



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB0348 HD1
RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS.**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 25, 2025, 2:00 P.M, Conference Room 308

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.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:45:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

Plastic pollution is a huge and monstrous danger to our planet. Plastic is in our oceans and shorelines and everywhere else. This is just a small step toward clearing up the problem. Better to take a small step forward than do nothing.

We support HB534.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 4:18:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Windward Coalition	Windward Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Windward Coalition supports Hawaii House Bill 348 which aims to prohibit lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers.

We support this bill because:

- Avoiding use of single-use plastics can reduce the negative impact of plastic waste generated by the large hospitality industry on the environment.
- Promotes sustainability.
- Switching to bulk dispensers or alternative packaging should reduce cost despite some transient increased implementation costs.
- Should not significantly adversely affect the experience of visitors.
- Its limited scope on a large volume business makes it a feasible effective strategy.

In short it is a narrowly focused bill that can serve as a template for others down the road. It is unclear how it will be enforced.

Mahalo, Eileen Hilton

President, Windward Coalition

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:53:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i **SUPPORT** this measure to reduce plastic waste.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 12:38:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robert brower	Surfrider Foundation Kauai Chapter	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

The Kauai Chapter of Surfrider Foundation strongly supports this overdue Bill to help reduce plastic production and plastic waste.

Mahalo!



February 24 , 2025

House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Legislature
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 348, Relating Single-Use Plastics
Hearing: Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 2:00 PM CR 308 Via Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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

Relating to single use plastics

The Marine Science Club at HPU makes this testimony in relation to the use of single use plastic in hotels. The plastic industry is affecting the livelihood of people on a daily basis and it is our responsibility to act upon this injustice. On the harbor where the school is located, many tourists come by every day, polluting the water in front of our campus and affecting not just the landscape but the marine ecosystems that are found near the harbor. We find plastic floating in the area and it is of great importance that this is addressed.

Single use plastic in hotels can be decreased in significant amounts. Considering that other states and other countries too have implemented this policy, we consider that the state of Hawai'i should pass this bill because plastic is already polluting so many areas around the islands. This action will be a great opportunity to reduce the amount of single use plastic located on Hawaiian waters.

The Marine Science Club at HPU wants to represent coastal areas that are to our reach, expanding local understanding regarding the damage that single use plastic has on not just humans, but animals all around.

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A LAW CORPORATION

February 24, 2025

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair,
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing: House Committee on Finance
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

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

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

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 Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair,
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance
February 24, 2025
Page 2

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Mahalo nui,



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



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 308
Tuesday, February 25, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M.

To The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

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: 2/22/2025 12:01:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing because I care about plastics in our bodies; our oceans; our landfills. and believe that elimination in all industries is essential.

Healthy oceans and smaller landfills are critically important for Hawai'i, its people, and its economy. Please vote in support of HB348 HDI

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:15:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha please pass this bill HB348. We need all the help we can get to keep our islands clean and polluting free. Those who visit need to br held to strick standards. Mahalo. Irene

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:57:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Let's, together, reduce plastic pollution and the harm it causes to marine life and human health.
Not to mention beautifying our plastic-riddled beaches.*

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:47:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lisa insalata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Thank you for considering these points below. I appreciate it!
- With nearly 10 million visitors in 2024, the tourism industry is a substantial source of Hawaii's plastic pollution. This measure would prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles every year from polluting the environment and going into landfills.
- CA, NY, WA, and IL have already passed similar bills and this sets a necessary industry standard in Hawai'i.
- Not only will this measure eliminate unnecessary, hard-to-recycle plastic waste but it will also save hotels money. Marriott International is already phasing out mini bottles and estimated savings of \$2,000 per hotel every year as well as preventing 500 million bottles from being thrown out.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 3:01:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is time to continue phasing plastic out of our waste stream. We're all inundated with microplastics and nanoplastics. Let's reduce the flow.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 4:40:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Tourism industry is a substantial source of Hawaii's plastic pollution. This bill would prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles every year from polluting the environment and going into landfills and would save hotels money. We who love the beach find it heartbreaking to see so much plastic on them and worry for the fish who eat it.

Mahalo for supporting and pushing this bill to the finish.

Aloha,

Bobbie and Bill Best

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 6:26:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Billups	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have so many visitors to our island, that it is essential to have the tourism industry take a big role in the safety of our community. Single use plastics are harmful to humans and our environment. I have been making art from plastic I find on our beaches and the amount is staggering. I have found many shampo bottles etc. from hotels in Hawai'i, and eventhough we can not make all the plastic pollution disappear from our shores, we can do something about this issue! One step at a time.

Thank you for caring for our island Home!

Audrey

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:38:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Tamashita and Members of the Finance Committee. My wife and I both strongly favor passage of HB348 which would phase out small plastic bottles at lodging establishments in Hawaii. Similar bills have passed in other States: NY, WA, IL and CA, and Hawaii needs to step up the plate and measure up with these leaders. Marriott International already has this phase out underway and is saving an average of \$2,000 a year per hotel. These little bottles washing up on our beautiful beaches are a blight on nature. Win one for our environment here and please support this bill. Mahalo.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:04:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

With 10 million visitors to Hawaii every year, the hotel industry makes up a substantial portion of our landfills plastic and other single use. I support HB 348 banning Hotels use of mini plastic toiletry Bottles. Our landfills are filling up and we are running out of room and we need to eliminate our dependence on single use plastic. These hotels that are using these many bottles should switch to a in shower dispenser that can be reused.

Many other states including CA, NY, WA, and IL Have already passed this bill. They are doing their part to end plastic pollution and keep more plastic out of the landfills, so as an island state, we should also. Marriott international is already implementing this and save over \$2000 a year. I support this bill and think it will make a significant impact on our island. Please carefully consider Passing this bill. Mahalo

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:38:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear chair, vice chair and committee members,

I am writing in strong support of this bill. With a current federal administration with zero regard for the effects of single use plastics on the environment, its more important than ever to take things into our own hands and to pass progressive policy that serves the best interest of our islands. These containers are not recyclable, we have a state wide waste management problem due to a lack of space, and there are alternative options!

let's require this of hotels and pave the way for more refillable options and local industry to grow. Let's focus on getting local, clean, bulk products in hotels that are better for the planet, our islands, our people, our tourists, and our economy!

mahalo!

alexandra kahn

planitbranding.com

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:18:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Bullock Hergert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Hawaii and a long-time worker in the hospitality industry. Hotels need to be held just as accountable as individual residents in Hawaii. Cutting down on single-use plastics in hotels will not only benefit the hotel financially, but it'll demonstrate to the visitors how important it is to limit plastic use. Hotels sometimes are the first experience that a visitor has to how our Islands work and best practices for tourism. Hotels should also not be allowed to hand out single-use plastic water bottles to their guests. All of these items give the wrong message to the guessed that Hawai'i doesn't value the environment.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 11:11:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Blades	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Finance Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of HB348, Relating to single use plastics.

With nearly 10 million visitors in 2024, the tourism industry is a substansial source of Hawaii's plastic pollution. This measure would prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles every year from polluting the environment and going into land fills. CA, NY, WA, and IL have already passed similar bills and this sets a necessary industry standard in Hawai'i. Not only will this measure eliminate unnecessary, hard-to-recycle plastic waste but it will also save hotols money. Marriott International is already phasing out mini bottles for an estimated savings of \$2,000 per hotel every year, as well as preventing 500 million bottles from being thrown out.

I strongly support HB348 and ask for your support as well to help lessen Hawaii's plastic pollution.

Thank you, again, for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

April Blades

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 12:18:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JONATHAN LOTT	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 12:38:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kari Goodbar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Mānoa valley who has been working and volunteering for environmental causes and waste reduction efforts for over 10 years. Switching to reusable/refillable containers in lieu of single use plastics is not only a positive steps towards a drastically needed reduction in the manufacturing of plastics, but it also a cost effective strategy for business owners.

Like many landmark legislation efforts in Hawai‘i, this bill also has the potential for a ripple effect beyond the islands that sets the example for other legislatures and positively impacts society and planet for generations to come.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 12:49:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Nineth Ovando	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How Hawai'i doesn't already have this law in place is baffaling. We live on an ISLAND! Hello! And not just any island, one of the most visited islands in the WORLD! We get nearly 10 million visitors a year and this greatly increases our waste. We already have an issue with landfill. The hotel industry, on top of destroying our lands, has single use plastic. Are we fighting for the people and land, or are you just trying to line your pockets. CA, NY, WA and IL (all fellow blue states) have already passed similar laws. We need to be PAVING THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND BEING LEADERS NOT JUST FOLLOWERS!

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 12:50:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stuart Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair, Bice Chair & Committee Members,

im writing in support of HB348 HD1, which woujd reduce the amount of single-use plastic waste generated in hotels. This bill is a win-win for the hotels, the state and the environment because it will reduce the cost of buying these products and the cost of processing the waste and the costs of cleaning them up.

With nearly 10 million visitors in 2024, the tourism industry is a substantial source of Hawaii's plastic pollution. This measure would prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles every year from polluting the environment and going into land fills. A number of the biggest hotel chains have joined Surfrider's Ocean Friendly Hotels to embrace this measure.

Other states like CA, NY, WA, and IL have already passed similar bills and this sets a necessary industry standard in Hawai'i. Not only will this measure eliminate unnecessary, hard-to-recycle plastic waste but it will also save hotels money. Marriott International is already phasing out mini bottles for an estimated savings of \$2,000 per hotel every year, as well as preventing 500 million bottles from being thrown out.

Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and the common sense approach to reducing unnecessary costs and waste from hotels across the state.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman, Hibiscus Place, Hon., HI 96815

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 4:06:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
arleen velasco	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

Please approve HB348. The tourist industry in Hawaii generates approximately 83,074,816 visits per year. The amount of single use plastic generated by that number is staggering, (83,074,816 x 3 small product bottles a day=249,224,448 bottles a year). That trash is burned creating toxic air fumes and is contributing to the landfill crisis we are experiencing. Refillable toiletries are easy to implement, cheaper for the hotels and much better for the environment. Hawaii's oceans are under threat and anything we can do to protect them is worth the effort.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 5:48:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marvin Heskett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representative,

I am in strong support of and urge you to pass HB 348. As we learn more about the effects single use plastic pollution has on the environment and on our own health, it is imperative to do what we can to reduce the burden of these pollutants. A few facts to help you decide:

- With nearly 10 million visitors in 2024, the tourism industry is a substantial source of Hawaii's plastic pollution. This measure would prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles every year from polluting the environment and going into land fills.
- CA, NY, WA, and IL have already passed similar bills and this sets a necessary industry standard in Hawai'i.
- Not only will this measure eliminate unnecessary, hard-to-recycle plastic waste but it will also save hotels money. Marriott International is already phasing out mini bottles for an estimated savings of \$2,000 per hotel every year, as well as preventing 500 million bottles from being thrown out.

Mahalo,

Marvin Heskett

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 5:59:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Azuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB348, because it reduces single-use plastic waste while saving lodging establishments money in production costs. Staying at hotels with single-use plastic toiletry products vs. with larger, refillable containers for toiletry products has never affected my experience staying in hotels, and this would greatly reduce the demand for plastic in our islands. We need to take actionable steps to reduce the plastic pollution problem, and solutions like HB348 are low-hanging fruit that help to garner momentum for this movement.

Mahalo nui loa.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:03:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalton Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dalton Iwamoto, and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am writing in strong support of HB348, which seeks to reduce single-use plastics in Hawaii. As a young person growing up in the islands, I have seen firsthand how plastic pollution harms our environment, from littered beaches to marine animals tangled in plastic waste. This is not just an environmental issue, it is a crisis that threatens the beauty and the health of Hawaii for future generations.

Single-use plastics are everywhere, from food containers to plastic utensils, and most of them end up in our landfills or, worse, in our oceans. Hawaii is surrounded by water, which means that much of our plastic waste doesn't just disappear, it pollutes our fragile marine ecosystems. Scientists have found microplastics in fish, sea turtles, and even the food we eat. If we don't act now, the problem will only get worse.

As a high school student, I want to be part of the solution. HB348 is a step in the right direction by encouraging sustainable alternatives and holding businesses accountable for reducing plastic waste. Other states and countries have successfully implemented bans on single-use plastics, proving that it is possible to make meaningful change. Hawaii should be a leader in environmental responsibility, not a place struggling with plastic pollution.

Passing HB348 would show that we care about our future and the preservation of Hawaii's natural beauty. I urge you to support this bill and take action to protect our land, ocean, and communities. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dalton Iwamoto

Senior, Mililani High School

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:06:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Callie Seminavage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Rhodes, Chair

Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair

Senate Judiciary Committee

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Support for HB381

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Callie Seminavage and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** bill HB348.

I am testifying in support of prohibiting small single use plastics in lodging areas and establishing civil penalties. I personally think this would be an easy way to decrease the amount of single use plastics in the state of Hawai'i. As one of the largest tourism industries, the prohibition of complimentary items made of single use plastics would be a very simple yet effective way to slow how much single use plastics are made and given out. The option would still stand to provide things made with other containers and materials. The long term benefits for the environment would definitely outweigh the short term cost benefits.

I hope you will consider passing HB348 bill because it would be necessary to help our 'aina in the long run.

Sincerely,

Callie Seminavage

Mililani High School

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:34:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Otsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Kiana Otsuka, and I am an O‘ahu resident writing in **strong support of 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. Establishes civil penalties.

With nearly 10 million visitors in 2024, the tourism industry is a substantial source of Hawai‘i’s plastic pollution. This measure would prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles every year from polluting the environment and going into landfills.

It is important to me that we phase out mini plastic toiletry bottles in hotels because we’re already struggling to manage the waste we produce and with plastic pollution on our beaches, harming our wildlife, and now microplastics in our bodies. This is common sense legislation that will help to reduce the amount of plastics that are throw away here, and reduce the demand for a new landfill, amount of trash we burn at H-Power, and reduce harm to both humans, wildlife, and our natural habitats.

California, New York, Washington, and Illinois have already passed similar bills to set a sustainable industry standard. Let’s add Hawai‘i to that list, and prevent plastic pollution from a major source, our hotels.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Kiana Otsuka

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:43:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Masek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It is unnecessary for lodging accomodations to provide guests with single use plastic containers for soaps. There are so many options out there today - providing your own, paper packaging, having it provided upon request, etc - that make the current practice not needed. This will also save the hotels money since they don't need to have thousands - if not millions - of pieces on hand at a time. Let's do something good for our planet and reduce the amount of waste we have in the tourist industry. Malama aina erryday

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:04:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christie Becu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB348.

Whenever I go to beaches all around Oahu I pick up trash and quickly find that there is more than I can carry in my own two hands. I hold the pieces of plastic and think that even the smallest piece of plastic will exist on this earth much longer after my own body decays. I think of the environment we live in and the food we consume, and the constant exposure to microplastics which impact reproductive and immune health. I think about the recent study in Nature published in 2024 which demonstrated the amount of micro and nanoplastics found deposited in humans' brains, how the amount has increased since 2016, and this effect on vascular disease and dementia.

Individual civilians make daily choices to reduce plastic waste such as drinking from paper straws, carrying reusable utensils/canteens, reusing containers, shopping at refill centers like "Keep it Simple Honolulu", the list goes on. If individuals are collectively able to maintain daily practice of plastic reduction, it is more than possible for the tourism industry and lodgings to replace single use small bottles with bulk refills.

Thank you for considering this bill and acting towards preserving the health of both humankind and this earth.

Christie Becu, MD

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 11:56:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katrina Fenner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am Katrina Fenner an undergraduate student at UH Manoa and I am writing in strong support of bill HB348 which would prohibit lodging establishments from providing single-use plastics in any sleeping room accommodations, space within sleeping room accommodations, and bathrooms used by the public or guests.

Global plastic usage has reached unsustainable levels. We see it on our lands, our oceans, our beaches, and even in our neighborhoods. Tourism contributes to our island's plastic pollution problems and bill HB348 seeks to mitigate the impact tourists have during their stay. There are over 150 hotels in Hawaii and with millions of visitors coming each year the amount of single-use plastic accumulated adds up. It is important we understand our limitations being on an island which does not have unlimited resources/land to manage the waste created by the tourism industry. It is important we strive for sustainability and reduce our plastic footprint because it takes more work and tax-paying dollars to fix these problems then to prevent them.

My only quarrel with this bill is the unexpected consequences that may result from Hotel establishments not providing a certain standard of products tourists expect and rely on which may lead to more waste. For example, if a tourist were to check into their hotel room and they see a wax bar instead of the usual shampoo/conditioner bottle they typically enjoy, they might head down to an ABC or Target store to purchase a bottle of a certain product they will end up throwing out before their flight. In order to make this bill more effective I ask that hotels be required to state the purpose of the no single-use plastic products in their rooms in order for tourists to understand the implications their consumption has on our islands. I believe this will lead to more effective messaging so that not only hotels can be more sustainable but tourists can also leave their room with an aloha 'aina mindset when they are beaching and sightseeing.

PLEASE SUPPORT HB348!

Mahalo for listening to my testimony,

Katrina Fenner (UH Manoa 2027)

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:21:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GWEN YOUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of O’ahu and a 20-30 hour per week environmental volunteer, I strongly Support HB348.

While our Tourism industry is critically important to our state, plastic waste caused by 10 million visitors per year (nearly 10x’s our number of residents) is causing a severe environmental crisis.

I see the impacts of this plastic waste every day (island wide) that I spend supporting conservation and care for our critically endangered monk seals, turtles, birds, whales and dolphins, native bees, and corals and other aquatic and coastal environments. While volunteering and recreating in the ocean, I am also clearing these plastic discards from the beaches and waters. This amounts to at least 1 large trash bag of collection each day! Our ‘aina and beaches are literally decorated with plastic!

This of course is also impacting human life, activity, and ability to safely recreate and practice Hawaiian cultural activities without being impacted by plastics.

Additionally, hotels in CA, NY, WA, and other states have approved bills to prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles from polluting the environment and going into landfills each year. These same hotels have actually saved money and increased their public image by making these simple changes. It is my understanding that Ritz and Four Seasons hotels already support these actions.

Also, HI does not have the infrastructure to recycle these or other items, so they are managed in the land fill or incinerated. Neither of these solutions is environmentally sound. Especially considering that the single use plastic bottles are simply not necessary for the hygiene practices of humans.

Plastic Pics from N. Shore: attached

Mahalo nui

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:21:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in SUPPORT of HB348. As you already know,

- With over 9 million visitors in 2024, the Hawaii tourism industry is a substantial source of Hawaii's plastic pollution. This measure would prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles every year from polluting the environment and going into landfills.
- CA, NY, WA, and IL have already passed similar bills and this sets a necessary industry standard in Hawai'i. Hospitality companies of all sizes have the tools and experience moving away from single-use toiletry products.
- Not only will this measure eliminate unnecessary, hard-to-recycle plastic waste but it will also save hotels money. Marriott International is already phasing out mini bottles for an estimated savings of \$2,000 per hotel every year, as well as preventing 500 million bottles from being thrown out.

Best regards,

Maureen Brock/Lahaina

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:39:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalen Toguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this testimony to support HB 348, which aims to reduce the use of single-use plastics in Hawaii. Growing up on this said aina, plastic pollution was and is still a growing problem. It pollutes our beaches, contributes to global climate change, and harms marine life. By cutting the usage of these plastics, we will be preserving our sacred ecosystems and move onwards to a sustainable alternative that other states and nations can use as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:43:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Hirayama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, members of the committee, and fellow advocates,

I support HB348, which aims to help reduce the single-use plastics in our communities. Single-use plastics pose devastating impacts on our environment, harming wildlife and polluting both our oceans and landfills. This bill is a significant step in addressing the growing plastic waste crisis by encouraging the use of sustainable alternatives and reducing plastic waste at its source. By passing HB348, we can help to protect our natural resources, create a cleaner environment, and set a strong example for future generations. I urge the committee to pass this bill for the benefit of our environment and community.

Thank you,

Kai Hirayama

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:50:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taegan Deocares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB348 – Relating to Single-Use Plastics

Chair, Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB348, which addresses the urgent need to reduce the environmental impact of single-use plastics. As a concerned citizen and advocate for sustainability, I believe this bill is a critical step toward protecting our environment, wildlife, and future generations from the harm caused by plastic pollution.

Single-use plastics are one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. These items, such as plastic bags, straws, and utensils, are designed to be used once and then discarded, but they persist in our ecosystems for hundreds of years. They choke our oceans, harm marine life, and contribute to the growing crisis of microplastic contamination. The plastic waste crisis has reached a point where we can no longer afford to ignore the consequences of our consumption habits.

HB348 presents an opportunity to curb this damage by taking proactive steps to reduce the use of disposable plastics, promote alternative materials, and encourage more sustainable practices across industries. By implementing restrictions and encouraging innovation in packaging and consumer products, we can create a cleaner, healthier environment for all.

This bill also addresses the growing public concern around plastic waste. Many local businesses and communities have already taken steps to reduce plastic use, and HB348 provides a framework for broader change that aligns with public sentiment. By passing this legislation, we will not only protect our natural resources but also position our state as a leader in environmental stewardship.

I urge the committee to move forward with HB348 and take bold action to protect our environment and future generations from the devastating effects of plastic pollution. Together, we can make a meaningful difference and help ensure a sustainable future for our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Taegan Deocares

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:16:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Mallini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of phasing out single use plastic mini toiletry bottles. I have dedicated my professional career to removing single use plastic. I opened the first zero waste refill store in Hawaii in 2019 which was a huge success. I have proved that people, given the choice, do not want to participate in this endless cycle of single use plastic. It is a huge turn off for people when they go into a hotel and see single use plastic.

This is also a HUGE opportunity for hotels to support local businesses. We produce these products RIGHT HERE in Hawaii and on the island of Oahu. Shampoo, conditioner, body wash and lotion can EASILY be supplied in a refill format from LOCAL companies. This strengthens our economy and our independence from imports (of crap). Local product made with local ingredients. Just makes sense!

Lets not waste anymore time discussing and debating single use palstics and lets be the change the entire world wants to see. NOBODY left or right is arguing in favor of single use plastic unless it is industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Lori Mallini, founder

Protea Zero Waste Store & Protea Thrift

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:20:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Kader	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I approve of this bill. Hawaii need to do anything we can to lower our plastic use and waste generation!! We could easily use refill containers or ask guests to bring their own shampoo and conditioner and soaps. Could also support local brands to provide these things commercially! Whatever people wash their body and hair with ends up in our oceans!

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:33:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Tracy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to submit testimony in support of HB348. It is a common-sense measure that aligns with broader efforts to reduce plastic waste, lower emissions, and promote sustainable business practices.

Small plastic toiletry bottles, while convenient to some, contribute significantly to the billions of plastic containers discarded each year. Many of these containers are not effectively recycled due to their size and end up in landfills, incinerators, or worse—our oceans and waterways. By eliminating them from lodging establishments, this bill takes a meaningful step toward reducing plastic pollution.

Additionally, the creation of plastic bottles requires petroleum-based materials, significant energy use, and transportation at multiple stages—from manufacturing to distribution, and finally, to waste management facilities. By eliminating these single-use plastics, we also can reduce the carbon emissions associated with their production and transportation. Additionally, the transport and disposal of plastic waste require fuel and resources, contributing to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing unnecessary plastic waste directly lowers the emissions generated from waste collection, landfill operations, and incineration.

This legislation also follows the lead of major hospitality industry leaders who have already made the switch to more sustainable alternatives, such as refillable dispensers. Not only do these alternatives benefit the environment, but they also save businesses money in the long run in addition to the city and county

Furthermore, this bill aligns with public sentiment. Consumers are increasingly prioritizing sustainability and expect businesses to adopt responsible environmental policies. By enacting this measure, we reinforce our state’s commitment to environmental stewardship while ensuring that businesses remain competitive in a marketplace that values sustainability.

The inclusion of civil penalties will ensure compliance and encourage businesses to transition smoothly to more eco-friendly options. Similar measures have been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions, demonstrating their feasibility without compromising guest experience or hygiene standards. Creating a position within the Department of Health will be essential to enforce this policy and help educate businesses and the public about this issue and what the state is doing to address it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:43:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Vorm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would set a positive example for Hawai'i as a leading state in climate-conscious efforts. This is a small step in the right direction, and I think it's very important to support. Please support this bill.

Mahalo

Elena Vorm

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:02:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren R. Kaiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Lauren Kaiser, a resident of Kaka‘ako, and I am writing in strong support of HB348, which would prohibit lodging establishments from providing small plastic bottles containing personal care products. As someone who has witnessed the growing problem of plastic pollution on our beaches and in our oceans firsthand, I believe this bill represents a crucial step toward preserving the natural beauty and environmental health of our islands.

With nearly 10 million visitors in 2024, our tourism industry significantly contributes to Hawai‘i's plastic waste problem. Each small bottle discarded represents another piece of plastic that may end up in our landfills, on our beaches, or in the ocean where it harms marine life that is central to our cultural heritage and economic well-being. This measure would prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles every year from damaging our fragile ecosystem.

Hawai‘i has long prided itself on being a leader in environmental protection, but in this case, we are falling behind. California, New York, Washington, and Illinois have already passed similar legislation. It's time for Hawai‘i to join these states in setting an industry standard that reflects our commitment to mālama ‘āina.

Beyond the environmental benefits, this bill makes economic sense. Major hotel chains like Marriott International are already transitioning away from mini bottles and have reported savings of approximately \$2,000 per hotel annually. Across our state's numerous accommodations, these savings could be substantial, while simultaneously preventing hundreds of thousands of plastic bottles from entering our waste stream.

As a local resident, I care deeply about preserving our islands for future generations. Our economy depends on maintaining the natural beauty that draws visitors to our shores. It's not just about protecting our environment – it's about protecting our way of life and the future of our keiki. I urge you to pass HB348 and take this meaningful step toward reducing plastic waste in our beloved state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:18:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Hughes	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Olivia Hughes. I have lived on O‘ahu since 2009, and am a University of Hawai‘i graduate with a bachelor's degree in Global Environmental Science. I am writing to testify my support of HB 348 Relating to Single-Use Plastics.

The tourism industry remains a substantial part of Hawai‘i's economy, and does not appear to be slowing down anytime soon. Hawai‘i's saw nearly 10 million visitors in 2024, and according to a December report by the Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai‘i, visitor arrivals are expected to expand by nearly 3%. In today's tourism standard, that many visitors means nearly just as much single-use plastics being consumed and thrown away, ultimately ending up in landfills on the islands, or shipped to landfills across the world.

This bill provides a benefit to Hawai‘i's environment both in the short and the long term. By prohibiting single-use plastic toiletry bottles in our hotels, not only will we see a decrease in the amount of plastics sent to landfills, but the demand for the production of such plastics will decrease as well. This bill would set a common-sense industry standard that benefits the hotels economically, but more importantly, benefits Hawai‘i and the world environmentally.

Anywhere plastics end up, be it in landfills, in the ocean, or scattered anywhere on our beaches or parks, they break down as they are weathered and exposed to UV radiation. Eventually these plastic pieces break down into microplastics, which end up in our soils, ocean, food, and as recent studies have shown, our bodies. Plastics that break down also have the potential to leak any chemicals or additives that go into their manufacturing as they break down, the consequences of which scientists are only beginning to fully understand.

The Hawaiian Islands are one of the world's most renowned places for biodiversity. As such, we should be at the forefront of every battle to make environmental sustainability the norm in every industry. Hawai‘i cannot expect its visitors to respect our land and our ocean if we do not lead by example.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:50:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaitlyn P Jacobs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill- and the curtailed use of single use plastics in hotels. With the amount of visitors we have to Hawaii, we should be taking every step to reduce waste. I have stayed at many hotels where there is a refillable pump bottle of wash, shampoo and conditioner, and it has never made me question staying at hotels. It actually makes me prefer them! Small bottles are never enough for a full hotel stay, and they are extremely wasteful. Furthermore, the hotel can save costs by buying wholesale. There is no need to continue using the small wasteful bottles and other single use plastics, and Hawaii should continue to be a leader of the country in our plastics laws. Thank you.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:08:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taraneh de la Rosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Finance Committee

Chair Rep. Yamashita

Vice Chair Rep. Takenouch

Monday, February 24, 2025

2:00PM, Conference room 308

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.348

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

My name is Taraneh de la Rosa and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No.348.

I am testifying specifically in support of the prohibiting of single plastic use. I believe it is necessary to implement this part of the bill for the health of the environment and he future generations who are to come. By having use of single plastics such as the hotels giving mini bottles of shampoo and conditioner, it contributes to the large amount of plastics and debris that invade much of our land that contributes to climate change. We all know plastics are bad, pollute our land, ocean, food and waste.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 348 because it is necessary to move our state towards a more sustainable way of reducing pollution and all around the world.

Sincerely,

Taraneh de la Rosa

Mililani High School

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:08:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karsyn kenui-nakayama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Yamashita, Chair

Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair

House Finance Committee

Wednesday, February 25, 2024

2:00AM, House conference room 308

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.348

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Karsyn Kenui-Nakayama, and I am a student at Mililani High School currently taking AP Environmental Science. I am writing this in support of HB348, which addresses the harmful environmental impacts of single-use plastics in Hawaii. As someone who has studied and seen the harmful effects of plastic pollution on not only Hawaii's ecosystem, and has witnessed firsthand the accumulation of plastic waste along our coastlines. I believe this bill is a critical step toward protecting our land and oceans from single use plastics .

Single-use plastics contribute significantly to marine pollution, endangering marine life and damaging coral reefs, which are already under stress from climate change and other human activities. In Hawai'i where we deeply value the ocean because it is deeply tied to our culture, economy, and way of life, we must take action to reduce plastic waste and transition to sustainable alternatives.

If HB348 is passed, it will help reduce plastic pollution by promoting responsible consumption and encouraging the use of environmentally friendly alternatives. This aligns with Hawai'i's ongoing efforts to become a leader in sustainability and environmental stewardship. I urge the committee to support this bill and help ensure a cleaner, healthier future for our islands.

My activism will be based in Mililani and the broader Oahu community, engaging students, educators, and community environmental organizations to provide awareness and advocacy towards cleaner wastewater policy. Through this project I would like to become accountable for the future of our aina and give voice to a sustainable, healthier environment for present and future generations.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karsyn Kenui-Nakayama

Mililani High School

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:28:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ayva Greig	Mililani high school	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

House Finance Committee

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

2:00 PM Conference Room 308

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for HB348

Dear Committee and Members,

My name is Ayva Greig, I am a senior at Mililani High School, testifying in support of HB348. As someone who was born and raised on the beautiful island of O’ahu, I have learned to appreciate all that I have. From the beginning of these islands, our oceans have always been an essential part of life. As most people know, our beaches that surround this island are a resource that cannot be replaced. With this in mind, protecting the oceans we currently have is crucial to keeping our culture alive. By allowing companies to provide products in single use plastic containers, more and more of these plastics end up in our ocean. As a result, marine life is put at

risk, and our beaches are slowly losing their beauty. Not only do these plastics affect our waters, but it also contributes to global warming by releasing toxic chemicals into the air during the process of breaking them down. During the creation of single use plastics- such as the ones provided by these lodging establishments- fossil fuels are released into the atmosphere, leading to greenhouse gases being emitted. By passing this bill, lodging establishments will no longer be able to provide these products in single use plastics, reducing the amount of pollution put into our environment. This can benefit our island by creating a clean environment for aquatic life to thrive, the community will look better, and it will decrease the speed of global warming. I hope you will consider passing this bill because preserving our land is necessary for present generations, and those to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Ayva Greig

Mililani High School

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:29:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Rickerby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Speaker Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Monday, February 24, 2025

1:06 pm

Hawaii State Capitol

Aloha Chair Gates and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Gabrielle Rickerby and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B. No. 348.

I am addressing bill H.B. No. 348 in support of stopping single use plastic. I believe that it is necessary to implement this part of the bill relating to single use plastic for our environment and those who use single use plastic. Rep. Gates, I know you are familiar with single use plastic like water bottles, plastic bags, and etc. This is a large amount of plastic being used and thrown out that can cause pollution and it is hard to break that down. Reusable items like metal or paper bags, straws, and water bottles will help our ecosystem for the better. This will lessen the pollution that we or animals may consume in the land and ocean.

I hope that you will consider passing H.B. No. 348 because it is necessary to move our state towards a more sustainable and healthy future. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Rickerby

Mililani High School

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:42:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karley Beaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Karley Beaver, am making this testimony concerning using single-use plastics in hotels. This bill has been passed in other states, and we should follow in their footsteps and create a more sustainable future. Because of its unique location, Hawaii is especially vulnerable to climate change and pollution. This matters to me because we are responsible for caring for the planet in every way possible. We live in a highly materialistic and consumer-based world, destroying natural life. So, we should eliminate hard-to-recycle plastic. Ever since I was a child, I have been learning about reducing, reusing, and recycling. It is crucial to pass this legislation to prioritize our planet. Hawai'i is full of natural beauty, and we have polluted it, covered it in buildings, killed off native plants, and taken it over with invasive species. We must keep working to reverse/lessen the damage that we have caused.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:57:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Fatino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB348 is critical in reducing plastic waste and at the same will be beneficial to both small and large business practices by implementing processes that promote sustainability and cost effectiveness. Single use products for short term use at hotels and lodging facilities is typically discarded and turns into waste. Waste adds cost and in turn can impact the environment. We already observe the commitment to change in many hotels by implementing the use of refillable containers rather than the single use sized products. This legislation will reinforce the urgency of commitment for everyone in reducing plastic waste in business practices. This testimony supports the importance of communication and education so that changes to reducing plastic waste is seamless and supported by consumer public and business owners and members. I support bill HB348

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:00:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maggie Malloy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Single use plastic negatively impacts the Hawaiian experience and by removing the use of these plastic in travel sized bottles can reduce the waste load on the island. Imagine going to the beach and thinking you found an amazing piece of rare blue sea glass, only to be disappointed by the reality that it is only microplastic. This is the reality on almost all of Oahu's beloved beaches. The microplastics are a constant reminder of human's lasting impact on the environment due to our desire for constant convenience. The health of beaches and wildlife should be prioritized over single use plastics.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:01:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia Wang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Finance Committee

Chair Rep. Yamashita

Vice Chair Rep. Takenouchi

Tuesday, February 25th

2 pm

House Conference Room 308

Support for HB348

Aloha Representatives,

My name is Sophia Wang, and I am writing in support of HB348. Single use plastics, even though they may seem like a small contribution to environmental harm, add up. Especially here in Hawaii with the amount of tourism, the number of single-use plastics utilized in hotels are hurting the environment. This bill would help promote sustainability by banning single-use plastics in hotels, and help tourists think about the plastic they throw away as well. We cannot change to a completely sustainable society overnight. These things take time, and each step is extremely important.

As part of the future generations who will be affected by global warming and other environmental dangers, I ask you all to consider passing this bill to keep our island clean.

Thank you for reading,

Sophia Wang

Mililani High School

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:39:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Damontez Strong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawai‘i

Support for H.B. No.348 HD1

Aloha,

I am writing in firm support of HB348, which seeks to stop lodging facilities from providing small plastic containers of personal care items in sleeping room accommodations, bathrooms, and public or guest areas. I think this bill is a good step towards the elimination of single-use plastic waste in Hawai‘i, and I give props the legislature for taking action to protect our precious environment. The destruction of the environment by single-use plastics can't be overemphasized. The bill states that single-use plastics are responsible for a significant percentage of ocean pollution, litter, and the growing issue of microplastics in our oceans. Hawai‘i's oceans are a important part of our ecosystem, and it is important that we protect them from plastic pollution so that we can preserve the beauty, as well as the health of our marine ecosystem.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 348 because it is necessary to keep our ocean safe. Mahalo for giving me the chance to testify!

Sincerely,
Damontez Strong

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:21:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure. Single use plastics are destroying the environment.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:11:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlotte Meier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a frequent traveler, I have seen firsthand the impact of single-use plastics in hotels—from tiny toiletry bottles to plastic-wrapped amenities that are used once and discarded. It is time for the hospitality industry to step up and embrace sustainable alternatives. By eliminating single-use plastics, hotels can significantly reduce waste, protect our oceans, and set a new standard for responsible travel. Guests should not have to choose between comfort and sustainability—thoughtful solutions like refillable dispensers, biodegradable packaging, and reusable alternatives prove that we can have both. A plastic-free future starts with small changes, and hotels have a unique opportunity to lead the way.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:18:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
AJ Eves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Lowen, Nicole

Representative Grandinetti, Lisa

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Monday, February 24, 2025

Support for: H.B. No. 348- Relating to Single Use Plastics

Aloha, Representative Lowen and Members of the House Committee on EEP,

My name is AJ Eves and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B. No. 348

I testify unto you all specifically in support of the single use plastics in 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. I also support that it should establish a civil punishment. I believe plastics are hurting our environment more and more every single day, especially when we make plastic items to be durable and last a long time. When these items become discarded, they end up in landfills, on the street, or in the ocean. This is causing microplastics to break off and contaminate our environment. There is plastic in the food we eat, liquids we drink, and even the air we breathe. Adding this adjustment to switch to single use plastics will likely reduce the contamination and pollution of the harmful microplastics in our environment.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 348 because I believe it is necessary to move our state towards a more clean and healthy future. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

AJ Eves

Mililani High School

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:04:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrey Arakaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Yamashita, Chair

Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair

House Finance Committee

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

2:00PM, House Conference Room 308

Hawaii State Capitol

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

My name is Aubrey Arakaki and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am writing in support of bill HB 348, which seeks to reduce single-use plastic waste in Hawaii by prohibiting the provision of personal care products in small plastic containers by lodging establishments.

As we all know, plastic waste is a growing environmental issue, and it impacts our oceans, marine life, and ecosystems. By encouraging the use of bulk dispensers or alternative packaging options, this bill takes an important step in addressing the harmful effects of plastic pollution in Hawaii. The bill encourages businesses to use bulk dispensers or non-plastic packaging, which is a simple and effective solution. I believe this is a positive step towards a cleaner, more sustainable Hawaii.

I urge you to support HB 348 and help move Hawaii closer to a more sustainable, plastic-free future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Aubrey Arakaki

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:17:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mira Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill!

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:34:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Simonds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Landfills on our islands are a finite and expensive resource and they are filling up quickly. Diverting organic waste is critical to slow their filling, reduce harmful methane emissions, and recycle nutrients. This bill is an important first step to building resilient circular systems.

I strongly support HB348.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:06:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt L	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Anyone Concerned,

We need to reduce plastic waste. Period.

Please consider this bill. I have been walking the beaches picking up plastic waste before enjoying the water and the amount collected on every outing is significant. We as humans may come up with ways to remove waste after it enters our precious ocean, but let's do something before that. This bill is the step towards that.

- With nearly 10 million visitors in 2024, the tourism industry is a substantial source of Hawaii's plastic pollution. This measure would prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles every year from polluting the environment and going into landfills.
- CA, NY, WA, and IL have already passed similar bills and this sets a necessary industry standard in Hawai'i. We've led the way for this nation and the world in so many areas. Health care, smoking bans. Why not follow these leaders now.
- Not only will this measure eliminate unnecessary, hard-to-recycle plastic waste but it will also save hotels money. Marriott International is already phasing out mini bottles for an estimated savings of \$2,000 per hotel every year, as well as preventing 500 million bottles from being thrown out

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Matt L.

Representative Lowen
Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Muraoka, Pierick
Representative Chochran, Matayoshi, Poepoe, Ward

Tuesday, February 25, 2025
2:00PM, 308 via videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.348

Aloha, Representative Lowen, Representatives Alcos, Garica, Muraoka, Pierick,
Representatives Chochran, Matayoshi, Poepoe, Ward

My name is Kyla Okamoto and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B. No. 348

I am testifying in support of reducing single plastic waste as it is a danger to the oceans, environment, and human health. I specifically agree with the prohibition of lodging establishments in the state from providing small plastic containers of personal care products to any person staying in a sleeping room accommodation, in any space within the sleeping room accommodation, or in any bathroom used by the public or guests. Representatives, I am aware that you are familiar with the detrimental effects of plastic pollution in the state. Globally, about 300 million tons of plastic is produced each year. However, less than 10% of plastics are recycled. By prohibiting small plastic containers of personal care products in lodging establishments, we can take a step in the right direction.

I hope that you will consider passing H.B. 348 as it is crucial for our environment, oceans, and human health. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kyla Okamoto

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:37:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalena Rego	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

2:00PM, House Conference Room 308

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B No. 348

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Kalena Rego and I am a student attending Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B. No. 348.

I am testifying for the support to remove these single-use plastics that aren't necessary. As we all know single-use plastics means what it's basically said as, a one time use. These plastics significantly contribute to plastic waste that doesn't even end up in landfills but also the ocean. I believe that it is important to pass this bill that would put pressure on the hotel industry to finally turn to more sustainable practices. They can look at more refillable dispensers that can reduce our environmental print. This can be considered a small step into the right direction of slowly reducing the plastic production, being able to make a dent into lowering the plastic pollution and protecting the environment.

I hope you take into account the importance of passing H.B. No. 348 as it contributes to current environmental issues and can be a way into stepping into action for our waste reduction. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kalena Rego

Mililani High School