

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 SD1  
RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

April 1, 2025; 9:30 am; Room Number: 016

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.



AMERICAN HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION



March 26, 2025

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair,  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair,  
and Members of the Senate Committee on  
Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair,  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair,  
and Members of the Senate Committee on  
Judiciary

Hearing: Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Committee on Judiciary  
Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025  
Time: 9:30 AM  
Place: Conference Room 016 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of HB 348, HD1, SD1  
Relating to Single-Use Plastics

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Gabbard,  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer  
Protection and of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

Hawaii Hotel Alliance (“HHA”) and American Hotel & Lodging Association (“AHLA”) thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 348, HD1, SD1 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.

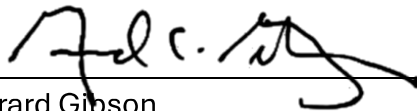
March 26, 2025

Page 2


The lodging industry has moved toward bulk dispenser usage of its personal care products and agrees with the definition of “personal care product” as “shampoo, hair conditioner, or bath soap” as defined in HB 348, HD1, SD1.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Hawaii Hotel Alliance

By   
Gerard Gibson  
President

American Hotel & Lodging Association

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

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 4:45:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**All Versions of this Measure**

**March 28, 2025**

**RE: House Bill 348**

**Aloha Chairman Rhoads, Keohokalole and committee members**

**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.**

**Eileen Hilton**

**President, Windward Coalition**

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 6:22:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 1:13:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I believe the use of single-use plastics should be banned entirely within the state, and I am unsure why the scope of this bill is so limited; however, I support it nonetheless.

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 9:41:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.



**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 3:25:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathalie Champion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB348

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 9:56:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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 amount of plastics in our oceans and landfills.

With aloha, Dave Ball, Waialae-Kahala

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 2:41:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

## Comments:

Aloha Committee Members! So please to see this bill move so far and this would be a HUGE step towards phasing out single use plastics and decreasing overall trash produced on our islands. We have a big enough struggle with trash management across the islands already, and this is just another step to decrease the waste! Mahalo and I hope this passes!!

Alex

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 5:30:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

## Comments:

Please pass this important piece of legislation. It's vital to the health of our oceans, and therefore to the health of all people on the planet, that we continue to take steps to stop the flood of plastics everywhere. In every aspect of our lives, we need to do things in more sustainable, cleaner, healthier ways.

Mahalo

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 5:43:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha. Please pass this bill. We really need to get serious about what kind of planet we are leaving our grandkids and this is an important step in making this a better place for them. Mahalo

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 6:50:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Moran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support Stop plastics!!

Mahalo

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 7:11:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Zelkovsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support for HB348 HDI SDI

We are a popular tourist destination with 10M visitors a year with use of millions of mini bottles. I've been to hotels, athletic clubs that have large dispensers in their showers. One pump of each and shower complete. If a mini bottle is partially used, hotel cleaning tosses them out.

Easy fix to save so much plastic in the landfill.

Robert Zelkovsky

Wailua, Kaua`i, 50 year resident

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 7:17:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Coyote	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom this may concern,

I am very concerned about plastic pollution. Plastic is polluting our ocean, killing the marine animals and creating disease in humans.

- 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 for an estimated savings of \$2,000 per hotel every year, as well as preventing 500 million bottles from being thrown out.

Mahalo for listening,

Tara



**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 7:43:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Silver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 348 pertaining to phasing out small toiletry bottles in lodging establishments in Hawaii. 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. We need to be at the forefront of sustainable travel. We live on an island and for one do not have the facilities to recycle these properly and two they are completely unnecessary as there are many less wasteful alternatives.

California, New York, Washington and Illinois 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.

We need to take responsibility for the care of the land and water in our islands. We are surrounded by water and many of us use the ocean for recreation daily. We need to take care of our beautiful gift so that our future generations can also enjoy this gift.

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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 7:59:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

## Comments:

My husband and I support HB348. Single use plastics offered at hotels is not helping the environment especially in our island state. The change to refillable containers would make a lot of difference and save the hotels money. Let's follow the other smart states who have already done so.

mahalo

Lynn Bowen

Kalaheo Kauai

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 10:13:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this measure because I support regulated tourism, but I want to minimize the negative effects of having an enormous amount to waste from the visitor industry.

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 12:52:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Conley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is too much plastic waste all over the world. Microplastics are in our air, our water, and in our bodies. We must all do our part to eliminate unnecessary plastics. Hotels can switch to dispensers instead of mini bottles- it's easy and sustainable. I'm fully in support of this measure and I hope our representatives do their part to help make this happen. Thank you!

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 1:13:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michell Jacobson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I strongly urge passage of this bill to eliminate the distribution of toiletries in small plastic containers at hotels and resorts in our beautiful islands. These little personal items might seem like thoughtful and convenient provisions for guests, but the environmental costs of their production, transportation to Hawaii, and disposal in landfills are immense and not acceptable. Many hotels have added refillable shampoo and soap containers to their rooms, so there is an easy fix to the problem.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 2:29:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Hixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of CPN/JDC,

I am a professional marine biologist who has witnessed first-hand the devastation wrought by plastic debris in our ocean, much of which is generated here in Hawaii.

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.

I urge you to support HB348.

Mahalo,

Mark Hixon

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 2:31:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise E Antolini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha CPN/JDC,

I write in strong support of this bill.

In many hotels across the US and even globally, small plastic toiletry bottles are a thing of the past - like a dial up phone.

Rapid change - driven by the higher cost of small bottles v. bulk dispensers, consumer preferences - demand, and the ridiculous amount of waste from individual bottled toiletries.

Time to join the future - reduce plastic use, product waste, and save everyone money!

Mahalo,

Denise Antolini

Pūpūkea resident



**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 2:35:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Senate Judiciary Committee members,

As a Honolulu resident and an environmental conservation and educational volunteer, I strongly support passing HB348. Single use plastic bottles, literally litter our coastlines, choke albatrosses and other shore birds, and are consumed by and causing distress to our many native marine animals. Personally, I remove beach and ocean litter most days of the week, either as a volunteer or as a surfer or swimmer. I can confirm that single use plastic hair care and body wash products are high on the list of items found. This non necessary litter is a significant part of the plastic problem that is toxic to our environment, to us, and is also visual blight to our visitors and residents!

Hotels and establishments in four significant tourism states (CA, NY, WA, and IL) have already passed similar laws. They have found that the hotel industry has actually saves money by eliminating these products! Sure seems a no brainer; better for the environment, better for business, better for all of us!

Please pass this bill.

Gwen Young

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 2:36:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB348 that phases out small plastic toiletry bottles at lodging establishments in Hawai‘i.

This bill is a win-win for both the environment and the hotel industry. The Marriot International has already phased out the small plastic toiletry bottles and estimates a cost savings of over \$2K/hotel.

From an environmental viewpoint, the elimination of small plastic bottles from hotels will result in less plastic ending up in our beaches and oceans. These plastic bottles are harmful to marine animals and coastal birds. Additionally the site of plastic bottles washing up on shore and floating along the shore line is incredibly unsightly.

Please vote yes on HB 348

Mahalo,

Greg

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 2:39:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support.

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 4:00:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winston French	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the move away from mini plastic toiletries in hotels in hawai'i.

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 9:20:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 8:35:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

## Comments:

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Commerce Consumer Protection Committee. My wife and I both strongly favor passage of HB348 which would phase out small plastic bottles at lodging establishments in Hawai'i. Similar bills have passed in other States: NY, WA, IL and CA, and Hawai'i 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. This initiative is also supported by the American Hotel and Lodging Association. 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.

**LATE**



March 30, 2025

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 348 HD1 SD1, Relating Single-Use Plastics  
Hearing: Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 9:30 AM CR 016 & Via Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Keohokalole, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee

**Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region strongly supports House Bill 348 HD1 SD1**

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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 5:02:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
petar kovacic	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter, King Kekaulike Environmental Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our state's tourism industry can lead by example, affecting our local coastal ecosystems and the planets health. Hotels will save money and they will have a year or two to phase out their backstock. The world will have **500 million!!** less lil plastic bottles per year!

Its an easy call to support this HB348 HD1 SD1 hotel shampoo/soap single use plastic ban bill, please do!

thank you,

Petar Kovacic



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER  
PROTECTION and JUDICIARY  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 016  
Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
To The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Judiciary

**COMMENTS ON HB348 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like to offer **COMMENTS on HB348 HD1 SD1**, which, beginning 7/1/2026 for lodging establishments with more than fifty sleeping room accommodations, and beginning 1/1/2028 for lodging establishments with fifty or fewer sleeping room accommodations, prohibits the provision of 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 SD1**.

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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 10:47:18 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 3:13:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davie-ann Momilani T	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Davie-ann Momilani Thomas. I firmly support HB348. Our born and raised Hawaiian islands are visited by millions of tourist and those who stay cation in hotels. I know personally growing up on O‘ahu as far back my memory goes as a toddler in late 1970s into 1980s and 1990s, there were only fine sand, sea shells and the "crystalized" sea glass. Now we see MORE plastic particles. Sad. So awesome there are hotels who supports change from plastics to better products safe for our islands environment in case of littering happening.

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 4:15:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
holly heiman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

As a water woman and daily surfer I see the amount of plastic in our ocean and on our beaches. There is no reason for more to be added. It's 2025 and to get with the times and have standard distribution of necessary bath items without including small bottles is of utmost concern. I applaud the hotels who have switched to on the shower wall units. Please make it happen everywhere in Hawai'i. Thank you!!

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 6:11:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Senate Judiciary Committee,

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.

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.

Please support HB348 for a cleaner, healthier future for Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

April Blades

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 6:40:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am 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 regularly enjoys our beaches, I have personally witnessed the growing problem of plastic pollution along our shorelines. Each time I visit some of our most iconic spots, whether in town, on the East Side, or North Shore, I see and find plastic on our local beaches. This firsthand experience has made me increasingly aware of the need to reduce plastic waste on our island home.

With nearly 10 million visitors in 2024, our tourism industry significantly contributes to Hawai‘i's plastic waste problem. Every small shampoo or lotion bottle discarded represents another piece of plastic that may end up in our reef systems, where I've seen plastic fragments entangled in coral while snorkeling. These can also wash up on the beaches where families gather for recreation, cultural practices, and community events. For me, this issue connects deeply to the value of mālama ‘āina. There is a delicate balance between human use and environmental stewardship, and it's our kuleana to care for the land that sustains us by making sustainable choices today. When I think about what kind of island I want to leave for future generations, it certainly isn't one where our beaches and reefs are choked with plastic waste.

Despite my concern about the impact of tourism-related plastic, I've been encouraged to see states like California, New York, Washington, and Illinois pass similar legislation. It's time for Hawai‘i to join these states in setting an industry standard that reflects our stated commitment to environmental protection. As a local resident who has seen our natural environment change over the years due to increased development and tourism, I believe we must take meaningful action now. The economic argument is also compelling. Major hotel chains like Marriott International have shown that eliminating mini bottles saves approximately \$2,000 per hotel annually while preventing hundreds of thousands of plastic bottles from entering our waste stream. This makes HB348 not just environmentally sound but financially prudent for our visitor industry.

I urge you to pass HB348 and take this meaningful step toward reducing plastic waste on our islands. This bill represents a small but significant action that honors both our cultural values and our environmental needs. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.





**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 9:26:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meira Leonard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Over 12 years ago, I managed a retreat center in Colorado, and we made the simple yet impactful decision to replace traditional single-use toiletries with dispensers for shampoo, conditioner, and other essentials. This change wasn't expensive or difficult to implement, and it had significant benefits: it not only reduced waste but also saved us money every year. There's no reason hotels can't do the same. We must do better.

Swimming in Hanauma Bay, surrounded by plastic waste, is horrifying and disgusting. It's a stark reminder of the urgent need for change. It's time for all of us to take responsibility and make choices that help protect our planet.

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 10:57:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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 beginning 7/1/2026 for lodging establishments with more than fifty sleeping room accommodations, and beginning 1/1/2028 for lodging establishments with fifty or fewer sleeping room accommodations, prohibits the provision of 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, and 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 thrown away here, and reduce the demand for a new landfill, the 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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 8:18:25 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB348 and look forward to the decreased of single-use plastics in Hawaii.

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 7:03:18 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Charlotte Frank and I am writing to express my **strong support** for this important bill (HB348) aimed at reducing plastic waste in Hawai‘i’s tourism industry. With nearly 10 million visitors who visited our islands in 2024, the tourism industry plays a significant role in the growing issue of plastic pollution in Hawai‘i. It is estimated that millions of single-use plastic bottles are used by tourists every year, and far too many of these bottles end up in landfills or polluting our beautiful environment.

This measure is a vital step in addressing the impact of tourism on our natural resources. By reducing single-use plastic bottles, we will not only prevent millions of these bottles from entering our waste streams, but we will also promote sustainable practices across the tourism sector. States such as California, New York, Washington, and Illinois have already passed similar bills, setting an industry standard that Hawai‘i must follow to remain a leader in environmental stewardship.

Beyond its environmental benefits, this measure offers economic savings for businesses in the tourism industry. For example, Marriott International has already begun phasing out mini plastic bottles across its hotels. This shift has resulted in an estimated savings of \$2,000 per hotel each year, while also preventing the disposal of 500 million plastic bottles. These are real savings that can be reinvested into other sustainable practices or used to further improve the guest experience.

This bill represents an opportunity for Hawai‘i to continue to lead by example in the fight against plastic pollution, protect our environment, and support businesses in adopting more cost-effective and sustainable practices. I urge you to pass this measure and set a strong, necessary standard for sustainability in Hawai‘i’s tourism industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Charlotte Frank

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 10:11:17 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Penn Newhard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Plastics are a major threat to our oceans. For both locals and visitors we need to limit ongoing plastic consumption and pollution.

- 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 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.

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 10:55:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
arleen velasco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Single use plastics are polluting our planet at an alarming rate. The tourist industry here in Hawaii uses a huge amount of single use plastic containers that end up in our landfill, getting burned and releasing toxic chemicals into the air we breathe. Please help phasing out single use plastic here in Hawaii. Support this bill.

**LATE****LATE****HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 11:24:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mike massey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Here in Kauai, the landfill will definitely benefit from less small bottles in every hotel room. we don't really have any room left in there anyways, so this non necessity would be great to eliminate. Use refillable tanks in each shower instead . The people who come and go don't realize the impact of the small items but it really adds up to Alot of waste in our oceans too thank you , Mike Massey

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 11:50:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor McKenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There was nearly 10 mil visitors who visited our shores in 2024, creating a substantial amount of single use plastics that will go on to harm the environment long after our time. Other states have passed similar bills and I urge you to help Hawai'i join the likes of CA, NY and WA. please vote in support of this legislation!



**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:17:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JODI ARNOLD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge the legislature to pass HB348 HD1 and SD1. Plastics in Hawaii are a serious, unending issue and I am hopeful we can slowly but surely reduce the unnecessary plastic in our environment and in our bodies themselves. I see this plastic strewn along each beach no matter how much clean up occurs. The smaller particles are almost impossible to remove.

Sincerely

Jodi Arnold

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:31:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily N	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect the 'aina and our communities from unnecessary, expensive, and preventable waste.

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:41:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Franzone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please save our oceans.

**LATE****LATE****HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:44:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Graham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to express my strong support for HB348, which seeks to ban single-use plastics at hotels in Hawaii. Given our state's unique and fragile environment, reducing plastic waste is essential to protecting our marine life, preserving our natural beauty, and maintaining a sustainable tourism industry.

Single-use plastics are among the most common pollutants in our oceans and beaches, posing significant threats to wildlife and ecosystems. By eliminating them in hotels, a major source of plastic waste, Hawaii can lead by example in reducing pollution and promoting responsible tourism. This legislation is a crucial step toward a cleaner, healthier future for both residents and visitors alike.

I urge you to pass HB348 and take bold action to safeguard Hawaii's environment for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Tyler Graham

**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 6:58:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pat matsueda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this bill.

Having recently traveled for conferences in Washington, D.C., and Portland, I can verify that I was given bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and soap for my personal use by the hotels I stayed at. I feel that these are a terrible waste of money and a source of trash that clogs our landfills with toxic plastics. I heartily endorse prohibiting hotels from providing them in rooms.

<b>LATE</b>	<b>LATE</b>
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**HB-348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 12:53:25 AM  
Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this one, simple way to help reduce the amount of waste we produce,