

SB 521

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
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
and
WATER AND LAND

Monday, February 11, 2019
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 521
RELATING TO PLASTIC

Senate Bill 521 proposes to require counties to collect and dispose plastic marine debris and to report to the legislature, and appropriates funds. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) fully supports this measure.**

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 521 would require the counties to fulfill their statutory responsibilities to remove not just debris in general but specifically plastic marine debris from beaches, which will greatly contribute to the improved health of our wildlife and their habitats.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers
Alika Atay
Elle Cochran
Don S. Guzman
Riki Hokama
Kelly T. King
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Maria E. Zielinski

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 11, 2019

Kelly King

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military
Affairs
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019; TESTIMONY PROVIDING
COMMENTS ON SB 521, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify providing comments on this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to require counties to collect and dispose plastic marine debris and report to the Legislature.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I am providing comments on this measure for the following reasons:

1. While the intent of the bill is laudable, and I of course support keeping our beaches clean of debris and harmful substances, maintenance of our beaches and coastal waters is the State's responsibility, as those areas are under State jurisdiction.
2. The counties should only take on this responsibility if all State authority over beaches and the ocean is assigned to the county governments and adequate funding is allocated.

Thank you for considering my comments.

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

3375 KOAPAKA STREET, SUITE H-450 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1814
Phone: (808) 723-7800 • Fax: (808) 723-7836



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

JAMES D. HOWE, JR.
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land
The Senate
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: S.B. No. 521 Relating to Environmental Protection

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Nishihara, Chair Kahele, Vice-Chair Ruderman, Vice-Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of the City and County of Honolulu. This testimony incorporates comments and concerns from the Department of Facility Maintenance, Department of Environmental Services, Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, and the Honolulu Emergency Services Department.

S.B. No. 521 requires the counties to, among other things, frequently collect beach debris, including plastic marine debris, from the shores and beaches situated within their respective county, and dispose of this debris, whether collected by the counties or volunteers, at permitted solid waste management systems.

The City and County of Honolulu ("City") supports efforts to keep Hawaii's shorelines as safe and pristine as possible. However, the City must oppose this measure as currently drafted.

The City is fully aware of the impacts beach debris, including plastics and other marine debris, has on the safety and enjoyment for the millions who use the beaches and ocean waters each year. These impacts include life safety issues, loss of public access to the ocean waters,

The Honorable Michael Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
February 8, 2019
Page 2

impediments to the normal enjoyment and activities on the beaches, and environmental impacts on our beach eco-system.

The City and County of Honolulu is willing and ready to engage in a collaborative process to draft legislative policy that would address the current challenges in section 46-12, HRS, and address the issue of marine debris collection and disposal on our beaches and shorelines.

In order to assist in identifying issues of concern the City and County of Honolulu offers the following comments:

- In its present form S.B. No. 521 asserts that micro plastics are much more difficult to remove from beaches and shoreline areas but by amendment to Section 46-12, HRS holds the Counties responsible for: "...removing and clearing all seaweed, limu and debris, including plastic marine debris". The means to fulfill this requirement does not currently exist at the County level in technology, equipment, staffing, and funding.
- Removal of marine debris, excluding micro plastics, to the degree proposed by S.B. No 521 is estimated to cost \$1,644,381 annually. This estimate is based on creating and funding positions and equipment for three (3) dedicated full time crews plus operational expenses such as equipment, supplies, fuel and maintenance, and other applicable contractual obligations. The crew could consist of laborers, working supervisors, drivers, and equipment such as utility trucks and dump trucks dedicated to the "frequent" collection and disposal of marine debris at the 184 identified beaches on Oahu.
- Tipping and/or disposal fees associated with the collected marine debris are not included in the estimate and is an additional expense. Heavy and/or specialized equipment and tools to remove large debris, marine animal carcasses, fishing nets, or micro plastics would also result in additional expenses.
- We believe a dedicated staff will also be needed to fulfill the administrative requirement of coordinating with NOAA's Marine Debris program and other experts around the country, and to provide an annual report to the Legislature on findings related to best practices for removing marine debris, plans for the collection and transport of marine debris to disposal, amount of debris removed annually, plans to coordinate with volunteer groups and non-profits, and estimates on the costs associated with compliance with these programs.
- There is no prioritization regarding the removal of marine debris in the bill and references unsanitary conditions and public nuisance as the standard for removal. This does not take into account debris which presents life safety issues.
- The current bill makes no provision for the use of grant funding to be utilized for the administrative costs associated with meeting the requirements of this legislation.

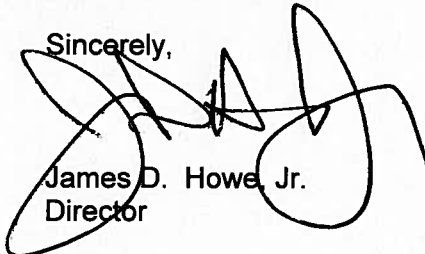
The Honorable Michael Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
February 8, 2019
Page 3

We request consideration to revisit last year's H.B. No. 2625, which description states "requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the counties to form a Marine Debris Working Group, with other interested parties, to resolve jurisdictional issues between the State and counties regarding the removal of marine debris and provide coordination between state and county agencies that ensures the cleanup of marine debris from Hawaii's beaches and shorefronts. Establishes a Marine Debris Special Fund to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the removal of marine debris from shorelines and near shore waters. (H.B. No. 2625 HD2)

This may be a more prudent approach to ensure a unified State and County partnership in which all parties involved would collectively address all issues and establish a plan to coordinate efforts to achieve the goals set out in S.B. No. 521.

Thank you for allowing the City and County of Honolulu to provide the Committee with our concerns and comments regarding the measure as currently drafted.

Sincerely,



James D. Howe, Jr.
Director

cc: Roy K. Amemiya, Jr.,
Managing Director



Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Re: SUPPORT of SB 521 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Nishihara, and Kahele, Vice Chairs Ruderman, Wakai, and Keith-Agaran, members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, and Water and Land,

Dolphin Quest strongly support SB 521. This measure has the potential to reduce plastic-based pollution in the State of Hawaii and ultimately help protect our natural resources and human health.

One of Hawaii's greatest assets is its natural beauty. Unfortunately, plastic debris is one of the most common forms of litter found in Hawaii. We have seen this first-hand during Dolphin Quest's decades of participation in beach, stream, and highway clean-ups.

It is well known that plastic has a devastating effect on Hawaii's beaches, the marine ecosystem, wildlife, and human health. There is also growing concern about the negative impact marine debris may also have on tourism. It is essential that we get ahead of these problems through influential legislation just like this.

Ingestion, entanglement, and habitat degradation are just a few of the complex issues related to plastic pollution. Ingestion of micro-plastics has been observed at every trophic level, from large whales to even corals and zooplankton. High levels of plastic-based persistent organic pollutants (POPs) have been detected in the tissues of marine mammals, sharks, and other large predatory animals due to bioaccumulation and the biomagnification up the trophic system as results of this ingestion. Many of these POPs are known endocrine disrupters and there is growing evidence that humans may also be at risk. In addition to this, the plastic monomer used in manufacturing expanded plastic has been classified by the US National Institutes of Health and the International Agency for Research on Cancer as a possible human carcinogen. Unnecessary plastics need to be regulated for the health and well-being of all.

It is our duty and our responsibility to protect the land and water that allow us to thrive. We must safeguard the future of wildlife and our children so that all may have the opportunity to enjoy nature unadulterated. Supporting this measure would keep Hawaii at the forefront of conservation action and leadership.

Dolphin Quest is an organization of marine mammal specialists, animal advocates and ocean stewards with two business locations in Hawaii. We've championed public education, conservation, and scientific study related to marine mammals and our ocean for thirty years. This issue is critically important to us and we respectfully ask that you support SB 521.

Respectfully yours,

L. Rae Stone, DVM
Dolphin Quest

SB-521

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 4:45:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS, AND WATER AND LAND

February 11, 2019 1:15 p.m. Room 229

In SUPPORT of SB521 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Nishihara and Kahele and Vice Chairs Ruderman, Wakai and Keith-Agaran and committee members.

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC– was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean, including harms from plastic marine debris.

We strongly support this bill and urge its passage to protect our reefs and ocean.

Hawaii's beaches and shorelines, especially on the windward sides, are being barraged with plastic marine debris from the North Pacific gyre, also known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Bacteria adhere to this plastic debris and, after Fukushima, some of it may even be radioactive. It is essential that this plastic marine debris be removed from beaches and shorelines not only because it creates an unsanitary condition and public nuisance, but because sunlight and wave action on the shore accelerate the breakdown of plastics into smaller and smaller pieces that become harder to remove and more easily ingested by seabirds and other marine life. Microplastics (smaller than a sesame

seed) bioaccumulate up the food chain and into the fish and other marine life we eat! Coral reefs are so productive for fish and other aquatic life that they have been called “the rain forests of the sea.” Hawaii’s precious reefs are being stressed by many factors, especially worldwide ocean warming and acidification, which Hawai`i alone cannot control. One local insult to reefs that Hawai`i could control better is the disruption of reef and ocean ecology by plastic marine debris and microplastics.

Under current law, HRS Sec. 46-12, counties are required to clean up from their shorelines debris that is likely to cause an unsanitary condition or otherwise become a public nuisance. This bill would clarify that counties are required to clean up plastic debris from their beaches and shorelines.

HIROC thanks you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

Lisa Bishop on behalf of the Hawai`i Reef and Ocean Coalition



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT &
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS &
WATER AND LAND**

February 11, 2019 1:15 p.m. Room 229

In SUPPORT of SB521: Relating to environmental protection

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Nishihara, Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB 521**, which seeks to require counties to collect and dispose of plastic marine debris and to report to the legislature.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, dedicated to exploring, enjoying, and protecting these unique and beautiful islands we call home, have engaged in decades-long efforts to protect public access to trails and beaches in addition to restoring hundreds of trails on public and private land. Part of our dedication to protect is to keep these valuable public areas free of pollution from plastics and other waste. Sierra Club recognizes the detrimental effects that plastic marine debris has on our environment, local communities, and the tourism industry, and we believe that having the counties participate in the removal of this debris is a critical part to keeping the beaches clean and free of pollution.

It is estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish by weight in the world's oceans. Plastic pollution defaces Hawai'i's iconic beaches, which are the very foundation of the State's tourism industry. During island-wide beach cleanups, some of the most stubborn and harmful pieces of pollution found are microplastics. Locals and even tourists have become very aware of these brightly colored microplastics found on beaches all across the islands. These are often single-use plastics, boating debris, or other plastic marine debris, that ultimately pollute our lands and freshwater bodies, harm wildlife, and end up in our food chain. These plastics are known for easily breaking down into the ecosystem and being easily ingested by both land and marine life. The ingestion of toxic plastic bits can be harmful and even deadly not only to the land and marine life, but to our own bodies. All fish consuming microplastics can be ingested by humans and have the



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

same or similar harmful impact. Microplastics are harming our economy, ecosystem, and the overall quality of life in the Hawaiian Islands. To avoid microplastics from ending up in our fish markets, beaches, and human population, point source reduction and microplastic mitigations must become a priority.

The legislature finds that removal of plastic marine debris from beaches is critical to both the State's economy and environment. However, the removal has been hampered by disagreement among agencies over responsibility and jurisdiction. Currently, there is no responsible party for the removal of plastic marine debris on county shores and beaches. This measure is one of many that support our collective efforts to reduce and re-evaluate the State's priorities on pollution across the board.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 521**, which serves our collective efforts to keep Hawai'i's land and beaches free of plastic pollution.

Mahalo,
Lori Mallini
Volunteer, Sierra Club of Hawai'i

SB-521

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 6:23:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Feeley	Testifying for HIROC	Support	No

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS, AND WATER AND LAND

February 11, 2019 1:15 p.m. Room 229

In SUPPORT of SB521 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Nishihara and Kahele and Vice Chairs Ruderman, Wakai and Keith-Agaran and committee members.

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC– was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean, including harms from plastic marine debris. My name is Michael Feeley and I am a member of HIROC. I am a marine biologist by education and currently work on many issues important to Hawai'i's coastal environment.

HIROC and I strongly support this bill and urge its passage to protect our reefs and ocean. While we know that ocean plastics is not a problem unique to Hawai'i, nor is it a global problem that we can solve ourselves. However, we must do what we can within our own personal and governmental control to help address the problem.

Hawaii's beaches and shorelines, especially on the windward sides, are being barraged with plastic marine debris from the North Pacific gyre, also known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Bacteria adhere to this plastic debris and, after Fukushima, some of it may even be radioactive. It is essential that this plastic marine debris be removed from beaches and shorelines not only because it creates an unsanitary condition and public nuisance, but because sunlight and wave action on the shore accelerate the breakdown of plastics into smaller and smaller pieces that become harder to remove and more easily ingested by seabirds and other marine life. Microplastics (smaller than a sesame seed) bioaccumulate up the food chain and into the fish and other marine life we eat!

I volunteer at Hanauma Bay in their education program and have witnessed an increase in plastics on the beaches. Also, recently, we have had more days exceeding

acceptable bacteria levels at Hanauma Bay. Hanauma Bay is the “crown jewel” of Marine Life Conservation Districts in Hawaii, and we must do everything we can to ensure its protection.

Coral reefs are so productive for fish and other aquatic life that they have been called “the rain forests of the sea.” Hawaii’s precious reefs are being stressed by many factors, especially worldwide ocean warming and acidification, which Hawai`i alone cannot control. One local insult to reefs that Hawai`i could control better is the disruption of reef and ocean ecology by plastic marine debris and microplastics.

Under current law, HRS Sec. 46-12, counties are required to clean up from their shorelines debris that is likely to cause an unsanitary condition or otherwise become a public nuisance. This bill would clarify that counties are required to clean up plastic debris from their beaches and shorelines.

Please pass this bill. Mahalo for your kaku.



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2019

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

RE: SB 521 Relating to Environmental Protection

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair, the Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment; the Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair, the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs; and the Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair, and the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

My name is Melodie Aduja and I serve as Chair of the O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 521. The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 521 relating to Environmental Protection.**

SB 521 provides that the county shall employ best practices to remove plastic marine debris from beaches frequently. In determining the best practices for removing plastic marine debris, the county shall consult and coordinate with experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program, and may consult with other coastal states

and non-profit organizations regarding the most efficient and effective practices, equipment, and technologies. Each county shall submit a report of their respective findings, including how it plans to collect plastic marine debris from their beaches management systems, and the amount of plastic marine debris removed in the prior year to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, beginning with the regular session of 2020. Each county's report shall also estimate what compliance will cost annually and how the county intends to coordinate with and facilitate the efforts of volunteer clean up groups who notify the county that they are conducting beach cleanups.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our 'āina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of coastal resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the

consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 17, ln. 4-35.*

DPH believes in the conservation and collaborative stewardship of our shared natural heritage: the public lands and waterways, the oceans, mountains and all that makes Hawai'i's great outdoors priceless. We need policies and investments that will keep Hawai'i's public lands public, strengthen protections for our natural and cultural resources, increase access to parks and public lands for all people, protect native species and wildlife, and harness the immense economic and social potential of our public lands and waters.

DPH will approach conservation of our public lands and waters in a way that reflects the diversity of our State, by actively engaging all people in the great outdoors and protecting natural landscapes and cultural sites that tell the story of Hawai'i's complex history. To help meet these goals, we will work to build a diverse workforce in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) that manage Hawai'i's public lands, waters, and cultural sites.

Democrats oppose efforts to undermine the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act to protect threatened and endangered species.

Agricultural practices have a significant impact on our water, land, oceans, and climate. Therefore, we believe that in order to be effective in keeping our air and water clean and combating climate change, we must enlist farmers as partners in promoting conservation and stewardship. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 18, ln. 37-55.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to conserve our public lands and waters in a way that reflects the diversity of our State, by actively engaging all people in the great outdoors and by protecting Hawai'i's natural landscapes and cultural sites that tell the story of Hawai'i's complex history, OCCLP supports SB 521 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment; Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs; and Committee on Water and Land.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ *Melodie Aduja*

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of
Hawai`i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

LATE

SB-521

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 12:33:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Surfrider's Hawaii Chapters support the intent of this bill and like the idea of setting up a working group. Sorry we are sending in late and brief testimony, but we would like to see the counties take more responsibility in cleaning up the beaches, especially heavy marine debris like ghost nets. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman, Hawaii Man., Surfrider Found., 2927 Hibiscus Pl., Hon., HI 96815

SB-521

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 8:00:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-521

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 10:38:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Sometimes are beaches are overloaded with trash, and we have relied on volunteers to clean most of them. I am happy to have the county clean the beaches and pay a little more for it. It's the cost of living here.

SB-521

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 1:26:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Burger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-521

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 6:18:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS, AND WATER AND LAND

[February 11, 2019](#) at [1:15 p.m.](#) in Room 229

In SUPPORT of SB521 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Aoha Chairs Gabbard, Nishihara and Kahele and Vice Chairs Ruderman, Wakai and Keith-Agaran and committee members.

I **strongly support this bill** and urge its passage to protect our coral reefs and ocean.

Plastic marine debris from the North Pacific gyre, also known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, is fouling Hawaii's beaches and shorelines. Bacteria adhere to this plastic debris and, after Fukushima, some of it may even be radioactive. It is essential that this plastic marine debris be removed from beaches and shorelines not only because it creates an unsanitary condition and public nuisance, but because sunlight and wave action on the shore accelerate the breakdown of plastics into smaller and smaller pieces that become harder to remove and more easily ingested by seabirds and other marine life. Microplastics (smaller than a sesame seed) bioaccumulate up the food chain and into the fish and other marine life we eat.

New evidence suggests that plastics harm

corals. Science Magazine reported as follows a year ago in an article entitled

“Is plastic trash making coral reefs sick?”

By [Erik Stokstad](#) Jan. 25, 2018 , 2:00 PM

Plastic can be bad news for marine life. Seabirds and turtles will starve if they eat too many bags or six pack rings, and whales can get fatally snared in fishing gear. Now, another charismatic inhabitant of the oceans may be in danger. A new survey shows for the first time that plastic trash hikes the risk of diseases for coral reefs. Between 2011 and 2014, a team of researchers surveyed 159 reefs near Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, and Australia. They examined the health of more than 124,000 corals on these reefs and also checked to see whether they were hosting any pieces of plastic larger than 0.5 centimeters. Corals without any plastic had a 4% chance of being diseased, [but the presence of plastic raised the risk to 89%](#), they report today in *Science*. This was true for three of the six most common diseases: skeletal eroding disease, white syndrome, and black band disease, all of which can quickly kill coral. The team has not demonstrated that plastic causes any of these diseases, but they point to possible mechanisms. Plastic trash can carry pathogens and hard debris might wound corals, triggering infection. And if plastic debris blocks sunlight, it could lead to low-oxygen conditions that promote the growth of disease-causing bacteria.”

Under current law, HRS Sec. 46-12, counties are required to clean up from their shorelines debris that is likely to cause an unsanitary condition or otherwise become a public nuisance. This bill would clarify that counties are required to clean up plastic debris from their beaches and shorelines. Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

SB-521

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 6:50:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mio Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB521. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Mio Chee

Ala Moana Resident

SB-521

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 2:11:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirsten Moy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong support for the appropriation of funds to counties to properly dispose of plastic marine debris. County trash cans are overflowing with marine debris that beach visitors and residents collect and then deposit in parks, public access points, and elsewhere. These funds and this initiative is critical to maintaining our Hawaiian shorelines and supporting the countless volunteers and manhours dedicated to the removal of marine debris.

SB-521

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 4:21:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB521. As a longtime resident of Waikiki I have seen an intolerable increase in plastic pollution over the years from single use plastic items littering our beaches and walkways. I've also participated in beach cleanups and seen firsthand the devastating effects the gradual breaking down of these unnatural items reaks on our waterways, sea animals and land. It's heartbreaking. Plastics are made from fossil fuels and discarded after one use, in the process contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. As an island nation, Hawaii is at the front lines of the resulting change in our climate and already seeing disturbing events that have impacted communities such as the excessive flooding last year on Kauai and the increase in activity during this past hurricane season.

Requiring counties to collect and dispose of plastic marine debris and appropriating funds to do so is a step in the right direction to reduce plastic marine debris. The State of Hawaii has set out to be a leader in climate change, supporting this bill is helping our state government achieve those goals and reduce worldwide plastic pollution.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-521

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 8:10:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-521

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 1:53:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB521, which would take steps to limit plastic pollution.

Many plastics leach suspected carcinogens and neurotoxins as they degrade into smaller and smaller pieces, and studies show some of these toxins are slowly accumulating in the fatty tissues of humans and other animals.

Last year a whale died in Thailand after swallowing 17 pounds of plastic, and a dead sperm whale washed ashore in Spain with 64 pounds of plastic in its stomach. Birds, fish and sea turtles also commonly mistake plastic for food. The great garbage patch between Hawaii and California is steadily growing. Most plastic is not biodegradable and only degrades into smaller and smaller pieces, thereby contaminating the lowest levels of the food web.

Additionally, many plastics are made with petroleum, the manufacture of which is a great contributor to the heat-trapping gases responsible for the greenhouse effect we are now seeing.

For these reasons, cities in the US and around the world are banning certain types of plastics such as polystyrene, or instituting measures to cut down on plastic pollution.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Hawaii