

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB0348
RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS.**

REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN K. TAM, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

Hearing Date: January 28, 2025

Room Number: 423

Fiscal Implications: The Department of Health ("Department") requests that this measure be considered as a vehicle to provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the priorities and requests outlined in the Governors executive budget request.

Department Testimony: The Environmental Management Division, Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch (EMD-SHWB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department. This measure prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small single-use plastic containers to guests and visitors and establishes civil penalties for violations as identified by a Department inspection.

The Department supports measures to reduce the amount of waste generated in the state as it reduces the amount of waste that may require landfill disposal. However, the Department currently doesn't have the staff or funding necessary to properly implement the inspection and enforcement component of this measure.

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

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

4 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

January 26, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB348: Relating to Personal Care Items

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

My name is Melodie Aduja, and I am testifying on behalf of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii in strong support of HB348, which aims to reduce plastic waste from personal care products in lodging establishments. This bill 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.

Key Points of Support:

1. **Environmental Impact:** HB348 will significantly reduce the amount of plastic waste generated by lodging establishments. By eliminating small plastic containers, we can prevent these items from ending up in landfills and oceans, protecting Hawaii's unique ecosystems and marine life.
2. **Sustainability:** This bill promotes the use of sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics, such as refillable dispensers and biodegradable packaging. These alternatives are not only better for the environment but also align with Hawaii's commitment to sustainability and reducing our carbon footprint.
3. **Public Health:** Reducing plastic waste also has positive implications for public health. Plastics can leach harmful chemicals into the environment, which can contaminate water sources and food chains. By minimizing plastic use, we can help protect the health and well-being of our residents and visitors.
4. **Leadership and Innovation:** HB348 positions Hawaii as a leader in environmental stewardship and innovation. By adopting forward-thinking policies, we can set an example for other states and countries to follow, demonstrating our commitment to a cleaner, greener future.

In conclusion, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports HB348 and urges the committee to pass this important legislation. By reducing plastic waste from personal care products in lodging establishments, we can ensure a healthier and more sustainable future for Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this critical bill.

Sincerely,

Melodie Aduja

Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



*Testimony of
Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association*

*Committee on Tourism
Tuesday, January 28, 2025*

HB 348 – Relating to Lodging Establishments and the Reduction of Single-Use Plastics

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Templo, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's oldest and largest private sector tourism organization, representing 700 members, nearly 50,000 hotel rooms, and 40,000 lodging workers, we appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 348, which seeks to prohibit lodging establishments from providing small plastic containers for personal care products in guest accommodations.

We support the intent of this measure, as our industry has long been committed to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and reducing waste. Many of our lodging members have already implemented this standard voluntarily, including major global brands such as Marriott and Hilton Hotels, which have phased out small plastic amenity bottles in favor of more sustainable alternatives.

The hospitality industry recognizes the importance of reducing plastic waste and is actively moving in this direction without the need for government intervention. Instead of requiring compliance through legislation, we believe the focus should be on encouraging hotels to take these steps voluntarily, rather than imposing broad regulatory requirements that dictate how businesses operate.

We appreciate the Legislature's desire to promote sustainability and support efforts that incentivize and recognize voluntary industry-led initiatives. Hawai'i's visitor industry has always been at the forefront of environmental responsibility, and we believe that through continued engagement, education, and industry leadership, we can achieve meaningful progress without government mandates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

STARN • O'TOOLE • MARCUS & FISHER

A LAW CORPORATION

January 27, 2025

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Chair,
Representative Shirley Ann Templo, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Tourism
State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 402
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing: Committee on Tourism
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Via Videoconference
Conference Room 423
State Capitol
415 South Beretania

Testimony Regarding House Bill 348 Relating to Single-Use Plastics

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Templo
and Members of the Committee on Tourism:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding House Bill 348 ("HB 348") 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 has moved toward bulk dispenser usage of its personal care products. Accordingly, the lodging industry would prefer a definition of "personal care product" which is not susceptible to an overly broad interpretation. Although in HB 348 "personal care product" has the same meaning as Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 321-30.5,¹ the preferred definition of "personal care product" is one similar to the definition of "personal care product" in SB 670. We respectfully suggest a definition as follows:

"Personal care product" means shampoo, hair conditioner, bath soap or lotion.

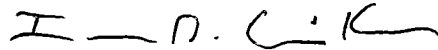
¹"Personal care product" means an article intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body or any part thereof for cleansing; beautifying; promoting hygiene or attractiveness; or altering one's appearance; and any article intended for use as a component of the article. "Personal care product" does not include any prescription drug.

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Chair,
Representative Shirley Ann Templo, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Tourism
January 27, 2025
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We believe the above definition is more succinct and tracks with what other states set as industry precedent.

Thank you for considering our testimony and request.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ivan M. Lui-Kwan". The signature is stylized with a large "I", a horizontal line, and a "K" that has a small dot above it.

Ivan M. Lui-Kwan

HB-348

Submitted on: 1/23/2025 4:40:09 PM

Testimony for TOU on 1/28/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

HB-348

Submitted on: 1/23/2025 9:47:29 PM

Testimony for TOU on 1/28/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Single-use plastics are a hazard to the health of our environment and to our public health. The less we use, the better.

HB-348

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 8:01:06 AM

Testimony for TOU on 1/28/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill seems very unfair to the Hotel Industry.

Why? A lot of products that we, as consumers, purchase in our supermarket and retail stores are packaged in plastic.

Literally everything we use in are daily lives are made from fossil fuels.