

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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

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

SENATOR LYNN DECOITE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 18, 2025, 1:01pm and Room Number: 229

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.

1 The Department respectfully requests funding and the establishment of one full-time
2 equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to receive complaints and conduct follow-up inspections of lodging
3 establishments identified as distributing personal care products in small single-use plastic
4 containers in violation of this measure. In addition to conducting inspection and enforcement
5 actions, dispensing citations, and coordinating with the Office of the Attorney General to
6 pursue civil penalties, this position would also be tasked with providing education and outreach
7 to the regulated community.

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

12 **Offered Amendments:** None

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



March 17, 2025

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Legislature
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 348 HD1, Relating Single-Use Plastics
Hearing: Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 1:01 PM CR 229 & Via Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair DeCoite, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee

Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region strongly supports House Bill 348 HD1 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 Marriott, a large pump bottle contains the same amount of product as around 10-12 small single-use toiletry bottles.

Additionally, we estimate that hotels spend about \$0.37 per ounce on shampoo, conditioner, and lotion bottles packaged in small plastic containers compared to \$0.17 per ounce on shampoo, condition, and lotion packaged in bulk.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Hanna Lilley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 9:15:17 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii **SUPPORT** HB348 HD1!

Hotels can **pollute less plastic and save money** by ditching the small bottles. Please pass this bill! Mahalo!

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii *by Ted Bohlen)

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 9:08:46 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A move in the Right direction to reduce our use of single use plastics and fight the climate crisis



AMERICAN HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION



March 17, 2025

LATE

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair,
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Senate Committee on
Economic Development and Tourism

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair,
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Environment

Hearing: Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Time: 1:01 PM

Place: Conference Room 229 &
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

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

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai,
Members of the Senate Committee on Economic
Development and Tourism, Chair Gabbard,
Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

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.

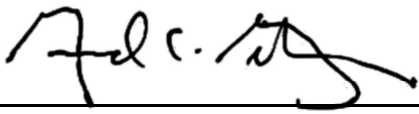
March 17, 2025

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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.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Hawaii Hotel Alliance

By 
Gerard Gibson
President

American Hotel & Lodging Association

By 
Kekoa McClellan for The American Hotel
& Lodging Association
Principal, The McClellan Group

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 2:27:54 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen Hilton	Testifying for Windward Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 17, 2025

RE: House Bill 348

Aloha Chairman,

The Windward Coalition supports HB348 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 HB 348 is a narrowly focused bill that can serve as a template for others down the road. Mahalo for considering our submission

Eileen Hilton

President, Windward Coalition



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229
Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 1:01 P.M.**

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Agriculture and Environment

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: 3/14/2025 3:36:28 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the members of the committee,

I support this legislation to reduce the amont of plastics in our oceans and landfills.

With aloha,

Dave Ball, Waialae-Kahala

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 5:32:04 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's more cost effective to use big bottles and refill them anyway.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 10:39:55 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Cole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee Members,

Please support this bill to eliminate single use plastics by the hotel and tourism industry.

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.

Thank you,

Kaiulani Cole

Haiku, Maui, HI

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 2:07:39 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

This measure would prevent millions of single-use plastic bottles every year from polluting the environment and going into land fills while saving hotels money.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 9:04:32 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to ask that you support HB348 HD1 which reduces the use of single-use plastics in Hawaii hotels.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 5:37:44 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB348.

- 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!

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 10:11:35 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committees 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: 3/17/2025 8:01:30 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

With 10 million visitors to Hawai‘i 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: 3/17/2025 8:45:05 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 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 – caring for the land.

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: 3/17/2025 10:37:18 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a resident of Manoa Valley who has worked in both the hotel industry and environmental non-profit sector. This bill will set an important industry precedent in sustainability and waste reduction while also benefitting the business owners from a cost reduction standpoint. I support.

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 11:09:47 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

With 10 million visitors to Hawai'i 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, James Whelan

HB-348-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 11:21:33 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/18/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Parsons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

YES!