

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 11:29:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/31/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Greenpeace Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha TCA/AEN Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

My name is Dave Mulinix CoFounder of Greenpeace Hawaii and on behalf of our thousands of members and supporters statewide we Stand in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR132 - Encouraging the adoption of recommendations from the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty (UNGPT) and Rapa Nui Summit Declaration to Address Climate Justice and Sustainable Development.

The global Greenpeace network is in full support of an ambitious, legally binding United Nations Global Plastics Treaty that accelerates and provides the conditions needed for a just transition away from dependence on plastic. UNGPT promotes safer, toxic-free materials and reuse-based, zero-waste economies, creating new jobs to support these practices, protecting human and planetary health, minimizing resource use, and delivering a just transition for workers and affected communities across the plastics supply and waste chains.

Every day, the equivalent of 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic are dumped into the world's oceans, rivers, and lakes. Plastic pollution is a global problem. Every year 19-23 million tonnes of plastic waste leaks into aquatic ecosystems, polluting lakes, rivers and seas. Plastic pollution can alter habitats and natural processes, reducing ecosystems' ability to adapt to climate change, directly affecting millions of people's livelihoods, food production capabilities and social well-being.

The problem of plastic pollution doesn't exist in a vacuum. The environmental, social, economic and health risks of plastics need to be assessed alongside other environmental stressors, like climate change, ecosystem degradation and resource use.

Bottles, pots and food trays are immediately obvious, but other types of plastic pollution can be harder to spot. When plastic breaks down it doesn't disappear, it gets smaller, creating tiny particles called microplastics. Even clothes made from artificial materials shed microplastic fibres when they're washed. Microbeads, another type of microplastic, are sometimes added to products such as cosmetics and toothpaste. Impossible to filter from waste water, they end up in our oceans.

Bits of plastic have been found in every corner of the world, including the deepest ocean trenches and on uninhabited islands. Greenpeace researchers have found plastic pollution in Antarctica. Turtles, dolphins and seabirds can become entangled or injured by large pieces of

plastic. It can even be mistaken for food. Microplastics are just as devastating. Swallowed by everything from microscopic zooplankton to giant blue whales, they enter the food chain and carry harmful toxins. Microplastics have even been found in human feces.

Without dramatically reducing plastic production, it will be impossible to end plastic pollution and eliminate the health threats from chemicals in plastics. The intent of UNGPT is to cap and reduce plastic production, and establish a pathway to end virgin plastic production.

A key obstacle is the plastics industry, including fossil fuel, petrochemical, and consumer goods companies, which continues to put forward plastic recycling and recycled content as central solutions to the plastic pollution crisis. The reality is that fewer than 10% of all plastics ever produced have been recycled. This revelation leads many to promote higher recycling targets as the best way to resolve the global plastic crisis. For example, the members of the U.S. Plastics Pact lobby for the recycling and “circular use” of plastics, distracting attention from the need for massive reductions in global plastic production and shifting the burden of dealing with plastic waste away from themselves as the producers and onto the public.

Many consumer goods companies, including Nestlé, Unilever, and Coca-Cola, tout the use of recycled plastic in their packaging as an important part of the solution, while failing to achieve significant reductions of overall plastic use, and in some cases increasing plastic use, or meaningful gains in reuse. But the reality is that most plastics collected for recycling are never recycled – and when plastics are recycled, they contain a toxic cocktail of chemicals that makes them unfit for food-grade and other consumer uses. In fact, plastics are inherently incompatible with a circular economy.

An essential way to address these problems is to support the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit Declaration to Address Climate Justice and Sustainable Development.

Please pass SCR132, it sets us in the right direction in doing our part to address the growing global plastic pollution problem.

Mahalo,

Dave Mulnix, Hawaii State Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii



To: The Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts (TCA)
and
The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Monday, March 31, 2025, 1:01pm

In support of SCR132/SR111

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org strongly **supports SCR132/SR111** that encourages the adoption and implementation of the recommendations from the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit Declaration to address climate justice and sustainable development. This resolution further encourages the State to undertake effective, inclusive, sustainable, and rights-based considerations to address the challenge of plastic pollution and the degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems, and to adopt actions promoting protection, conservation, and the sustainable use of the ocean, including preservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and implementation of mechanisms to increase marine resilience, especially among Indigenous peoples and local coastal communities; and encourages greater participation in the United Nations human rights, sustainable development, and climate processes promoting rights, fundamental freedoms, and protection of the planet.

Plastic pollution is everywhere. It is ruining the health of communities across the world, killing wildlife, fueling the climate crisis, and being dumped in oceans. Implementing the recommendations of the Global Plastics Treaty will help keep oil and gas used to produce plastic in the ground, and stop big polluters with their relentless plastic production.

From extraction as fossil fuel to disposal, plastic pollutes at every stage of its lifecycle. Surveys demonstrate that there is overwhelming public support for the Global Plastics Treaty to cut plastic production, end single-use plastics and advance reuse-based solutions. With plastic pollution and its impacts worsening every day, it's past time for us to end the plastic crisis.

We urge you to pass this important measure toward a cleaner, safer planet for us and for future generations.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

Comments before
March 31, 2025
Senate Joint Committees on Transportation and
Culture and the Arts and Agriculture and
Environment

IN SUPPORT OF
Senate Concurrent Resolution 132 and
Senate Resolution 111

Relating to Global Plastics Treaty

Mike Ewall, Esq.
Founder & Director
Energy Justice Network
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www.EnergyJustice.net

Aloha Honorable Committee members. Energy Justice Network is a national organization supporting grassroots groups working to transition their communities from polluting and harmful energy and waste management practices to clean energy and zero waste solutions. In Hawai'i, we've been working with residents who first sought our support in 2015. Since mid-2022, we have supported residents in forming the Hawai'i Clean Power Task Force and Kōkua nā 'Āina to address numerous energy and waste issues in the state.

We support these resolutions and ask that they be strengthened with this one-word addition:

On page 3, lines 7-8, change “waste hierarchy” to “Zero Waste Hierarchy” (capitalized to recognize that it is a defined term).

The “waste hierarchy” refers to an old hierarchy that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) puts forth, where incineration (“energy recovery”) is prioritized over landfilling (“disposal”). In 2022, EPA’s Office of Land and Emergency Management admitted that they have no documentation to back up this judgment and, in July 2022, they put a disclaimer on their hierarchy stating that they're revisiting it based on the latest data. This has been a slow process, but if done properly, it will align with the Zero Waste Hierarchy which follows the science showing that incineration (and landfilling toxic ash) is more harmful than simply landfilling waste directly.

This is especially true for plastics, which sit in a landfill, sequestering the carbon and other chemicals long-term, but when incinerated, all of that carbon is immediately injected into the atmosphere, along with other toxic chemicals that form in the combustion process. By referencing the Zero Waste Hierarchy, it fixes this problem, since incineration is considered unacceptable in a Zero Waste system.

See the two hierarchies on the following page, followed by a chart from a plastics and climate report by the Center for International Environmental Law showing that landfilling plastics is far less harmful for the climate than incinerating them.



EPA is now in the process of reviewing the waste hierarchy to determine if potential changes should be made based on the latest available data and information.

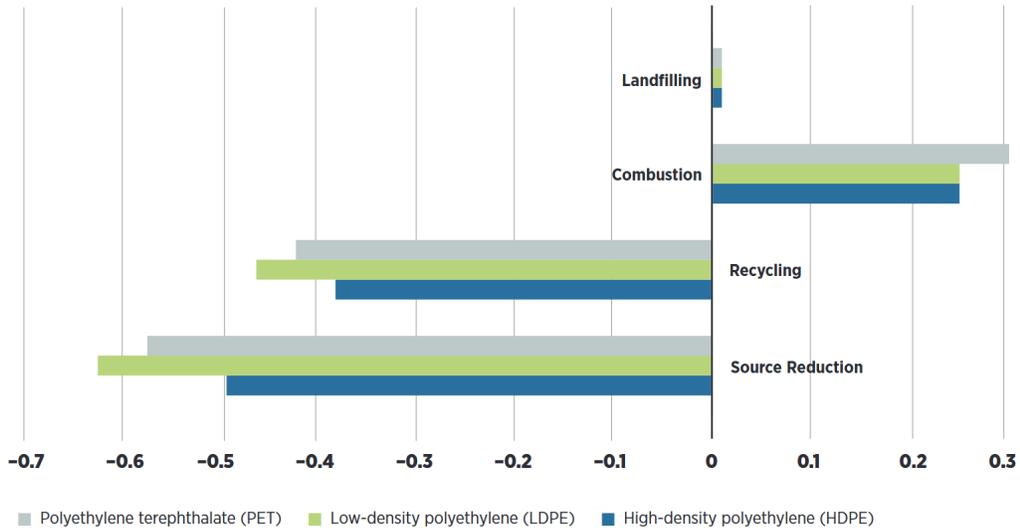
Source: <https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-materials-management-non-hazardous-materials-and-waste-management-hierarchy>



Source: <https://www.zwia.org/zwh>

FIGURE 16

Net Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Source Reduction and MSW Management Options



Unit: Mt CO₂e/ton

Source: U.S. EPA (2006). *Solid Waste Management and Greenhouse Gases: A Life-Cycle Assessment of Emissions and Sinks Report*. Third edition.

Source: <https://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Plastic-and-Climate-FINAL-2019.pdf> (p.67)



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 30, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Hon. Chris Lee, Chair
Hon. Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

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

Subject: **SCR132/SR111** Encouraging the Adoption of Recommendations from the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit Declaration to Address Climate Justice and Sustainable Development.

Hearing: Monday, March 31, 2025, 1:01 p.m. Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha, Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Committees!

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports SCR 132/ SR 111**. These resolutions seek to have the Legislature formally recognize that we are drowning in plastics, that plastic pollution is seriously harmful to marine and human health and life, and that we must take major steps to reduce plastic creation, use, and waste.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick and Melodie Aduja
Co-Chairs of the Environmental Caucus of the
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Burdick808@gmail.com legislativepriorities@gmail.com

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 12:52:55 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/31/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we are in support of this resolution SCR132/SR111. Encouraging the adoption of recommendations from the United Nations Global plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit declaration to address climate justice and sustainable development. We would get rid of the words "Encouraging the adoption" of, and replace them with " Adopting "

Green Party of Hawai'i urges your support of SCR132/SR111.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery
Green Party of Hawai'i
Paauilo

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 2:39:42 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/31/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition **STRONGLY SUPPORTS!**

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 11:00:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/31/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

It's a global issue and it is our problem. Especially as we sit in the middle of an ocean of plastics.

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 12:06:46 AM

Testimony for TCA on 3/31/2025 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 12:50:55 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/31/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support these declarations.