



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1645 HD1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

REPRESENTATIVE AARON LING JOHANSON, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Hearing Date: 2/11/2022 Room Number: Via Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Costs to implement this measure will impact the priorities identified in the
2 Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department)
3 appropriations and personnel priorities. The Department estimates that one enforcement position
4 should be established and funded annually to implement this proposal.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports prohibiting single-use toiletries and other
6 single-use plastic products to reduce the amount of plastic waste that is incinerated or disposed in
7 State landfills. However, the Department does not have the staff and funds to implement
8 inspection and enforcement. The Department respectfully requests funding and the establishment
9 of one new position to receive complaints and inspect lodging establishments identified as
10 distributing single-use toiletries in violation of HB1645 HD1. In addition to conducting
11 enforcement actions and dispensing citations, this position would also provide education and
12 outreach to the regulated community.

13 The Department also respectfully requests that this measure be placed in a separate
14 chapter among Chapters 339 and 339D, for greater visibility by non-solid waste management
15 facilities.

16 **Offered Amendments:** None

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
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David Y. Ige
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

February 11, 2022
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol
via videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 1645 HD1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on HB1645 HD1, which prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic bottles within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests. We agree with the intent of this legislation as it is in alignment with our Strategic Plan and our Destination Management Action Plans, and we humbly offer the committee some suggestions to consider incorporating in this proposed measure.

We appreciate the additional time that was provided by the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Labor & Tourism as part of House Draft 1 and would urge that these timeframes, which allow three years for full implementation of this bill, be supported by this committee. We are aware of many properties that are already moving in the direction of eliminating the use of small plastic bottles for their amenities. Due to the pandemic, these amenity dispensers have become difficult to secure and time is needed to acquire an adequate supply to be in compliance.

We would also ask the committee to consider providing support to the many local small businesses that are selling their products as guest amenities in order to support this move away from small bottles. As part of this measure, perhaps the committee may consider funding that would support

February 3, 2021

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these local small businesses in their transition from small plastic bottles to dispenser-size containers of their products.

Finally, as it relates to enforcement, we continue to remain concerned that the Department of Health may experience challenges while attempting to enforce this measure. We would recommend that the visitor industry be required to self-certify that they are in compliance with the law rather than requiring the Department of Health to conduct inspections. We would further recommend that a hotline or dedicated email address be made available to the public to report possible violations of this measure.

We believe that by supporting the reasonable implementation timeframe, providing support for our local small business community, and requiring the industry to self-certify through this legislation that we will be able to address and resolve the issue of small plastic bottles utilized by the industry here in Hawai'i. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments on HB1645 HD1. Mahalo.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:11:24 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair, the Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and members of the House Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee

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

RE: **Hearing HB1645 HD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**, Friday February 11, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Johanson and Vice Chair Kitagawa:

The **Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition SUPPORTS** this bill as needed to reduce plastic waste from small bottles in lodging establishments.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

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



2/9/2022

CPC Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

Position: Support HB1645.

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.

As an organization that has strongly championed efforts in Hawaii to reduce single-use plastics, Surfrider Foundation strongly supports HB1645. Shockingly, over 91% of plastics are not recycled. The hospitality industry in Hawaii generates millions of single-use plastic personal care products each year, with the majority ending up in our local landfills or being burned at H-Power. For example, a single 200-room four-star hotel can use about **300,000 pieces of single-use plastic in a month** if it is at full-capacity and does not invest in any eco-friendly alternatives ([link](#)).

In early 2021, New York state banned single-use **plastic** containers of soap, **shampoo** and other toiletries provided by hotels by 2024. Per the New York law, hotels will have to make the switch to refillable dispensers and environmentally-friendly containers for all body and hair care products. Smaller businesses with under 50 rooms are given an extra year to get ready for the change. California passed a similar law in 2019. Note that the New York bill had the backing of the hospitality industry.

Multinational hotel chains like Marriott International are already making the switch, after the company conceded that it [sends 500 million toiletries to landfill every year](#). Pump dispensers can now be found at over 1,000 of its hotels, a seventh of their worldwide portfolio. However, laws such as HB1645 are needed to ensure that businesses commit to reducing their single-use plastic footprint.

HB1645 will represent an important step towards eliminating unnecessary single-use plastics and improving the sustainability of the hospitality industry in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB1645, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawaii 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,

Lauren Blickley
Hawaii Regional Manager



Surfrider Foundation

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:33:20 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cynthia Reves	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to make changes to protect our environment and this is one step in the right direction.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 6:04:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose to all this Bull Shit!!

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:49:09 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
chris c.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members,
I support HB 1645 HD1 to reduce plastic waste.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:44:27 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jonah Bobilin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee of Consumer Protection & Commerce,

My name is Jonah Bobilin and I am a constituent from Pearl City. I am writing in support of HB 1645, which will eliminate the use of small plastic bottles to provide personal care products in lodging establishments.

I believe that we must take aggressive action to phase out single use plastics and packaging items in Hawai‘i in all areas of our life if we are to make progress combating climate change and protecting the environment. The common use of these plastics by the Hawai‘i tourist industry is needlessly wasteful and contributes to the growing amount of plastic trash on this planet, which may take up to 450 years to decompose. Additionally, it would not place an undue burden on hotel and other lodging establishments to consider alternative means of providing personal care products as we tend to do at home in our daily life, and as many lodging establishments already do.

I fully support this measure as it will help to protect our ‘āina for future generations.

Mahalo nui.

HB-1645-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:22:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kelly Rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for your attention to this tremendously important issue. I am in support of HB1645 HD1 because of the major impact single use plastics (& liquids contained in them) are having on our environment. To enforce a ban on lodgings using these containers would be a monumental help to preserving our environment. We are smarter now. Times have changed. Being wasteful no longer works; people are becoming aware of the damage single use plastics are creating & they desire to do their part and help keep our environment clean. HB1645 would be a massive step in the right direction for earth & everyone/ thing on it!

Mahalo,

Kelly Rice



Maui Hotel & Lodging
ASSOCIATION

LATE

Testimony of
Lisa H. Paulson
Executive Director
Maui Hotel & Lodging Association

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
House Bill 1645 HD1: Relating to the Environment
February 11, 2022, 2:00 pm
Conference Room 329

The Maui Hotel & Lodging Association is the legislative arm of the visitor industry for Maui County. We represent over 160 property and allied business members and over 19,000 rooms. **MHLA would like to offer comments for House Bill 1645 HD1**, which prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic bottles within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests. Establishes fines and civil penalties. (HD1)

We appreciate the additional language recently added allowing for more time to comply and would ask for at least a one-year grace period once the law goes into effect for properties to be in full compliance. Due to the current supply chain issues, it may take even more time than allotted for the necessary hardware and product to be widely available. Many properties are already moving in the direction of eliminating the use of small plastic bottles for their amenities. Due to the pandemic, these amenity dispensers have become difficult to secure and time is needed to acquire an adequate supply.

Additionally, we ask the committees to consider funding that would support local small businesses in assisting these accommodations with their transition from small plastic bottles to dispenser-size containers of their products.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 329
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022 AT 2:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

COMMENTING ON HB1645 HD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like to comment on HB1645 HD1 which prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic bottles within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests. And establishes fines and civil penalties.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce appreciates the additional language recently added allowing for more time to comply with the regulations in this bill. We would ask for at least a one-year grace period once the law goes into effect for properties to be in full compliance. Due to the current supply chain issues, it may take even more time than allotted for the necessary hardware and product to be widely available. Many properties are already moving in the direction of eliminating the use of small plastic bottles for their amenities. Due to the pandemic, these amenity dispensers have become difficult to secure and time is needed to acquire an adequate supply.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.