



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0750 HD2
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 20, 2025, 12:00pm Room Number: 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 supports this measure and offers comments.

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

7 The Department supports this measure to conduct a statewide needs assessment to
8 inform the implementation of a packaging materials and paper products Extended Producer
9 Responsibility (EPR) program.

10 We agree that it is important to fully understand the current waste composition,
11 existing infrastructure, and recycling markets, before designing a packaging and paper products
12 EPR program.

13 The Department respectfully requests that a \$3 million appropriation be made to
14 perform this work. Current estimates are about \$2 million to conduct a statewide composition
15 study, and about \$1 million for program development and facilitation services. Given that the

1 report is due December 2028, we ask that the funds be made available for fiscal year 2025-2026
2 through fiscal year 2028-2029.

3 We acknowledge that the current measure is proposing to fund this project from the
4 Deposit Beverage Container (DBC) Deposit Special Fund. However, we do note that the DBC
5 Program plans to conduct a segregated rate study this year to be followed by a handling rate
6 study, and that both have the possibility of increasing program expenditures related to higher
7 redemption rates and handling fees. We further note that should the DBC Program costs
8 conflict with the needs assessment, the Department will be obligated to uphold its fiduciary
9 duty to the DBC Program over the proposed study.

10 **Offered Amendments:** None

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



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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Chair, DLNR
Director, OPSD

Commissioners:
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Chair, Senate WTL
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Chair, House WAL
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Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawai'i DP
Director, Kaua'i DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

Testimony of
LEAH LARAMEE
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission Co-Chair Mary Alice Evans and
Co-Chair Dawn N.S. Chang

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Thursday, February 20, 2025
12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 750 HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

House Bill 750 HD2 Amends the authorized uses of the Deposit Beverage Container Deposit Special Fund. The bill requires the Department of Health to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine what will be needed to reduce waste generation, increase reuse, improve recycling collection services, and expand local processing of materials through an extended producer responsibility program for packaging materials and paper products. It establishes an advisory council to review the draft needs assessment and propose recommendations throughout the assessment process and appropriates funds. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees and counties with the purpose of promoting ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient. Much of the plastic waste that is disposed of in landfills results in the release of both methane and carbon dioxide. Per the most recent Inventory Report, U.S. landfills released an estimated 122.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO_{2e}) of methane into the atmosphere in 2021; this represents 16.9 percent of the total U.S. anthropogenic methane emissions across all sectors.¹ Materials consumption contributes directly to climate change because it requires energy to mine, extract, harvest, process and transport raw materials; more energy to manufacture, transport and dispose of waste products.

Landfills are one of the top human-caused sources of methane and the incineration of waste produces carbon dioxide as a by-product. Methane is more than 28 times as potent as carbon

dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Those items that can be recycled often are not for a variety of factors. The best way to reduce greenhouse emission from products is to eliminate packaging waste as much as possible. EPA estimates by cutting the amount of waste we generate by just 5 percent, we could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10.2 million metric tons.²

The December 2023 *Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization* identifies reducing emissions in the waste sector as a key strategy to meet 2045 emission goals.¹ Reducing waste generation demonstrates continuity in our emphasis on reducing negative lifecycle impacts of materials, including climate impacts, and reducing the use of harmful materials. This bill would be an outline of a vision to help the State address the full impacts of materials on our communities and set out a transformative vision for our waste management system – one that is inclusive, more equitable, and reflects the urgency of the climate crisis.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Fern Holland
Arryl Kaneshiro



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

February 19, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 750, HD 2, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 20, 2025
12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 750, HD 2, Relating to the Environment. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kauai County Council.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 750, HD 2, which would greatly affect the Kauai community.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 750, HD 2. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

ADDISON BULSOAN
Councilmember, Kauai County Council

AAO:dmc



February 19, 2025

Chair Yamashita
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii Legislature

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 750 HD 2

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of **H.B. 750 HD 2**. Just Zero strongly supports this bill as it will lay the foundation for a comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging program in Hawaii.

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

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

When properly designed and implemented, EPR for packaging programs reduce packaging waste, increase recycling rates, and incentivize companies to redesign their products and packaging to be less toxic, and more sustainable. Moreover, as a form of producer responsibility, these programs accomplish this without imposing costs on consumers, local governments, or the state. Rather, the companies whose products generate this waste in the first place provide the funding to administer the program.

Over the last few years, the Hawaii Legislature has debated legislation that would establish an EPR for packaging program. Despite the clear need, a bill has not made it across the finish line. We strongly believe that H.B. 750 is a necessary first step that will identify what is needed to reduce waste, improve collection systems, expand local services, and increase the reuse and recycling of packaging materials. We feel this approach is especially important given Hawaii's geographic

location, proximity to existing recycling end-markets, and opportunities to develop strong local reuse, waste reduction, and recycling programs.

I. An EPR for Packaging Program Will Help Hawaii Reduce Waste and Increase Recycling.

States across the country are grappling with increased waste volumes, stagnant recycling rates, and increased waste management and recycling costs. As a result, many states are considering implementing EPR for packaging programs that would shift the responsibility for paying for the end-of-life management of single-use packaging from consumers and local governments to the companies that manufacture and distribute these wasteful products. Moreover, many of these programs are also setting strong waste reduction, reuse, and recycling goals that will require regulated companies to minimize the amount of waste generated in the first place, while ensuring what is left is responsibly managed so that resources are reused and recirculated into the economy. Currently, California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, and Oregon have passed EPR for Packaging Laws.

These laws are necessary to combat the plastic production and pollution crisis that is wreaking havoc on our health and our environment. Despite being widely unrecyclable, most companies choose to package their products in plastic. Approximately 40% of all plastic produced each year is used for packaging.¹ Virtually none of this material is recycled. In 2021, only 5% of all plastic waste generated by U.S. households was recycled.² This is unlikely to change, even with producer funded recycling systems, because most of this plastic isn't technically or economically capable of being recycled.³

Well-designed EPR for packaging programs can help reduce the amount of unnecessary plastic companies use to package their products and market their products and require them to transition to reusable packaging and more circular materials such as paper, glass, or aluminum that can be recycled effectively at consistently high rates.⁴

I. States Are Increasingly Looking to Perform Comprehensive Needs Assessments Prior to Implementing an EPR for Packaging Program.

While EPR for packaging programs can be an incredibly effective tool to reduce waste and increase recycling, these programs can be extremely complicated and must be tailored to build on the existing waste management systems already in place. As a result, many states are looking

¹ Laura Parker, [Fast Facts About Plastic Pollution](#), National Geographic. (Dec. 20, 2018).

² Greenpeace, [Circular Claims Fall Flat Again](#), p. 3. (Oct. 24, 2022).

³ Peter Blair, [Plastic Recycling is a Lie Designed to Distract Us From Real Solutions](#), Just Zero. (Feb. 8, 2024).

⁴ For instance, [the rules the Maine Department of Environmental Protection has proposed to implement Maine's EPR for Packaging Program](#) include goals that require regulated companies to reduce the amount of single-use packaging they use by 50% by 2050. The rules also require these companies to ensure that 30% of their packaging – measure by weight – is reusable or refillable by 2050%. Additionally, [California's EPR for Packaging Program](#) requires regulated companies to reduce single-use plastic packaging 25% by 2032.

to perform comprehensive needs assessments prior to developing and implementing a EPR for packaging program.

Both Illinois and Maryland took this approach in 2023. Both states began the legislative session considering bills that would establish an EPR fir packaging program. However, as the legislative session progressed, it became clear that more information was needed to understand the current packaging waste management systems already in place. As a result, both states pivoted and passed legislation. As a result, both states instead passed legislation requiring a comprehensive needs assessment to inform the specific details of any future EPR for packaging program.⁵ Those processes are currently ongoing.

I. H.B. 750 Will Set Hawaii Up for Future Success When Pursuing an EPR for Packaging Program.

The framework of H.B. 750 ensures that the needs assessment performed by the Department of Health will not only evaluate all elements necessary to developing a strong, effective EPR for packaging program, but also that the stakeholders that are integral to Hawaii’s existing waste management systems are involved in this process. The needs assessment requires an analysis of the existing amount of waste generated, the composition of the waste stream, how the amount and types of waste vary across different areas of the state, how this material is currently being managed, contamination within the state’s recycling system, and the availability of end markets for recycled materials. This is critically important information that the state is currently lacking. Using this information, the Department of Health, and stakeholders, can determine how to design a program that will benefit Hawaii’s environment and economy.

II. Conclusion

The pollution, public health impacts, and costs associated with unfettered packaging generation and disposal are widespread and significant. Addressing this requires bold policy that is commensurate with the problem we are all facing. H.B. 750 is an important step in the process of developing a comprehensive program that will help Hawaii understand the amount of waste packaging waste currently being generated, how this waste is being managed, and how a well-designed, state specific EPR for packaging program can help reduce waste, increase recycling, save the state and it’s residents money, and create good local jobs. Just Zero strongly urges you to support H.B. 750. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Blair, Esq.
Policy and Advocacy Director
Just Zero

⁵ *Id.*

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 8:00:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors **SUPPORT** saving county taxpayers money and conserving landfill capacity by moving to a more circular waste handling system with less waste generation, more reuse, more refilling, and extended producer responsibility (EPR), where those who produce packaging materials and paper products pay at least a portion of the costs of waste handling.



Testimony on HB 750 HD2

February 20 , 2025

12:00 PM

Room 308

The Climate Change and Health Working Group (CCHWG) is a cross-sector collaborative interested in strengthening climate and health resiliency in Hawai'i. CCHWG supports this measure's goal of conducting an assessment to determine the steps necessary to reduce generation of waste, improve recycling, increase reuse, and create an extended producer responsibility program.

Testimony of the Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Working Group

In Support of HB 750 HD2

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

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

The Climate Change and Health Working Group supports HB 750 HD2.

United by the values of equity, justice, and Aloha, the Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Working Group collaborates across disciplines and communities to strengthen Hawai'i's public health resiliency in response to our changing climate. Using a data-driven approach, our mission is to research and communicate the human health impacts of climate change and to advocate for policy solutions that prioritize our most at-risk community members.

This bill calls upon the Department of Health to conduct a needs assessment to determine the steps needed to reduce waste generation, increase reuse, improve recycling services, and expand local processing of materials through an extended producer responsibility program.

Plastic pollution poses dangerous threats to the environment and human health. Plastic does not decompose, and instead turns into tiny little pieces, called microplastics. These contaminate our food, water, and air. Microplastics can enter the body through ingestion, inhalation, and through skin contact. This poses many [health risks](#), including cancer, infertility, poor fetal development, neurotoxicity, and altered metabolism. In addition, plastic is made from fossil fuels, such as oil and gas. Therefore, their production pollutes large amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These dangerous emissions pollute the environment, contributing to climate change.

People living near waste processing facilities and landfills are disproportionately affected from the pollution in the air, water, and soil. This bill directly speaks to public health concerns and initiates a more sustainable, circular waste economy. It decreases pollution from the lifecycle of plastic at the source. Our landfills are overflowing, toxic, and leaking harmful chemicals into our drinking water and soil. This bill is an investment in the wellbeing and health of our communities and the future generations. It promotes accountability and requires companies to take responsibility for the waste they create, instead of our communities bearing the consequences. As landfill capacity nears its limits across the state, long-term, and sustainable waste practices must be prioritized.

The climate crisis is a health crisis. We urge to support **HB750 HD2**
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

The Climate Change and Health Working Group

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:43:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Recycle Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Recycle Hawaii supports HB750-HD2

What is the purpose of EPR? To get corporations to be responsible for the waste they create? Yes, at one level, but its true purpose is to stop the linear extraction of Earths resources. We can not continue to exploit and pollute this planet without a thought. We need to implement a re-use economy and a reduction of consumer goods. This bill is needed to be sure that businesses understand what needs to be done and to be sure they are in compliance. This is how we end the landfill and incineration crisis. Here's where you begin.

Thank you.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 12:00PM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

RE: HB750 HD2 Relating to the Environment

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports House Bill 750 House Draft 2 (HB750 HD2), which amends the authorized uses of the Deposit Beverage Container Deposit Special Fund. Requires the Department of Health to conduct a statewide needs assessment to determine what will be needed to reduce waste generation, increase reuse, improve recycling collection services, and expand local processing of materials through an extended producer responsibility program for packaging materials and paper products. Establishes an advisory council to review the draft needs assessment and propose recommendations throughout the assessment process. Requires the Department of Health to hold a public hearing on the draft needs assessment and complete and submit the needs assessment to the Legislature by 12/31/2028. Appropriates funds out of the Deposit Beverage Container Deposit Special Fund.

HB750 HD2 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Business Services. This bill promotes policies that drive economic growth, enhance workforce opportunities, and improve the quality of life for Hawaii's residents.

Hawaii's landfills are nearing capacity, with most waste being incinerated or buried—creating pollution, high costs, and environmental hazards. Toxic leachate threatens communities and marine life, while incineration releases harmful pollutants. To mitigate these risks, the state must reduce waste through reuse, refill, composting, and recycling. Extended producer responsibility (EPR) shifts waste management costs from taxpayers to producers, encouraging sustainable product design and improving recycling infrastructure. Adopted in other regions, EPR programs create jobs, enhance waste collection, and promote a circular economy.

This bill expands the use of the deposit beverage container fund for recyclable market development and requires a statewide needs assessment. The Department of Health will evaluate waste management infrastructure, collection systems, processing capabilities, and market conditions for an EPR program. An advisory council of stakeholders will guide implementation, with findings informing legislation to reduce packaging and paper waste. Funded by the deposit beverage container fund, the program aims for full implementation by 2028. The Chamber supports this initiative as it fosters economic growth, reduces government waste management costs, and promotes long-term environmental sustainability.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII



The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

We respectfully ask to pass House Bill 750 House Draft 2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

TO: Committee on Finance
FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 20, 2025
TIME: 12pm

RE: HB750 HD1 Relating to the Environment
Position: Comments

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

HFIA has concerns about redirecting funds from the Deposit Beverage Container program away from enacting the goals of the program and towards evaluation and promotion activities for other programs. Taking funds away from this program could compromise its effectiveness.

HFIA is in support of taking steps to understand how Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation may impact our state, in particular our food system prior to enacting any legislation.

We appreciate amendments that were made to ensure that additional members with subject matter expertise in packaging were added to the advisory Council. We believe that seeking input from subject matter experts in food safety and packaging will help ensure that any recommendations made as a result of the needs assessment do not inadvertently negatively impact food safety, or contradict any Federal or State food packaging regulations.

We also recommend an amendment that would exempt things like prescription medications, medical devices, and supplements. Other states with EPR programs have exempted these items due to the fact that there is a very complex, and highly regulated federal framework for OTC consumer healthcare packaging. This framework has been in place for decades and serves to ensure safety, efficacy, and stability of products for consumers. State action on packaging for these products would likely conflict with federal laws and regulations already in place, and could compromise safety and stability of the products themselves.

We appreciate your consideration for these proposed amendments and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 1:39:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House members,

I strongly support HB750.

Stop the wastes before it gets here! Manufacturing and shipping materials must be returnable for reuse or easily recycled. Or not used at all!

We are drowning in needless waste..

Mahalo for your consideration,

pamela burrell

kalihiwai, Kaua'i



HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 1:56:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This says it all:

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

I strongly support **HB750 HD2**, a needs assessment bill that lays the foundation for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to identifying what is needed to reduce and reuse packaging waste, improve collection systems, and expand local processing.

With landfill capacity reaching critical levels across the state, Hawai‘i must explore long-term, sustainable waste reduction strategies. A statewide needs assessment will provide the data necessary to develop effective policies that shift responsibility to producers and create a more circular economy.

I urge the committee to **pass HB750 HD2** to ensure Hawai‘i has the information needed to implement a successful EPR program for packaging.

Mahalo for your consideration,

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 2:46:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

As the former head the County of Kauai's Recycling program, the solid Waste division for the County Maui, and the Office of Solid Waste management for the Stae of Hawaii, **I strongly support HB750 HD2.**

In addition to my work locally, I am also a long time memembr of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), the National Recycling Coalition, and Zero Waste USA.

HB750 would provide a needs assessment bill that lays the foundation for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to identifying what is needed to reduce and reuse packaging waste, improve collection systems, and expand local processing.

With landfill capacity reaching critical levels across the state, Hawai'i must explore long-term, sustainable waste reduction strategies. A statewide needs assessment will provide the data necessary to develop effective policies that shift responsibility to producers and create a more circular economy.

I urge the committee to **pass HB750 HD2** to ensure Hawai'i has the information needed to implement a successful EPR program for packaging.

Should you have any questions on my credentials or my positioion on this bill, please feel free to contact me at dumpdoctor@gmail.com.

Mahalo for your consideration, John Harder, Kauai

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:31:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Scancella	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support **HB750 HD2**, a needs assessment bill that lays the foundation for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to identifying what is needed to reduce and reuse packaging waste, improve collection systems, and expand local processing.

With landfill capacity reaching critical levels across the state, Hawai‘i must explore long-term, sustainable waste reduction strategies. A statewide needs assessment will provide the data necessary to develop effective policies that shift responsibility to producers and create a more circular economy.

Jim Scancella

Hawi, Big Island

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:03:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Dunphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 750. Our landfills are overwhelmed. We need to reduce any packaging materials that are making this problem worse.

Mahalo,

Margaret Dunphy

Hawi, HI

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:54:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Robison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I live in Hilo and I strongly support **HB750 HD2**, a needs assessment bill that lays the foundation for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to identifying what is needed to reduce and reuse packaging waste, improve collection systems, and expand local processing.

With landfill capacity reaching critical levels across the state, Hawai'i must explore long-term, sustainable waste reduction strategies. A statewide needs assessment will provide the data necessary to develop effective policies that shift responsibility to producers and create a more circular economy.

I urge the committee to **pass HB750 HD2** to ensure Hawai'i has the information needed to implement a successful EPR program for packaging.

Thank you for your service to the people of Hawai'i.

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:07:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I strongly support HB750 HD2, a needs assessment bill that lays the foundation for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to identifying what is needed to reduce and reuse packaging waste, improve collection systems, and expand local processing.

Mahalo,

Monica Stone 

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:45:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene Scancella	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am is strong support of HD750 HD2. We need to act now to help reduce waste on our islands. The landfills are at capacity. This responsibility need to be shifted over to those that profit from their sales of goods on the islands. Some of the packaging is so excessive and totally unnecessary. It is critical we act now for the future of our islands.

I urge the commitee to pass HB750 HD2.

Thank you

Darlene Scancella

Hawi

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:46:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James McCallen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is James McCallen and I am a public health professional in support of HB 750 HD2.

This bill calls upon the Department of Health to conduct a needs assessment to determine the steps needed to reduce waste generation, increase reuse, improve recycling services, and expand local processing of materials through an extended producer responsibility program.

Plastic pollution poses dangerous threats to the environment and human health. Plastic does not decompose, and instead turns into tiny little pieces, called microplastics. These contaminate our food, water, and air. Microplastics can enter the body through ingestion, inhalation, and through skin contact. This poses many [health risks](#), including cancer, infertility, poor fetal development, neurotoxicity, and altered metabolism. In addition, plastic is made from fossil fuels, such as oil and gas. Therefore, their production pollutes large amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These dangerous emissions pollute the environment, contributing to climate change.

People living near waste processing facilities and landfills are disproportionately affected from the pollution in the air, water, and soil. This bill directly speaks to public health concerns and initiates a more sustainable, circular waste economy. It decreases pollution from the lifecycle of plastic at the source. Our landfills are overflowing, toxic, and leaking harmful chemicals into our drinking water and soil. This bill is an investment in the wellbeing and health of our communities and the future generations. It promotes accountability and requires companies to take responsibility for the waste they create, instead of our communities bearing the consequences. As landfill capacity nears its limits across the state, long-term, and sustainable waste practices must be prioritized.

The climate crisis is a health crisis. I urge you to support HB750 HD2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

James McCallen, MPH

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:53:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Werner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good after noon Chair, Vice Chair, and fellow members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for HB750.

My name is Emily Werner. I am a student at University of Hawai'i Manoa, studying Political Science and Sustainability. I am offering my testimony as an individual, and am also a member of the Climate Change and Health Working Group.

This bill calls upon the Department of Health to conduct a needs assessment to determine the steps needed to reduce waste generation, increase reuse, improve recycling services, and expand local processing of materials through an extended producer responsibility program.

Hawai'i is facing a waste management crisis. We must establish future methods of more efficient strategies. This bill helps to do that. An extended producer responsibility program pressures companies to use sustainable packaging material. This generally means using non-plastic materials that can break down or decompose in a way that does not harm the environment. Plastic pollutes the land, ocean, and even our bodies. We must progress towards a plastic free economy.

Plastic pollution poses dangerous threats to the environment and human health. Plastic does not decompose, and instead turns into tiny little pieces, called microplastics. These contaminate our food, water, and air. Microplastics can enter the body through ingestion, inhalation, and through skin contact. This poses many [health risks](#), including cancer, infertility, poor fetal development, neurotoxicity, and altered metabolism. In addition, plastic is made from fossil fuels such as oil and gas. Therefore, their production releases

large amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These dangerous emissions pollute the environment, contributing to climate change and ocean acidification.

People living near waste processing facilities and landfills are disproportionately affected from the pollution in the air, water, and soil. This bill directly speaks to public health concerns and initiates a more sustainable, circular waste economy. It decreases pollution from the lifecycle of plastic at the source. Our landfills are overflowing, toxic, and leaking harmful chemicals into our drinking water and soil. This is a human health crisis happening right before our eyes. This bill is an investment in the wellbeing and health of our communities and the future generations. It promotes accountability and requires companies to take responsibility for the waste they create, instead of our communities bearing the consequences.

I urge the committee to pass this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Werner

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:00:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Kalae Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice chair

Support for H.B. NO.750

Aloha, Senators and Members of the Finance committee,

My name is Anela Dela Cruz, a senior attending Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B. NO.750.

I am testifying specifically to determine what will be needed to reduce waste generation. According to Spectrum News, here on Oahu in 2020, we created 2.1 million tons of waste. Only 249,317 tons is recyclable and only 169,933 more tons is compostable. Not only to mention the fact that overall, only 7-9% of recyclable waste are actually recycled. With this data we see how much waste goes into our land, our aina, and we're running out of space. We need regulations and laws that will move our way of life forward, not stuck in a pile of trash.

Please pass through the H.B. NO.750. It's important because it'll not only reduce trash in our landfills but in our oceans. Trash doesn't only affect the smell or aesthetic of our island but reduces air quality, lead trash around our island and waters harming wildlife. Mahalo for your consideration and opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Anela Dela Cruz

Mililani High School