



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

**HB 1644 HD1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – CONCERNS,
REQUEST AMENDMENTS**

Monday, March 14, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns regarding the firefighting foams provisions in HB 1644 HD1, Relating to Environmental Protection. My name is Eric Wright, President at Par Hawaii and I am responsible for the safe operations of our refinery in Kapolei and energy assurance for our state.

Par Hawaii operates the only refinery in the State of Hawaii. Currently, more than 80% of the energy needs of the state are dependent upon petroleum products. This is a responsibility the Par Hawaii team takes very seriously. As the state transitions to more renewable energy sources, Par Hawaii will continue to evolve to meet the energy needs of the state.

Safety is a top priority at our refinery. Refining is one of the most highly regulated industries and we take pride in upholding high standards to maintain the integrity of our operations. We also invest significantly to ensure we are equipped to respond in the event of emergencies such as petroleum fires at our refinery. We have an in-house fire brigade that can be mobilized as a first-response team in emergencies.

Over the past decade, we have explored the use of two alternative fire-fighting foams, including National Foam - Universal F3 Green Alcohol Resistant Fluorine Free Foam (F3) and the Tyco / Williams – THUNDERSTORM AR-AFFF (Alcohol Resistant Aqueous Film-Forming Foam), which qualify as a C-6 Purity Compliant foam. These alternatives are able to put out **simulated** hydrocarbon tank fires; however, they require a larger volume of foam at a higher concentration. All testing has consistently shown that the foam blanket deteriorates at a faster rate and this can result in reigniting the fire. It is important to point out that as of today, alternative fluorine-free and C6-free AR-AFFF foam have **not** been proven on a large diameter real tank fire incident and do not meet the same “put the fire out” standards as older foam concentrates.

While we appreciate the intent of HB 1644 HD1 to eliminate per- and poly fluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) from the environment, we would like to raise a cautionary note that if eliminated, we will potentially compromise the safety of our employees and of the surrounding community if a petroleum fire could not be extinguished in a timely manner. It also minimizes potential damage to ensure we can continue to operate without downtime to avoid supply disruptions.

Par Hawaii does not use foam with these substances in its annual tests. In an isolated fire involving one of the refining units two years ago, we were able to extinguish the fire with an automatic sprinkler deluge and fire water monitor. No usage of any foam concentrate was necessary. Making an exception to use PFASs for real-world hydrocarbon fires through an amendment to this bill is critical and allows refineries to confidently put out fires with the best tools available.

Par Hawaii respectfully requests your consideration of the following amendment to limit the prohibition on the use of firefighting foams that contain intentionally added PFAS specifically for testing and training purposes but allow for the continued use of these foams in the event they are necessary for a large-scale fire incident:

Amendment starting on page 5, line 15:

§321- Class B firefighting foam; prohibited items. (a) Beginning July 1, 2024, it shall be unlawful for any person or state or county department or agency to discharge or otherwise use for training **or testing** purposes class B firefighting foam that contains intentionally introduced PFAS chemicals.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2024, it shall be unlawful to manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for **training or testing** purposes **[use]** in the State any class B firefighting foam that contains intentionally introduced PFAS chemicals.

Mahalo for allowing Par Hawaii to explain our reasons for these amendments.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
March 14, 2022
HB 1644 HD1 Relating to Environmental Protection**

Good afternoon, Chairperson Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and 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, RMH is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to 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, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

While we understand the intent, we are very much concerned with regards to the timing of HB 1644 HD1 Relating to Environmental Protection. This measure bans the manufacture, sale, or distribution for sale or use of wraps and liners, plates, food boats, pizza boxes, and firefighting foams that contain perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Effective 7/1/2100.

Bans are not the simple answer especially in a time when businesses continue to face major supply disruptions, shipping delays, increase in pricing and other operational hurdles. Businesses are responding to the wants of the customers that patronize their establishments all while operating on a very thin profit margin.

A mere substitution of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl sustenance type containers, wraps, liners, plates, food boats and pizza boxes are not a simple answer. The replacement products are more expensive. This topped with supply chain issues and shipping has slowed getting products to Hawaii. Retailers, warehouses, and manufacturers located across the U.S. and internationally continue to face low inventory levels due to supply chain disruption. In 2020 and 2021 we saw many manufactures locally, nationally, and internationally going out of business or having a hard time finding employees. We are seeing shipping delays that are now 3-6 months out. We feel the increase in the consumer price index that rose 7.9% in the last 12 months (the largest gain since 1982 according to the US Labor Department) and will are expected to see it raising in the months to come.

Restaurants and retailers were the 2 hardest hit industries during this ongoing pandemic. The majority have not recovered, are still in major financial debt and are struggling to keep their doors open. Now is not the time to place more of a financial burden on businesses who are already down.

We urge you to either hold this measure or push out the effective date to at least 2026. Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

HB-1644-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 12:17:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Testifying for Administrator of Mahiku A'o Mai Food Security Services	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

From our farm to your legislature, we fully support this initiative.

HB-1644-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 10:17:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The toxic and cumulative properties of PFAS have been well documented. Please pass HB1644 to protect me from the involuntary introduction of these substances into my body. Mahalo.

HB-1644-HD-1

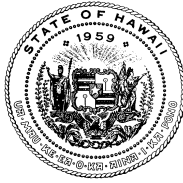
Submitted on: 3/12/2022 2:08:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cara Oba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do what you can to minimize unnecessary uses of PFAS/PFOA forever chemicals. We will still be exposed but reducing these specific pathways is a considerable improvement. Thank you!



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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1644 HD1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: 3/14/2022

Room Number: CCR224/VIDEOCONFERENCE

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will impact the priorities identified in the Governor’s
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health’s (Department) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities.
- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony
5 offering comments on HB1644 HD1. The Department supports the intent to prohibit the
6 manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of food packaging and class B firefighting foam that
7 contain per- and poly fluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) in an effort to decrease the public’s
8 exposure to these chemicals.
- 9 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has considerable information available to the
10 public on PFAS in foods. On December 14, 2021, FDA released “Testing Food for PFAS and
11 Assessing Dietary Exposure”, which related that “PFAS can enter the food chain through
12 environmental contamination or through migration from food packaging.” They also address
13 “the specific types of PFAS that can migrate to food from packaging go through a safety
14 assessment before they are allowed to enter the market to ensure that exposure levels from their
15 intended use are very low and do not pose a health risk”.
- 16 The Department recognizes the benefit that a prohibition on PFAS containing food packaging
17 products will have on the wastestream. By eliminating these products, the overall persistent
18 environmental contamination from PFASs will be reduced.

- 1 **Offered Amendments:** None
- 2 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



3/14/2022

AEN Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

Position: Support HB1644.

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider Foundation maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 4 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. The Surfrider Foundation focuses on many aspects of the environment such as coastal protection, plastic pollution, and water quality.

Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of more than 4,700 chemicals that are very widespread and dangerous. Manufacturers use PFAS to make grease-resistant food packaging, non-stick cookware, and stain-resistant fabrics. Some single-use molded paper products, such as plates and bowls, use PFAS to provide a grease and moisture barrier so that oils and liquids don't seep through the products. PFAS in food packaging and wrappers can contaminate the food it comes into contact with and leach into the water supply when it is disposed of in landfills.

PFAS chemicals have been linked to cancer, birth defects, and other serious health problems. Due to the significant public health risk associated with PFAS chemicals, seven states (California, Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, and Washington) have already banned PFAS in food packaging. Safer alternatives to PFAS have proven to be just as effective at repelling water and grease.

Across Hawai'i, we have made significant progress towards reducing single-use plastics. Surfrider Foundation has strongly supported and championed these efforts. However, we must now ensure that we are replacing those single-use plastics with alternatives that are safe for both the environment and public health.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB1644, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawai'i and all of our members who live in the state and visit to enjoy the many coastal recreational opportunities offered by all of the islands' coastlines.

Sincerely,

Camile Cleveland
Volunteer Policy Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation, O'ahu Chapter

HB-1644-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 11:02:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1644 HD1 as it would ban the manufacture, sale, or distribution for sale or use of wraps and liners, plates, food boats, pizza boxes, and firefighting foams that contain perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. PFAS chemicals have been linked to cancer, birth defects, and other serious health problems. Seven states (California, Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, and Washington) have already banned PFAS in food packaging. Let's be the next! There are safer alternatives to PFAS which have proven to be just as effective at repelling water and grease.

Please PASS HB1644 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure!



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

HB 1644 HD1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Monday, March 14, 2022; 1:00 p.m.

Aloha e Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the HB 1644 HD1 that seeks a ban on the manufacturing and use of products containing per- and poly fluoroalkyl substances (PFASs), including Class B firefighting foams used locally in the event of a flammable liquid petroleum fire. Island Energy appreciates your consideration of a proposed amendment that will balance the need to protect Hawaii's pristine environment while protecting lives and property in the event of a fire.

Island Energy operates fifty-eight Texaco branded retail service stations statewide; four product distributions terminals located in Honolulu, Kahului, Hilo and Port Allen; and a bulk import and storage terminal in Kapolei.

Maintaining safe and environmentally responsible operations is Island Energy's #1 priority each day. As one of the most regulated industries in America, our highly skilled and trained employees understand the significant responsibility requisite with being a key energy supplier to maintain Hawaii's vibrant economy that sustains our island lifestyles now and for future generations.

While we understand the intent of HB 1644 HD1 goal to eliminate per- and poly fluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) from the environment, removing our ability to use highly effective Class B firefighting foams containing PFAS would increase the health and casualty risk to our employees, first responders, and our neighbors in the event of a petroleum fire that could not be extinguished effectively and in a timely manner.

Island Energy is in agreement with others, including the American Chemical Council and other local energy suppliers, that an amendment to HB1644 HD1 is needed. The amendment would limit the prohibition on the use of firefighting foams, that contain intentionally added PFAS specifically, to testing and training purposes, but allow for the

continued use of these foams in the event they are necessary for effective suppression of a petroleum fire:

Amendment starting on page 5, line 15:

§321- Class B firefighting foam; prohibited items. (a) Beginning July 1, 2024, it shall be unlawful for any person or state or county department or agency to discharge or otherwise use for training **or testing** purposes class B firefighting foam that contains intentionally introduced PFAS chemicals.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2024, it shall be unlawful to manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for **training or testing** purposes **[use]** in the State any class B firefighting foam that contains intentionally introduced PFAS chemicals.

Mahalo for your consideration on this matter of significant importance to Island Energy's efforts to operate in a safe and environmentally responsible manner each and every day.

HB-1644-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 11:37:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Navarra	Testifying for Zero Waste Hawaii Island	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in strong support of banning these dangerous chemicals that are highly persistent in as they do not break down easily in the environment or our bodies. It is especially disturbance that they are regularly used in compostable food packaging that can get into the soil. Although they are plans to phase out these chemicals in compostable food packaging, this bill will hasten that transition. Passing this bill is a no brainier that will protect the health of people and the environment.

Jennifer Navarra
Coordinator
Zero Waste Hawai'i Island



Restore the Commons

Monday, March 14, 2022, 1:00 pm

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

HOUSE BILL 1644 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Position: Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

HB1644 prohibits the manufacture, sale, or distribution of the dangerous chemicals called perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in food contact materials such wraps and liners, plates, food boats, and pizza boxes, and also for class B firefighting foams that contain PFAS. These are toxic and durable substances in the human body, with multiple damaging characteristics. There are available alternatives to substitute for these dangerous chemicals.

Mahalo for supporting this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this issue,

/s/ Charley Ice, Hoa'āina; and member of the Food Security and Agriculture Committee of the Environmental Caucus; Co-chair of the Energy & Climate Action Committee of the Environmental Caucus

HB-1644-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 12:15:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill for the health of our citizens by banning the manufacture, sale, or distribution for sale or use of wraps and liners, plates, food boats, pizza boxes, and firefighting foams that contain perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

HB-1644-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 12:50:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirsten Snook	Testifying for Volcano Precious Plastic	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for considering this important piece of legislature.

PFAs and "forever chemicals" have made their way into all of us, and the alarming amount of plastic, films, and foam going into our landfill -- and loose in our environment -- is a grave concern economically and ecologically, as well as a threat to our health and our keiki. These materials also prevent products from being recycled or composted. We lived without these toxic chemicals before, and we can learn to live without them again. We must protect our `aina and our future. Please pass this legislature so that we can begin to correct this problem.

Mahalo,

Kirsten Snook

Volcano Precious Plastic



March 14, 2022

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

Fr: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

Re: **HB1644 HD1 – Comments; Amendment Request**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on HB 1644 HD1.

PFAS are a diverse group of chemistries characterized by the strong bond between fluorine and carbon. Because of this strong bond, PFAS provides products with strength, durability, stability, and resilience. These properties are critical to the reliable and safe function of a broad range of products that are important for industry and consumers, such as the cellphones, tablets, and telecommunications systems we use every day to connect with our friends and family; the aircraft that power the U.S. military; solar panels and turbines critical to alternative energy development; and medical devices and technology that help keep us healthy.

PFAS include a variety of different chemicals with different properties and characteristics. Therefore, the hazard and risk profiles of various PFAS are different. ACC supports a comprehensive approach to managing PFAS substances that helps to ensure protection of human health and the environment. This includes appropriate, science-based policies and regulations.

As you consider HB1644 HD1, ACC respectfully requests the following amendment:

Proposed Amendment

§321- Class B firefighting foam; prohibited items. (a) Beginning July 1, 2024, it shall be unlawful for any person or state or county department or agency to discharge or otherwise use for training or testing purposes class B firefighting foam that contains intentionally introduced PFAS chemicals.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2024, it shall be unlawful to manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for training or testing purposes use in the State any class B firefighting foam that contains intentionally introduced PFAS chemicals.

(c) This section shall not apply to the manufacture, sale, or distribution of class B firefighting foam where the inclusion of PFAS chemicals is required by federal law or regulations; provided that if applicable federal law or regulations are amended after the effective date of this Act to allow the use of alternative firefighting agents that do not contain PFAS chemicals, the department may adopt rules that restrict PFAS chemicals for the manufacture, sale, and distribution of firefighting foam for uses that are addressed by the federal law or regulation.

* * *

Background

Class B firefighting foams that contain intentionally added PFAS - sometimes referred to as aqueous film forming foams (AFFF) - serve a vital role in controlling combustible and flammable liquid fuel fires commonly found at military bases, airport operations, storage tanks, and petroleum/chemical operations. The ability of foam to rapidly extinguish flammable liquid fires has undoubtedly saved many lives, reduced property loss, and helped minimize the global pollution that can result from the uncontrolled burning of flammable liquids.



While “fluorine-free foams” are available and can provide an alternative to fluorinated foams in some applications such as spill fires and smaller tank fires, they do not uniformly meet necessary performance requirements for a significant fire event that may occur at an oil refinery or a large tank farm, given the different flammable liquids being managed. The chemistries within AFFF provide fuel repellency and heat stability, allow for rapid extinguishment, burnback resistance, and protection against vapor release, which help to prevent re-ignition and protect firefighters working in the area as part of the rescue and recovery operations.

Fire test results presented at international fire protection conferences in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2016, including some performed by the Naval Research Labs (NRL), all show that fluorinated foams are significantly more effective at extinguishing flammable liquid fires than fluorine-free foams. In a recent trade publication (Jan’19), an NRL scientist said fluorinated foams “outperform fluorine-free foams by a factor of four to five” by containing the fire and suppressing vapors that can reignite. Similar conclusions were reached by a National Fire Protection Association report.¹

Chemical manufacturers and downstream users of AFFF recognize the need to ensure release of these chemistries into the environment is minimized to the greatest extent possible. There are alternative fluids and methods currently available that make it possible in many cases to eliminate the use of AFFF foams for training, which represent the majority of foam use and discharges.

ACC supports current best practices that call for the containment and treatment of foam discharges during training and testing and would certainly support similar provisions in HB1644 HD1. Given that large scale high hazard Class B fires are actually rare, adopting training and testing restrictions have the potential to significantly reduce discharges of PFAS to the environment from foam.

ACC appreciates recent amendments that extend the implementation date to July 1, 2024. However, we urge you to limit the prohibition on the use of firefighting foams that contain intentionally added PFAS specifically for testing and training purposes but allow for the continued use of these foams in the event they are necessary for a large scale, real-world fire incident.

Adoption of our suggested amendment would allow fire fighters and high hazard facilities to reduce unnecessary releases into the environment during training and testing while also ensuring the most effective firefighting foams are available to protect the community, workers, emergency responders and property in the event of a significant incident.

Thank you in advance for considering our views. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at tim_shestek@americanchemistry.com. You may also contact ACC’s Hawaii based representative Ross Yamasaki at 808-531-4551 or via email at ryamasaki@808cch.com

¹ National Fire Protection Association Research Foundation. *Evaluation of the fire protection effectiveness of fluorine free firefighting foams*, January 2020

HB-1644-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 4:36:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is another Scam by the Government to Rip the people off and steal there Taxe payer Money.

We need to put and end to this wastfull use of Government Authority to scerw the People!!

End this NOW.

HB-1644-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 6:33:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Testifying for Recycle Hawaii and Clean the Pacific	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the President of Recycle Hawaii, I can tell you that I've done a lot of research on PFAS and PFOA and other forever chemicals. To say that the data is alarming and shocking is a monumental understatement. It's so disturbing in fact, that it's difficult, if not impossible, for the human brain to even comprehend it. It's like trying to imagine the distance to the nearest star, it's just incomprehensible. Every living organism on Earth has been poisoned by these chemicals. Think about that. They're on the top of Everest. They're at the bottom of the Mariana Trench. They're in the Arctic, the Congo, the Sahara, everywhere.

I was listening to an episode of Science Friday several years ago. They had a lead researcher whose job is to study the health effects of these chemicals. I think this really says it all, "I don't take paper receipts at the store, I ask for an email receipt and if they can't do that, I don't accept the receipt or I use a tissue or something to hold it." That's how toxic these chemicals are. This man knows first hand how dangerous these chemicals are. They're so dangerous, he won't even touch a cash register receipt, which if you don't know, is coated with PFAS to make it heat sensitive. He always warns every cashier to wear gloves at work, but really, that technology needs to be banned.

If you're really interested in the truth, and as a legislator it's your kuleana to know the truth, then I urge you to watch the movie Dark Waters, available on Netflix and other media sources. This is the true life story of one lawyer who worked at a firm that protects chemical companies from law suits, and his David and Goliath struggle to seek justice for the citizens who were poisoned by Dupont. You will be riveted to your TV set by this amazing stranger than fiction story, 5 stars, no matter who you are or what your beliefs are. Maybe if you're an executive of a Chemical company you won't find it entertaining, but otherwise, it's a fantastic movie.

HB-1644-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 9:25:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stuart Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & Committee Members,

my name is Stuart Coleman, and I am writing in support of HB1644 HD1 to ban the use of PFOS & PFAS, toxic chemicals that pose serious risks to human health. Mahalo for your consideration and support of this bill.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman, 2927 Hibiscus Pl., Hon., HI 96815



Chair Mike Gabbard
Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, March 14, 2022
1:00 PM
Written Testimony Only

RE: Strong Support of HB1644HD1 - Ban Poly Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs)

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara & Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce in strong support of HB1644 HD1. As business owners who believe in strengthening our economy without hurting employees, communities and the environment, we urge this committee to vote in favor of HB1644 HD1, which would ban the use of Poly Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs) in Hawaii.

As the Hawaii Department of Health stated in its testimony “commenting” on this bill:

On December 14, 2021, FDA released “Testing Food for PFAS and Assessing Dietary Exposure”, which related that “PFAS can enter the food chain through environmental contamination or through migration from food packaging.”

* * *

The Department recognizes the benefit that a prohibition on PFAS containing food packaging products will have on the wastestream. By eliminating these products, the overall persistent environmental contamination from PFASs will be reduced.

These two important factors underscored by the Department of Health, shine a revealing light on the testimony in opposition to this bill.

Contrary to the testimony submitted by other business associations, risking the longterm health of our customers to save a few pennies is not a good business calculation — this is true regardless of a global pandemic.

If we are incapable of operating our businesses without hurting our customers, then we should question our motivations for staying in business.

Hawaii Legislative Council	Kim Coco Iwamoto AQuA Rentals, LLC Honolulu	Elle Cochran Maui Surfboards Maui	Russel Ruderman Island Naturals Hilo / Kona	Joell Edwards Wainiha Country Market Kauai	Maile Meyer Na Mea Hawaii Honolulu
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Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Re: **HB 1644 HD 1 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
Hearing: Monday, March 14, 2022, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 1644 HD 1. This measure would ban the manufacture, sale, or distribution for sale or use of wraps and liners, plates, food boats, pizza boxes, and firefighting foams that contain perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

The Environmental Caucus supports this bill as studies have shown that PFOA and PFOS can cause reproductive and developmental, liver and kidney, and immunological effects in laboratory animals, and both PFOA and PFOS have caused tumors in animals. In addition, there have been findings of an increased cholesterol levels among exposed populations with other findings related to low infant birth rates, effects on the immune system, cancer for PFOA, and thyroid disruption for PFOS.

Individuals can be exposed to PFAS by eating food that was packaged in material that contains PFAS or using consumer products that contain PFAS. Another pathway to PFAS is through drinking water contaminated by firefighting foam containing PFAS. Once PFAS enters the environment, they persist for a very long time as there is not natural processes that can break down these substances. As such these forever chemicals can continue to cause exposures long after they are phased out of consumer and other products.

Given the known health risks and persistency of these forever chemicals, the ban called for in this measure appears reasonable, justifiable, and long overdue. Please pass this measure.

Please support and pass this bill.

Melodie Adyja

Alan Burdick Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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

Re: Hearing HB1644 HD1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, Monday March 14, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment!

Position: The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition supports HB1644 HD1.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) was formed in 2017 with coral scientists, educators, legislators, filmmakers and advocacy groups to protect coral reefs and marine life. The Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition SUPPORTS HB1644 HD1.

"Forever chemicals" such as PFAS are harmful compounds that never disappear from our environment. They appear in plastic wraps and liners, plates, food boats, and Class B firefighting foams. This bill is an important step toward protecting the environment by removing such "forever chemicals" from packaging and elsewhere.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)