

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 5, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 1543 – RELATING TO PROCUREMENT**

Hearing: Thursday, February 7, 2019, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the measure; however, the department respectfully acknowledges the negative effects it will have on the Licensed Blind Vendor (LBV) program, also known as the Randolph-Sheppard Act program. Within the State of Hawaii and nationally, the blind vending program is one of the most successful programs as it offers individuals who are blind an opportunity for self-determination, self-sufficiency, pride, and financial independence. Ho`opono, the Services for the Blind Branch of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is the State Licensing Agency which is responsible for the licensing and oversight of the LBV program in Hawaii. Attached to the program is the Randolph-Sheppard Revolving Account (RSRA), authorized by section 347-12.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

Section 1. (c) of this bill states that: "State funds" means any money deposited into or drawn from the state treasury or any special or trust fund of the State. "State Funds" includes any money appropriated by the State and transferred to any state agency that is used by the state agency, in whole or in part, to purchase goods or services." If the RSRA is

determined to be a special or trust fund of the state then DHS will be restricted in the allowable use of the fund. The RSRA is used to the benefit of blind vendors in the manner of retirement, health insurance, new and replacement equipment, training, and other costs related to the blind vending program. One of the vital costs that is regularly paid for by the RSRA is for the purchase of initial inventory to support the success of the blind vendor in new and refurbished facilities. Beverages, bottled and canned, constitute 50% of initial inventory. Beverages are the blind vendors' best sellers, and a majority of the blind vendors' sales and income. The profit from beverage sales pay for everyday personal expenses of the LBV, such as rent, food, transportation, i.e. everything necessary to live an independent life.

We ask that the legislature continue to support the success of the LBV in the blind vending program and include an exemption to subsection (a) for the Randolph Sheppard Revolving Account and other funds in support of the blind vendor program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Thursday, February 7, 2019
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1543
RELATING TO PROCUREMENT**

Senate Bill 1543 proposes to prohibit the expenditure of state funds by state agencies for the purchase of beverages in plastic bottles or rigid plastic containers, except under certain circumstances. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the deleterious impacts of plastic debris on wildlife and their habitats as a primary natural resource issue throughout the State. Plastic debris degrade land and ocean-based habitat and impact a variety of wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial) through ingestion and entanglement. Senate Bill 1543 would help reduce the plastic debris load entering Hawaii's environment and contribute to the improved health of our wildlife and their habitats.

The Department however has concerns that the Bill, as written, would adversely affect critical departmental operations, where bottled water is the only practical option in emergency situations. The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is statutorily mandated by the Land Fire Protection Law, Chapter 185, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to be the primary responder for wildfires on lands managed by DOFAW, which accounts for 26% of the land statewide. DOFAW co-responds with county fire departments and federal agencies to an additional 32%.

The Department requests to be added as an agency to Subsection (b) (1) so that the Department may continue to purchase bottled water for their wildland firefighters to prevent dehydration while responding to wildfires.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

It should also be noted that the Department has public safety concerns in our state parks which lack sources of potable water such as Kaena Point State Park and Kaiwi State Scenic Shoreline forcing park users to bring in their own water or where we have concessions or vending machines that sell plastic bottled water such as Diamond Head State Monument. The Division of State Parks is currently engaged in the installation of water bottle filling stations throughout the State in an effort to reduce the use of plastic water bottles.

Finally, the Department recognizes that this sweeping initiative would fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health, and shares their concerns regarding implementation and enforcement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

February 5, 2019

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Laura H. Thielen, Chair
Committee on Government Operations
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: SB 1543 – Relating to Procurement – Opposed

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Thielen,

On behalf of the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS), I am writing to offer our comments on SB 522 – an act that prohibits the expenditure of state funds by state agencies for the purchase of beverages in plastic bottles or rigid plastic containers. We do not believe that a ban of the products mentioned in this legislation will achieve the environmental goals the state is striving for. For that reason, we oppose this legislation.

Single-use plastic beverage bottles provide an efficient and hygienic means of delivering fresh water to consumers. Banning this product would prevent consumers from carrying and distributing clean water when they are not near a potable water source. Furthermore, we believe single-use plastic beverage bottles is a misnomer because they can be reused as well as recycled. In fact, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles were the most recycled bottle in 2017 compared to other plastic bottles. Banning this product would further hurt the recycling infrastructure in place, and the jobs associated with recycling, by depleting the supply chain of this important material that can be recycled into other products.

SB 1543 unfairly targets plastics without addressing other packaging material in the waste stream. Plastic packaging exists for a purpose. Overall, plastics are lighter and more efficient than many alternatives. Their lighter weight reduces their environmental footprint by decreasing waste, energy use, and carbon emissions. Plastics are the environmentally sustainable option. Understanding an item's full life cycle, rather than one part, clarifies which options are the most environmentally friendly.

PLASTICS advocates for the responsible recycling, reuse, and recovery of all plastic products. We do not wish to see any of our products used irresponsibly or disposed of incorrectly.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 202.974.5206 or scrawford@plasticsindustry.org.

Respectfully,



Shannon V. Crawford
Director, State Government Affairs

SB-1543

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 6:17:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Bravo for hearing and passing this bold step to help rid our fragile oceans and sea life of what has been identified as the deadly source of pollution all plastics indeed are. Mahalo.

Scott Foster

Communications Director

Hawaii Advocates For Consumer Rights

808-590-5880

SB-1543

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:57:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1543

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 5:55:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-1543

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 9:05:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louise Storm	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It sounds like a very good thing to do environmentally, but who will enforce it and how much will the enforcement effort cost? Given how large the state government is, I think it would be very difficult to maintain compliance for very long at a reasonable cost.

SB-1543

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 11:01:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Layla Kilolu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Elected Public Servants,

My name is Layla and I am a graduate student at UH Manoa studying urban and regional planning. I am also an East-West Center fellow studying resilience, and working towards making our state more sustainable and resilient. Further I support this bill because of the wastefulness and environmental impact of plastic. Mahalo for working towards our sustainable and resilient future.

**Respectfully yours,
Layla**

SB-1543

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 10:42:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Wow, we have come a LONG way! After walking Kailua Beach this morning and having the entire high tide line covered in broken down plastic, I'm so happy to see we are finally recognizing our purchasing habits contribute to this mess.

SB-1543

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:02:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Santiago	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Really? Who cares. You guys got lots of time on your hands to be worried about something like this.

SB-1543

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 6:26:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee,

Please pass Senate Bill 1543 as we need to curb the use of single service plastic bottles.

This State is a big area and it would be a good place to start to change peoples habits and start them thinking about our environment.

Also we really need to stop the makers of the single use plastic bottles, making everyone aware of

the issue is a step in the right direction of forcing the makers of the plastic bottles stop making

them.

Sincerely,

Linda Wong

Diamond Head

leiahi@me.com