



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025, 9am

In support of SCR132 SD1

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the EEP committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org strongly **supports SCR132 SD1** that encourages the adoption of recommendations from the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit Declaration to address climate justice and sustainable development.

Plastic pollution is everywhere. It is ruining the health of communities across the world, killing wildlife, fueling the climate crisis, and being dumped in oceans. Implementing the recommendations of the Global Plastics Treaty will help keep oil and gas used to produce plastic in the ground, and stop big polluters with their relentless plastic production.

From extraction as fossil fuel to disposal, plastic pollutes at every stage of its lifecycle. Surveys demonstrate that there is overwhelming public support for the Global Plastics Treaty to cut plastic production, end single-use plastics and advance reuse-based solutions. With plastic pollution and its impacts worsening every day, it's past time for us to end the plastic crisis.

We urge you to pass this important measure toward a cleaner, safer planet for us and for future generations.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

SCR-132-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2025 9:14:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 4/10/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Greenpeace Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha EEP Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perusso, and Committee Members Kahaloa, Kusch, Quinlan,

On behalf of Greenpeace Hawaii's thousands of members and supporters statewide we Stand in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR132 - Encouraging the adoption of recommendations from the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty (UNGPT) and Rapa Nui Summit Declaration to Address Climate Justice and Sustainable Development.

The global Greenpeace network is in full support of an ambitious, legally binding United Nations Global Plastics Treaty that accelerates and provides the conditions needed for a just transition away from dependence on plastic. UNGPT promotes safer, toxic-free materials and reuse-based, zero-waste economies, creating new jobs to support these practices, protecting human and planetary health, minimizing resource use, and delivering a just transition for workers and affected communities across the plastics supply and waste chains.

Every day, the equivalent of 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic are dumped into the world's oceans, rivers, and lakes. Plastic pollution is a global problem. Every year 19-23 million tonnes of plastic waste leaks into aquatic ecosystems, polluting lakes, rivers and seas. Plastic pollution can alter habitats and natural processes, reducing ecosystems' ability to adapt to climate change, directly affecting millions of people's livelihoods, food production capabilities and social well-being.

The problem of plastic pollution doesn't exist in a vacuum. The environmental, social, economic and health risks of plastics need to be assessed alongside other environmental stressors, like climate change, ecosystem degradation and resource use.

Bottles, pots and food trays are immediately obvious, but other types of plastic pollution can be harder to spot. When plastic breaks down it doesn't disappear, it gets smaller, creating tiny particles called microplastics. Even clothes made from artificial materials shed microplastic fibres when they're washed. Microbeads, another type of microplastic, are sometimes added to products such as cosmetics and toothpaste. Impossible to filter from waste water, they end up in our oceans.

Bits of plastic have been found in every corner of the world, including the deepest ocean trenches and on uninhabited islands. Greenpeace researchers have found plastic pollution in

Antartica. Turtles, dolphins and seabirds can become entangled or injured by large pieces of plastic. It can even be mistaken for food. Microplastics are just as devastating. Swallowed by everything from microscopic zooplankton to giant blue whales, they enter the food chain and carry harmful toxins. Microplastics have even been found in human feces.

Without dramatically reducing plastic production, it will be impossible to end plastic pollution and eliminate the health threats from chemicals in plastics. The intent of UNGPT is to cap and reduce plastic production, and establish a pathway to end virgin plastic production.

A key obstacle is the plastics industry, including fossil fuel, petrochemical, and consumer goods companies, which continues to put forward plastic recycling and recycled content as central solutions to the plastic pollution crisis. The reality is that fewer than 10% of all plastics ever produced have been recycled. This revelation leads many to promote higher recycling targets as the best way to resolve the global plastic crisis. For example, the members of the U.S. Plastics Pact lobby for the recycling and “circular use” of plastics, distracting attention from the need for massive reductions in global plastic production and shifting the burden of dealing with plastic waste away from themselves as the producers and onto the public.

Many consumer goods companies, including Nestlé, Unilever, and Coca-Cola, tout the use of recycled plastic in their packaging as an important part of the solution, while failing to achieve significant reductions of overall plastic use, and in some cases increasing plastic use, or meaningful gains in reuse. But the reality is that most plastics collected for recycling are never recycled – and when plastics are recycled, they contain a toxic cocktail of chemicals that makes them unfit for food-grade and other consumer uses. In fact, plastics are inherently incompatible with a circular economy.

An essential way to address these problems is to support the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit Declaration to Address Climate Justice and Sustainable Development.

Please pass SCR132, it sets us in the right direction in doing our part to address the growing global plastic pollution problem.

Mahalo,

Dave Mulinix, Hawaii State Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

April 9, 2025

**Testimony in Support of SCR132 SD1 ENCOURAGING THE ADOPTION OF
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL PLASTICS
TREATY AND RAPA NUI SUMMIT DECLARATION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE
JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

TO: Chair Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair Amy A. Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

DATE: Thursday, April 10, 2025, **TIME:** 9:00 a.m. **PLACE:** Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference

FROM: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports SCR132 SD1, which encourages the adoption of recommendations from the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit Declaration to address climate justice and sustainable development. The growing impact of plastic pollution and unsustainable development on our planet demands urgent and coordinated action to ensure a healthier, more equitable future.

Key arguments in support of SCR132 SD1 include:

- **Global Responsibility:** Aligning with the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty ensures Hawai'i participates in global efforts to combat plastic pollution, emphasizing shared accountability for reducing plastic waste.
- **Local Action for Global Impact:** Implementing recommendations from the Rapa Nui Summit Declaration allows Hawai'i to serve as a model for sustainable development and climate justice, highlighting Indigenous knowledge and community-based solutions.
- **Protecting Ecosystems:** Reducing plastic pollution safeguards marine ecosystems, coral reefs, and wildlife, which are vital to Hawai'i's cultural heritage, tourism, and economy.
- **Promoting Climate Justice:** Addressing plastic waste and unsustainable practices contributes to equitable solutions that prioritize the most vulnerable communities, aligning with Hawai'i's commitment to environmental justice.

- **Sustainable Development Goals:** Incorporating these recommendations into statewide policy advances Hawai‘i’s decarbonization goals, fosters innovation in waste management, and promotes circular economy practices.

By adopting the recommendations outlined in the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit Declaration, Hawai‘i demonstrates its leadership in addressing the dual crises of climate change and plastic pollution. We urge the Committee to pass SCR132 SD1 and support initiatives that drive sustainable development and climate justice.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

SCR-132-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 2:34:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/10/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eva Majerova	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

SCR-132-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 9:19:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 4/10/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annabel Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Thursday April 10th, 2025

9:00 AM, Via Videoconference, Conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for SCR132

Aloha Representative Lowen, Representative Perruso, and members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Annabel Fong and I am a high school student at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support** of SCR132.

Microplastics are everywhere. Regardless of the precautions taken like washing clothes or buying organic food, microplastics will always be present. They infiltrate our bodies even when one does something as simple and as human as breathing. When I learned about all the long term effects of exposure to microplastics, I was shocked. It was frightening to think that I could encounter cardiovascular issues, cancer, or reproductive complications later in life. After learning about microplastics in my environmental class, I know that it is impossible to remove the existing microplastics from our world. However, prevention is the best solution. That is why

I am in support of SCR132, the United Nations Global Plastic Treaty, and the Rapa Nui Summit Declaration. With recommendations from the global plastic treaty, we can learn how to manage our plastic waste at every step to reduce the amount of plastic waste in our environment. This way, the overall amount of microplastics will steadily decrease in future years. Further, the Rapa Nui Summit Declaration would be especially helpful for people like myself living in Hawaii. Surrounded by the waters of the Pacific Ocean, it is important that we take care of the ocean to sustain the wildlife depending on it and ourselves. It should be of utmost importance that we keep plastic and harmful chemicals out of the ocean. Considering this bill not only poses implications regarding microplastics, but also climate change in general. A decreased dependence on plastic or an increase in diligence about waste management will result in less climate change, another issue that is becoming irreversible.

The ocean and our community are the foundations of our life here in Hawaii. It is important that we ensure safety for both. The first step is passing bills such as these to enforce firm regulations to make that possible. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Annabel Fong

Mililani High School