends up on beaches and in the ocean. With hundreds of hotels in Hawai'i, this would save millions of single-use bottles every year.

I would also like to request that Vacation rental management companies like Coral Tree, Ali'i and others be subject to this Bill because they manage thousands of properties and provide small single-use bottles to each one, multiple times a year.

This bill will provide a much needed jump start to reducing the environmental impact of plastic generated by lodging establishments. Washington, New York, California and Illinois all have similar regulations to ban or limit hotel single-use plastic toiletries. Tourists to Hawai'i are 6-7 times the number of locals. Our landfills and waste disposal costs are under a great deal of pressure. This bill will help address this problem as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Suparna Vashisht

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 12:31:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2025 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Dadds, PA-C	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support, Bill HB 348 to Eliminate hotels use of single use plastic toiletry bottles. With the millions of tourists that come through our islands, many of them are provided personal toiletry products that are packaged in plastic as shampoo, conditioner, and lotion this intern, creates an enormous amount of land waste in which we do not have the capacity to accommodate.

Hotels will also save money if these toiletry items are Placed in receptacles That are located in the showers that are multi use For hotel guests.