



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0750 HD2
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 12, 2025, 1:00pm Room Number: 225

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.

1 The Department respectfully requests that a \$3 million appropriation be made to
2 perform this work. Current estimates are about \$2 million to conduct a statewide composition
3 study, and about \$1 million for program development and facilitation services. Given that the
4 report is due December 2028, we ask that the funds be made available for fiscal year 2025-2026
5 through fiscal year 2028-2029.

6 We acknowledge that the current measure is proposing to fund this project from the
7 Deposit Beverage Container (DBC) Deposit Special Fund. However, we do note that the DBC
8 Program plans to conduct a segregated rate study this year to be followed by a handling rate
9 study, and that both have the possibility of increasing program expenditures related to higher
10 redemption rates and handling fees. We further note that should the DBC Program costs
11 conflict with the needs assessment, the Department may need supplemental funding for its
12 operational costs.

13 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully suggests the following revisions to
14 SECTION 4 of the proposed measure (page 12, lines 3-15). Additions appear as underlined and
15 deletion appears as bracketed strikeout.

16 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of the Constitution of the State of
17 Hawaii and sections 37-91 and 37 93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
18 that the appropriations contained in this Act may cause the state deposit beverage container
19 deposit special fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal years 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and
20 2028-2029 to be exceeded by \$3,000,000 or 4.2 per cent. The reasons for exceeding the deposit
21 beverage container deposit special fund expenditure ceiling are that the appropriations made
22 in this Act are necessary to serve the public interest and to meet the needs provided for by this
23 Act.

24 There is appropriated out of the deposit beverage container deposit special fund the
25 sum of \$3,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for the

1 department of health to conduct a statewide needs assessment, pursuant to section 3 of this
2 Act, to inform the future establishment of an extended producer responsibility program;
3 provided that:

4 (1) The moneys shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the
5 appropriation is made; and

6 (2) All moneys from the appropriation unencumbered shall lapse as of the close of
7 business on June 30, 202~~7~~9, to the credit of the deposit beverage container
8 deposit special fund.

9 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**

Co-Chairs:
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Director, OPSD

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Director, DOT
Director, DOH
Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawaii DP
Director, Kauai 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 Senate Committees on
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference**

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

House Bill 750 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 ambitions, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient.

Most, if not all ~~of~~ the plastic waste on Oahu is diverted to H-Power instead of a landfill. The Neighbor Islands do not have waste-to-energy facilities so plastic waste is disposed of in landfills. That 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.

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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 7, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 735, HD 2, RELATING TO WASTEWATER
AND
HB 750, HD 2, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 735, HD 2, Relating to Wastewater and HB 750, HD 2, Relating to the Environment. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 735, HD 2 and HB 750, HD 2, which would greatly affect the Kaua'i community.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 735, HD 2 and 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, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:dmc



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 |
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info@hawaiiifood.com

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

TO: Committee on Health and Human Services and Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 12, 2025

TIME: 1pm

RE: HB750 HD2 Relating to the Environment

Position: Comments with Amendments

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.

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.

We believe that seeking input from subject matter experts in food safety and packaging will help ensure that any recommendations resulting from this needs assessment do not inadvertently negatively impact food safety, violate federal regulations, or increase food prices that are already the highest in the nation due to sky high shipping, electric, labor, rent, and taxes.

The definition of advisory council member (7) in the bill combines entities that are not retailers in the retailer definition, we propose to fix this by giving each entity named a place on the advisory council.



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

Suggested amendments in bold and underlined:

(d) The department of health shall convene an advisory council to

review the draft needs assessment and propose recommendations

throughout the assessment process. The advisory council shall

include:

- (1) One representative from each county department responsible for waste management;
- (2) One representative from a national producer or producer trade association;
- (3) One representative from a Hawaii-based producer or producer association;
- (4) Two representatives who are experts or operators of reuse, refill, or circular economy systems;
- (5) One representative from a Hawaii-based refuse service provider;
- (6) One representative from a Hawaii-based recycling collection and processing service provider;
- (7) One representative from a Hawaii-based retailer.**
- (8) One representative from a Hawaii-based restaurant**
- (9) One representative from a Hawaii-based wholesaler**
- (10) One representative from a Hawaii-based distributor or food products**

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

Testimony
on
Hawai'i House Bill 750
in the
House Health and Human Services Committee
and the
House Agriculture and Environment Committee

March 12, 2025

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Aquino and Richards, and Members of the Hawai'i House Committees on Agriculture and the Environment and Health and Human Services,

The Flexible Packaging Association (FPA) **appreciates the positive changes that have been made to the Hawai'i needs assessment effort, introduced this session as HB 750**, which would direct the Hawai'i Department of Health to conduct a statewide needs assessment for the recycling of packaging products.

I. Background on FPA and Flexible Packaging

FPA represents flexible packaging manufacturers and suppliers to the industry in the U.S. Flexible packaging represents \$42.9 billion in annual sales; is the second largest, and fastest-growing segment of the packaging industry; and employs approximately 85,000 workers in the United States. Flexible packaging is produced from paper, plastic, film, aluminum foil, or any combination of these materials, and includes bags, pouches, labels, liners, wraps, rollstock, and other flexible products.

These are products that you and I use every day—including hermetically sealed food and beverage products such as cereal, bread, frozen meals, infant formula, and juice, as well as sterile health and beauty items and pharmaceuticals, such as aspirin, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, and disinfecting wipes. Even packaging for pet food uses flexible packaging to deliver fresh and healthy meals to a variety of animals. Flexible packaging is also used for medical device packaging to ensure that the products packaged, like diagnostic tests, IV solutions and sets, syringes, catheters, intubation tubes, isolation gowns, and other personal protective equipment maintain their sterility and efficacy at the time of use. Trash and medical waste receptacles use can liners to manage business, institutional, medical, and household waste. Carry-out and take-out food containers and e-commerce delivery, which became increasingly important during the pandemic, are also heavily supported by the flexible packaging industry.

Thus, FPA and its members are particularly interested in solving the plastic waste issue and increasing the recycling of solid waste from packaging. FPA commends Representative Lowen for her hard work on this data-driven approach to packaging extended producer responsibility (EPR).

Flexible packaging is in a unique situation as one of the most environmentally sustainable packaging types from the standpoint of water and energy consumption, product-to-package ratio, transportation efficiency, food waste, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction standpoint. But circularity options are limited. There is no single solution that can be applied to all communities when it comes to the best way to collect, sort, and process flexible packaging at its end of life. Viability is influenced by existing equipment and infrastructure; material collection methods and rates; volume and mix; and demand for the recovered material. Single-material flexible packaging, which is approximately half of the flexible packaging waste generated, can be mechanically recycled through store drop-off programs, however, end markets are scarce. The other half can be used to generate new feedstock, through pyrolysis and gasification.

Developing end-of-life solutions for flexible packaging is a work in progress, and FPA is partnering with manufacturers, recyclers, retailers, waste management companies, brand owners, and other organizations to continue making strides toward total packaging recovery. Some examples include The Recycling Partnership (TRP); the Materials Recovery for the Future (MRFF) project; the Hefty® ReNew® Program; and Consortium for Waste Circularity; and the Flexible Film Recycling Alliance (FFRA). All these programs seek to increase the collection and recycling of flexible packaging. Also, increasing the recycled content of new products, including packaging, will not only create markets for the products, but will also serve as a policy driver for the creation of a new collection, sortation, and processing infrastructure for the valuable materials that make up flexible packaging.

It is FPA's position that a suite of options is needed to address the lack of infrastructure for non-readily recyclable packaging materials, and promotion and support of market development for recycled products is an important lever to build that infrastructure. FPA also supports well-crafted packaging EPR that can be used to promote this needed shift in recycling in the U.S. In fact, FPA worked with the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) and jointly drafted a set of principles to guide EPR for flexible packaging (<https://www.flexpack.org/end-of-packaging-life>). The dialogue looked at the problems and opportunities for EPR to address the needs of the flexible packaging industry to reach full circularity.

It is with this background that FPA provides this testimony to inform the needs assessment approach included in HB750.

II. FPA Appreciates the Change to the Codified Definition of Producer

Last session, FPA urged the bill's authors to strike or amend the definition of producer. Following other packaging EPR programs throughout the country and internationally, for the EPR program to work the definition of the producer should be the owner of the item that uses packaging to protect, contain, transport, or serve the item and not the manufacturer of the packaging itself.

The primary responsibility for fee collection, remittance, and reporting under any packaging EPR program must be on the consumer packaged good (CPG) companies, which encompasses food manufacturers and retailers in their role as brand owners. They, and not the manufacturers of the packaging (converters), have the ability to track consumer sales in a given jurisdiction and control how products are packaged. FPA greatly appreciates the earlier prescriptive language not being included in HB 750.

III. Antitrust Protections for PRO

HB750 directs the Hawai'i Department of Health to consult with existing producer responsibility organizations (PROs) but provides no method or antitrust exemptions for creating any PRO. U.S. law prohibits competitors from gathering to discuss price, costs, market shares, sales, and market allocation – some of which must be examined to form a PRO. The first step to establishing a PRO is to provide an exemption so competitors can focus on the formation, fee schedule and cost allocations for a program. If this exemption is not provided, the program incurs the unnecessary risk of being sued on antitrust grounds by any party that disagrees with the goals and objectives of the program before it gets implemented. FPA suggests that any legislation resulting from this needs assessment include the antitrust exemption for the PRO used in existing EPR laws around the nation. Suitable language can be found in Minnesota's Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act at 115A.1458.

IV. A Note on Alternative Collection

Flexible packaging is primarily collected at store drop-off locations throughout the State of Hawai'i due to the general lack of curbside recycling for flexible packaging, including through initiatives like the Hefty ReNew program. Also, FPA is a founding member of the Flexible Film Recycling Alliance (FFRA), which hosts a store drop-off locator for flexibles that include several locations in Hawai'i. Should HB 750 be enacted, FPA stands ready to assist the Department of Health by providing data on existing collection infrastructure.

V. Conclusion and Next Steps

FPA offers these comments to inform the needs assessment outlined in HB 750. We look forward to working with you to provide the necessary investment in new infrastructure and markets for all packaging, including flexible packaging. In advance, thank you for your consideration. If we can provide further information or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (443) 534-3771 or jrichard@flexpack.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Richard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John J. Richard
Director, Government Affairs
Flexible Packaging Association



Wednesday, March 12, 2025

1:00pm

Room 225

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 developing and publishing a Hawaii climate adaptation and resilience implementation plan.

In Support of HB 750 HB2

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

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

The Climate Change and Health Working Group **supports HB750 HB2.**

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 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.

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

Sincerely,

The Climate Change and Health Working Group



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
MARCH 12, 2025
HB 750 HD2 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT**

Aloha, Chair San Buenaventura and Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services and the Senate Committee on Agriculture & the Environment. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We support the intent of HB 750 HD2. This measure 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; and is effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

We recognize the importance of reducing waste generation, increasing reuse, improving recycling collection services, and expanding local processing. Conducting a comprehensive needs assessment is a valuable step in identifying the necessary resources and strategies to enhance Hawaii's sustainability efforts. Additionally, the establishment of an advisory council and the opportunity for public input will help ensure that the assessment reflects the needs and concerns of businesses, consumers, and stakeholders across the state.

However, we have concerns regarding the decision to use funds from the Deposit Beverage Container Deposit Special Fund for this initiative. The beverage container deposit system was designed to ensure the effective collection and recycling of specific containers, and expanding its use to fund broader waste management initiatives may divert resources away from its intended purpose.

Additionally, we want to point out that retailers, restaurants, manufacturers, and distributors each have unique operations and a direct stake in waste management and recycling efforts. We strongly urge that representatives from each of these industries be included in the advisory council. Our collective expertise and operational insights can help ensure that the assessment needs produce practical and effective recommendations.

We respectfully request to find an alternative funding structure and strongly recommend the inclusion of all industry stakeholders in the advisory council. These adjustments will ensure that the assessment is both comprehensive and equitable, without placing undue financial strain on businesses participating in the deposit program.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



3610 Waiialae Ave • Honolulu, HI 96816



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tyamaki@rmhawaii.org



To: The Honorable Senators Joy San Buenaventura and Mike Gabbard, Chairs, the Honorable Senators Henry Aquino and Tim Richards, III, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees on Health and Human Services and Agriculture and Environment.

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing HB750 HD2 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Aquino and Richards, and Members of the Committees on Health and Human Services and Agriculture and Environment!

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawai'i's coral reefs and ocean. The mission of the Climate Protectors Hawai'i is to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i back to a safe and stable climate.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORT HB750 HD2!

Landfill space in Hawai'i is precious! Waste handling costs are a financial burden on county taxpayers!

We must **move 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. Moving to more reuse would reduce harms to public health and the environment (such as from plastics, microplastics, and greenhouse gases) and **SAVE COUNTY TAXPAYERS MONEY!**

This bill would take a first step in the transition process by using deposit beverage special funding for DOH to conduct (or contract to conduct) an assessment of what will be needed to reduce waste generation, increase reuse, and expand local processing through EPR (“needs assessment”).

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Hawai‘i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai‘i (by Ted Bohlen)



1919 S. Eads St.
Arlington, VA 22202
703-907-7600
CTA.tech

March 11, 2025

Senate Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services

Senate Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

LATE

Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Comments regarding H.B. 750, H.D.2; Relating to the Environment

Dear Chairperson San Buenaventura, Chairperson Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The Consumer Technology Association (CTA)¹, **provides comments** regarding HB 750 H.D.2. The bill seeks to 1) amend the authorized uses of the Deposit Beverage Container Deposit Special Fund, 2) require 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, 3) expand local processing of materials through an extended producer responsibility program for packaging materials and paper products, 4) establish an advisory council to review the draft needs assessment and propose recommendations throughout the assessment process, and 5) appropriate funds.

CTA is neutral regarding this measure, and generally supports a robust needs assessment as the first critical step to understanding how EPR for packaging could be implemented in Hawaii. We encourage a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process in developing these policies to achieve a successful program. CTA cautions against the development of standardized performance goals across all product categories. CTA approaches the packaging conversation from the unique perspective that accompanies complex durable goods. Packaging design flexibility for producers to

¹ CTA is the trade association representing the U.S. consumer technology industry – including manufacturers of televisions and computer equipment who pay for the electronics recycling program which is the subject of this legislation. CTA also represent retailers of these and other consumer technology products.

March 12, 2025

achieve desired environmental outcomes – including the reduction of damage to products during transport, which is critical for the consumer technology industry - should be encouraged.

In addition, CTA encourages the Committees to consider adding the contents of S.B. 1298, S.D.2 as a Part II to this bill, as it addresses another aspect of recycling dealing with electronics waste. The provisions in S.B.1298, S.D.2 offer a win-win solution that should result in increased e-waste recycling throughout Hawaii, while providing an alternative to the escalating weight targets that are a concern for CTA members. Starting this year, manufacturers are required to collect and recycle 70% of the weight of new products they sell in Hawaii. Simply put, there are not enough scrap electronics for every manufacturer to collect/recycle 70% of pounds sold in the State due to, amongst other factors, the lightening of newer electronic devices.

Currently there are only 11 ongoing “no-charge” drop off locations across the State according to the Department of Health’s program website. S.B. 1298, S.D.2 provides an alternative for companies who cannot reach the 70% weight target to instead arrange for at least 25 no-charge collection sites around the State. Under this bill, every zip code with at least 25,000 residents would have a free collection site including the Island of Molokai. Additionally, there will be a minimum of four collection events outside Kona and Hilo on Hawaii Island. Importantly, these locations will be paid for by manufacturers, not by taxpayers. The result of this bill, if enacted, will significantly expand the collection opportunities currently available under the program.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and provide our comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at kreilly@cta.tech.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Reilly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katie Reilly

Vice President, Environmental Affairs and Industry Sustainability

kreilly@cta.tech

(571) 684-1895



Andy Huang, Chairman – L&L Hawaiian Barbecue **Ave Kwok, Past Chair** – Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant
Mike Palmer, Incoming Chair – Ho'okipa Partners **Tambara Garrick, Treasurer** – Hawaii Farm Project
Victor Lim, Government Relations Lead – McDonald's | **Mail: 2909 Wai'alea Avenue #22, Honolulu, HI 96826**

Sheryl Matsuoka, President & CEO **Ginny Wright**, Operations Associate **Holly Kessler**, Vice President of Operations

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Date: March 10, 2025

To: Sen. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Sen. Henry J.C. Aquino Vice Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services

Sen. Mike Gabbart, Chair
Sen. Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Lead

Subj: HB 750, HD2 Relating to Environment

The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing 4,000 Eating Places support the intent of HB 750, HD2 Relating to DOH; Deposit Beverage Container Deposit Special Fund; Packaging waste; Needs Assessment; Advisory Council; Extended Producer Responsibility Program; And Appropriation, with the following concerns.

Taking funds away from the Deposit Beverage Container Program would compromise the intent of the funds to manage that specific program as was established originally.

Regarding the Department of Health's Advisory Council on the makeup, item 7 states that one person represents a Hawaii-based retailer, including restaurants, wholesalers or distributors. Retailing, Restaurants, and Wholesalers/Distributors should have their own representative on the advisory committee because they each bring unique challenges.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to share our concerns.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 8, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB750, HD2 – Relating to the Environment

To: Chairs Joy A. San Buenaventura and Mike Gabbard; Vice Chairs Henry J.C. Aquino and Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III; and Members of the Committees on Health and Human Services and Agriculture and Environment

From: The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Date: March 12, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Re: HB750, HD2 – Relating to the Environment

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Aquino and Richards, and Members of the Committees,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports HB750, HD2, which amends the authorized uses of the Deposit Beverage Container Deposit Special Fund and tasks the Department of Health with conducting a comprehensive statewide needs assessment. This bill takes an important step toward reducing waste generation, promoting reuse, improving recycling collection services, and expanding local materials processing through an extended producer responsibility program.

Key Points in Support:

1. **Comprehensive Waste Reduction Strategy:** By requiring a statewide needs assessment, HB750, HD2 provides a critical framework for identifying actionable solutions to reduce waste and improve recycling infrastructure. This proactive approach is vital for advancing Hawaii's sustainability goals.
2. **Promoting Local Recycling and Reuse:** Expanding local materials processing and fostering reuse not only minimize environmental impacts but also create local economic opportunities. These initiatives support Hawaii's transition to a more circular economy.
3. **Extended Producer Responsibility Program:** The establishment of an extended producer responsibility program ensures that manufacturers share responsibility for the end-of-life management of their packaging materials and paper products. This approach incentivizes sustainable design and reduces the burden on consumers and municipalities.
4. **Inclusive and Transparent Process:** The creation of an advisory council and public hearing requirements ensures that diverse stakeholders have a voice in the assessment

process. This inclusive approach strengthens community engagement and fosters collaborative solutions.

5. **Appropriation of Funds:** Allocating funds from the Deposit Beverage Container Deposit Special Fund underscores the Legislature's commitment to implementing meaningful waste reduction and recycling initiatives.

We commend the Legislature for addressing Hawaii's waste management challenges through this forward-thinking and impactful measure. We respectfully urge the Committees to pass HB750, HD2, to enhance environmental stewardship, protect Hawaii's natural resources, and promote sustainable waste management practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick
Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



March 10, 2025

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT OF HB 750 HD2

Hrg: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 1pm

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health.

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 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.

The Climate crisis is a health crisis. I urge you pass HB 750.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Kessler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly Kessler
Executive Director

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 3:46:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Ruta Jordans | Testifying for Zero Waste Kauai | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Zero Waste Kauai has been working with the Kauai County Council and Mayor since 2008 in an effort to divert materials from the landfill to extend the life of the landfill. Even with a diversion rate of 43%, the county now has a solid waste crisis. More needs to be done, and this bill holds the key. We need to identify which producers using packaging and paper can help us keep their material out of our landfill. Please vote in favor of bill HB750.



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

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

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 1:00PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

RE: HB750 HD2 Relating to the Environment

Aloha e Chairs San Buenaventura, Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

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.

There is an urgent need to reform Hawaii's waste management practices to avert environmental harm and escalating landfill overflows. The legislature finds that current methods—primarily landfilling and incineration—impose high costs on taxpayers, generate toxic pollutants like leachate and ash, and contribute to severe environmental degradation. To address these challenges, the bill promotes alternative strategies such as reuse, refill, composting, and recycling, and emphasizes the benefits of extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs. By shifting the lifecycle management of products from consumers and government to producers, EPR incentivizes sustainable product design and stimulates local job creation, while targeting significant waste streams like packaging materials.

In response to these findings, the bill reallocates funds from the deposit beverage container deposit special fund and mandates that the Department of Health conduct a comprehensive statewide needs assessment. This assessment will evaluate current waste and recycling infrastructure, determine necessary resources for enhancing local processing capabilities, and guide the development of an EPR program for packaging and paper products. The initiative is designed to reduce waste generation, support a circular economy, and ease the financial burden on local governments. The Chamber supports this initiative because it not only promises



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII



substantial environmental benefits and public health safeguards but also spurs economic growth and job creation in 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 wea

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

**AMERIPEN
American Institute for Packaging and the Environment**

**Comments on
Hawaii House Bill 750
Packaging Waste—Needs Assessment**

**Senate Committees on Health and Human Services and
Agriculture and Environment
March 12, 2025**

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee.

AMERIPEN – the American Institute for Packaging and the Environment – appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 750 (Lowen) that seeks to establish a packaging waste needs assessment. AMERIPEN has developed principles to aid packaging recovery and recycling systems and we support the goals of diverting packaging waste from landfills. We appreciate all the hard work that has gone into HB 750 in its current form and the inclusion of many of the AMERIPEN suggestions from 2024.

AMERIPEN is a trade association dedicated to improving packaging and the environment. We are the only material-inclusive packaging industry trade association in the United States representing the entire packaging supply chain. This includes materials suppliers, packaging manufacturers, consumer packaged goods companies, and end-of-life materials managers. Our membership also includes a robust array of industry, material, and product-specific trade associations who are essential to the AMERIPEN fabric. We focus on science and data to support our public policy positions, and our advocacy and policy engagement is based on rigorous research rooted in our commitment to achieve sustainable packaging policies. The packaging industry supports more than 2,500 jobs and accounts for more than \$728 million in total economic output in Hawaii.

Packaging plays a vital role in Hawaii, ensuring the quality of consumer goods as they are manufactured, shipped, stored, and consumed. Packaging has value and none of it belongs in landfills, roadsides or waterways. We need to recover it to be recycled and reused, and no one knows better how to do that than the AMERIPEN members who design, supply, produce, distribute, collect, and process it. They are driving innovation, designing packaging for better environmental performance to boost recycling, modernize the recycling infrastructure and divert waste from landfills.

AMERIPEN supports policy solutions, including packaging producer responsibility, that are:

- **Results Based:** Designed to achieve the recycling and recovery results needed to create a circular economy.
- **Effective and Efficient:** Focused on best practices and solutions that spur positive behaviors, increase packaging recovery, recapture material values and limit administrative costs.
- **Equitable and Fair:** Focused on all material types and funded by shared cost allocations that are scaled to make the system work and perceived as fair among all contributors and stakeholders.

AMERIPEN recognizes the health of packaging recovery and recycling, and waste management systems are critical and there is a shared responsibility that producers can play in improving these systems. We appreciate that this bill has included an Advisory Council and a thoughtful approach to looking at the definition of the key term, “producer”.

We still encourage the consideration working with or the selection of a producer responsibility organization (PRO) where producers can work directly with the Hawaii Department of Health to obtain accurate data in Hawaii, for the Needs Assessment. Adding in a producer responsibility organization (PRO) that can be chosen by the Department will be helpful in ensuring that the needs assessment collects information from producers who will be financially responsible for an extended producer responsibility system. In 2023,

Maryland passed an extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging needs assessment bill that included language to appoint a PRO. AMERIPEN is supportive of adding in a designated PRO that the Department will work with on the needs assessment.

While HB 750 directs the Hawaii Department of Health to consult with existing PROs, there is no method or antitrust exemptions provided when creating any PRO. U.S. law prohibits competitors from gathering to discuss price, costs, market shares, sales, and market allocation – some of which must be examined to form a PRO. The first step to establishing a PRO is to provide an exemption so competitors can focus on the formation, fee schedule and cost allocations for a program. If this exemption is not provided, the program incurs the unnecessary risk of being sued on antitrust grounds by any party that disagrees with the goals and objectives of the program before it gets implemented. AMERIPEN suggests that any legislation resulting from this needs assessment include the antitrust exemption for the PRO used in existing EPR laws around the nation.

AMERIPEN also encourages improving some definitions outlined in HB 750. Specifically, we suggest changes to the following terms:

- **Paper Products:** It would be prudent to add a sentence that is often found in other bills that this does not include paper products that could become unsanitary during use.
- **Refill:** The definition is a bit odd and we want to see language to ensure refill in the home by the consumer is included and not just refill by the consumer in a store. Currently it reads: *“Refill” means employing packaging materials that consumers reuse.*
- **Reuse:** Like the definition of *“Refill,”* language for *“Reuse”* is limited to return to store model and AMERIPEN wants to see language to ensure refill in the home by the consumer is included here if not in *“refill”* definition.

In conclusion, AMERIPEN supports a thorough needs assessment being done in Hawaii and appreciates all the hard work that has gone into HB 750 and we would like to continue to work with you and the Committee.

Sincerely,

Edwin Borbon

On behalf of AMERIPEN

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 3:34:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii needs a statewide needs assessment of what will be needed to move to a more circular rather than linear waste handling system, with greater reuse and extended producer responsibility contribution by packaging producers rather than costs falling entirely on county taxpayers. All Hawaii counties are now experiencing solid waste problems. This assessment would determine how producers can be responsible for the packaging waste of their products, thereby reducing our solid waste problems.

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 4:19:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Andrew Evans | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Committee of Health and Human Services and Agriculture and the Environment, Chairs Gabbard and Buenaventura and committee members,

My name is Andrew Evans, I'm born, raised, and live in Kailua, am 25 (the generation that will inherit this island and the results of its waste) and work in conservation as a forest restoration technician and as a fishmonger specializing in sustainable locally caught seafood. I urge you to support the passage of HB 750, as it seeks holistic solutions to addressing the problem of waste and plastic on our islands.

Our islands lie at the edge of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and yet our stores, our products, our packaging, and our lives are still so dependent on single-use plastic which is known to be mostly unrecyclable. When plastic washes wash up on our beaches, is found in our local fish, leaches its way into our bodies, and even is found in remote areas of the forest where I work, why have we not pursued more change? We are the most isolated populated islands on the planet, so it is dire that we are more intentional with our consumption and the waste it produces, seeking a circular flow of materials and goods. There are alternatives, it's time to follow in others' footsteps. There are already solutions, it's time to be bold.

This bill will adequately evaluate and provide guidance for our islands' future and its production of waste, its acceptance of packaging, and its pursuit of materials that can be safely cycled or composted within our lands without having to further endanger our land, our ocean, or our aquifers. What I am most pleased to see is the inclusion of the Department of Health in this work. As a volunteer fishmonger emphasizing sustainability, despite our desire to not use plastic (which inevitably endangers the fish we sell and the customers we sell to), we have limited alternatives because of Hawaii Department of Health mandates. I believe that HB 750 could help resolve some of these challenges in favor of a Hawaii that is safe from its own consumption.

We truly need to radically reconsider the materials flowing through Hawai'i's economy and how it impacts our waste stream and its resulting impacts on our land, oceans, and health. I believe this bill is critical for bringing our state in line with its own reality, and I do ask you to support HB750's passage.

Thank you for your time and your effort in looking out for the good of Hawai'i.

-Andrew Evans

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:05:49 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Eli Warren | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

In Support of HB750 HD2

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee

My name is Eli Warren and I support 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 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.

The Climate crisis is a health crisis. I urge you pass HB 750. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eli Warren

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:53:13 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 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 HD2.

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.

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: 3/9/2025 1:56:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Noel Morin | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SUPPORT FOR HB7750 HD2 (RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT)

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Aquino and Richards, and members of the Committee,

My name is Noel Morin. I am in SUPPORT of 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."

We must establish the necessary policies, processes, and infrastructure to reduce the impact of the 'waste stream' on our environment. This measure will allow us to understand how we can enable a more circular economy, one that maximizes our resources and reduce waste.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Noel Morin

Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate

Hilo, Hawai'i

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 1:12:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Nancy Romaine | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

It makes sense to my husband and me for the DOH to conduct a statewide needs assessment of what will be needed to move to a more circular rather than linear waste handling system, with greater reuse and extended producer responsibility contribution by packaging producers rather than costs falling entirely on county taxpayers.

Like so many, my family and I are recycling as much as possible to avoid more waste going into the landfill. The biggest challenge is that much of our plastic waste is not recyclable, such as clam shells and plastic bags/packaging (though Safeway and Target do offer a service of dropping of some categories of plastic bags for recycling, good for them)

Mahalo for moving HB750 forward.

Nancy Romaine, DHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor & Wailua Homesteads resident

and Chris Heckman, retired attorney

HB-750-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:55:46 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Elizabeth Kiefer | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

In Support of HB750 HD2

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee

My name is Elizabeth Kiefer and **I support 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 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.

The Climate crisis is a health crisis. I urge you pass HB 750. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kiefer, MD MPH

