

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**

**Friday, March 6, 2020**  
**1:15 P.M.**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 17/SENATE RESOLUTION 18**  
**URGING THE STATE TO BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC GOODS AND PLASTIC**  
**BAGS AND TO SET A SUSTAINABILITY EXAMPLE BY ELIMINATING THE USE**  
**OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC TABLEWARE AT STATE DEPARTMENT MEETINGS**  
**AND FUNCTIONS**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 17/Senate Resolution 18 urges the State to ban single-use plastic goods and plastic bags and to set a sustainability example by eliminating the use of single-use plastic tableware at State department meetings and functions. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures 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. These measures would help reduce the plastic debris load entering Hawaii's environment and contribute to the improved health of our wildlife and their habitats.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

**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

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

March 3, 2020

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Laura Thielen, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Government Operations

**Testimony in Support of SCR 17/SR 18 Urging the State to Ban Single-Use Plastic Goods and Plastic Bags and Set a Sustainability Example by Eliminating the Use of Single Use Plastic Tableware at State Department Meetings and Functions**

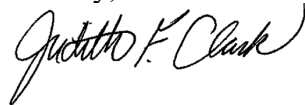
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SCR 17/SR 18 Urging the State to Ban Single-Use Plastic Goods and Plastic Bags and Set a Sustainability Example by Eliminating the Use of Single Use Plastic Tableware at State Department Meetings and Functions.

Hawaii's youth care strongly about preserving our environment. At the 2019 Children and Youth Summit at the State Capitol, reducing usage of single-use plastic goods was one of the top priorities that young people felt that Hawaii's Legislature should address.

On behalf of the youth who attended the Summit and care passionately about preserving the aina, we urge your support for this resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



March 4, 2020

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Laura Thielen, Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Government Operations

From: Tim Shestek  
Senior Director, State Affairs

**RE: SR 18/SCR 17 – OPPOSE**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose SR 18 and SCR 17, which urge the state to ban plastic foodservice packaging, bags, and tableware.

ACC membership includes the leading suppliers and manufacturers of plastics food service packaging products. ACC agrees that more can and should be done to increase the amount of plastic food service packaging material that is recycled and recovered. In fact, last year our industry set some very ambitious targets of ensuring 100% of plastic packaging is recyclable or recoverable by 2030 and that 100% of plastic packaging is re-used, recycled or recovered by 2040.

Additionally, global companies in the plastic value chain including many ACC members recently announced the creation of a new non-profit called the Alliance to End Plastic Waste. This new group is committing \$1.5 Billion over five years to end plastic waste in the environment through new packaging formats, more efficient recycling technologies, and new business models to create value in used plastic.

All packaging leaves an environmental footprint regardless of the material type. It takes energy and raw materials to produce, transport, and recover or dispose of any material. So it is important to measure all of these impacts throughout the entire lifecycle of a product. Plastics can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, require less energy and water to produce, require less fuel to transport, and help significantly reduce food waste<sup>1</sup>. Phasing out its use does not fully consider unintended, yet important environmental tradeoffs.

Key questions that we urge the Committee to consider include:

- Are there environmental impacts (e.g. energy use, water use, impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, trash generation, landfill waste, etc.) associated with the manufacture, distribution, use and disposal of likely alternative replacement products?
- Are likely replacement products recycled or composted within the state's existing recycling infrastructure and do viable, end use markets exist for these products?

Focusing on one material type or solution will not lead to meaningful reductions in overall waste, but merely shift the composition of waste to alternative materials. In fact, litter studies conducted following the enactment of bans have

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<sup>1</sup> <https://plastics.americanchemistry.com/Education-Resources/Publications/Impact-of-Plastics-Packaging.pdf>



shown an increase in the litter of alternative materials that is greater than the decline in the banned material. This was a primary reason why the California Water Board rejected the use of bans as a compliance mechanism for waterborne trash reduction.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, the City Auditor of Honolulu, HI stated in a December 2018 audit to the City and County Council, “Polystyrene food containers are a small portion of litter and banning them would not meaningfully reduce the volume of litter or trash.”<sup>3</sup>

Last year Governor Ige signed into law, SB 522, which established the Plastic Source Reduction Working Group within the Department of Health. The Working Group includes representatives from business, government and the environmental community who have been tasked with making recommendations to reuse, reduce, recycle and recover plastic waste. We believe SR 18 and SCR 17 are premature given the charge of the Working Group. We would instead encourage the committee to hold off on advancing these resolutions pending the outcome and resulting recommendations of the Working Group.

Thank you in advance for considering our views. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at [Tim\\_Shestek@americanchemistry.com](mailto:Tim_Shestek@americanchemistry.com). You may also contact ACC’s Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/trash\\_control/docs/trash\\_sr\\_040715.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/trash_control/docs/trash_sr_040715.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oca/oca\\_docs/PS\\_Ban\\_Study\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oca/oca_docs/PS_Ban_Study_Final_Report.pdf)





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#### **Executive Officers**

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**Beau Oshiro**, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

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TO:

Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Government Operations  
Senator Mike Gabbard and Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chairs  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman and Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 6, 2020

TIME: 1:15pm

PLACE: Conference Room 224

RE: SCR17/SR18 Urging the State to Ban Single Use Plastic Goods and Plastic Bags and to Set a Sustainability Example by Eliminating the Use of Single Use Plastic Tableware at State Department Meetings and Functions

Position: Comments

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of a statewide fee on paper bags accompanying a ban on plastic bags. Fees on single use bags have been shown to reduce unnecessary bag use and promote the use of reusable bags. This is the system currently used in Honolulu and it encourages customers to bring their own bags but allows businesses to sell a paper bag at the point of sale as needed.

As active participants in the Plastic Working Group created in 2019 by Act 254 HFIA also supports finding cooperative solutions to reducing unnecessary plastic waste.

**LATE**

**SR-18**

Submitted on: 3/6/2020 11:59:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tea™sha Martines-Melim	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

**SR-18**

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 1:11:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicolai Barca	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support reducing single use plastics and appreciate the State leading by example.

**SR-18**

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 4:38:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SR18, 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.

Whales, sea turtles, fish and birds commonly mistake plastic for food. The “Great Garbage Patch” circulating between Hawaii and California is steadily growing. 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 single use plastics such as polystyrene foam, plastic bags, straws, utensils and stirring sticks, or instituting measures to cut down on plastic pollution.

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

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui



**SR-18**

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 4:40:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SR-18**

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 7:22:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelly Sundberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SR-18**

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 9:45:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victoria Giuseffi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the elimination of single use plastic