

SCR-57

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 9:49:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/28/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Michael Gabbard, Chair, The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing , REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ENDORSE THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT AND THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO SET TARGETS TO FULFILL THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT,

Monday March 28, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

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

Position: The Climate Protectors Hawai'i supports SCR57 and Senate Resolution 52.

One million plastic bottles are purchased every minute and over five trillion plastic bags are used annually. Many plastic products are designed for single-use. Sixty percent of all plastic products produced since 1950 have eventually ended up in landfills or natural environments. Plastic is made from fossil fuels; its production exacerbates the climate crisis as well as pollutes the oceans.

Hawaii is particularly vulnerable to the wasteful use of plastics, which pose a threat to the State's unique natural environments and vital tourism sector.

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the United Nations Environment Programme have created a New Plastics Economy Global Commitment to set goals and standards for the use of plastic products and reduce reliance on single-use plastics. This resolution would take a step in the right direction by requesting that the Hawaii Governor endorse the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment and the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development set targets to fulfill that commitment.

Please pass this concurrent resolution!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

SCR-57

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 9:10:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/28/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Testifying for 350Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

350Hawaii supports this resolution that would have the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development develop and publish meaningful targets to achieve the goals of the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment and to implement policies in pursuit of those targets. By reducing plastic waste, we are reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate breakdown. These efforts are part of the important actions we need to take to achieve a livable future.

SCR-57

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 10:36:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/28/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair, The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Re: Hearing SCR57 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ENDORSE THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT AND THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO SET TARGETS TO FULFILL THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 28, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

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

Endorsement of the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and UN Environment Programme would voice our support, interest, and intent to engage with larger manufacturers, other governments, and our community to address the concerns around virgin plastic production, use, and pollution.

As the resolution mentioned, Kamilo Beach is world-famous for it’s trash. The beach serves as a canary in a coal mine. It reminds us that we are encompassed by an ocean system that is invisibly converging fragmented waste, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a vast area of swirling microplastics. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), it is estimated that “over 300 million tons of plastic is produced every year;” “at least 14 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year, and plastic makes up 80% of all marine debris found from surface waters to deep-sea sediments.” National Geographic reported that 80% of plastic marine debris is estimated to originate from land-based sources with the remainder from boats and marine sources.

We cannot continue to support the plastics economy without making considerable changes. Plastics use and poor waste management are altering our ecosystems and our health. Marine plastic pollution effects include animal entanglement, ingestion, suffocation, starvation, increased toxin accumulation, introduction of invasive species, and entry into the food web as plastics are ingested by plankton. On land, microplastics have similar impacts. A small study reported earlier this week by The Guardian (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/mar/24/microplastics-found-in-human-blood->

for-first-time) found that 17 of 22 healthy adult participants were found to have plastic particles in their blood. A previous report (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/dec/08/microplastics-damage-human-cells-study-plastic>) indicated that microplastics, as consumed through contaminated drinking water, seafood, and salt cause damage to human cells. Recent work by the UN in various countries find that plastic pollution leads to more human disease such as malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia cases in children due to plastic waste blocking waterways, contamination/lack of sanitation of plastic reuse, and air pollution due to incineration. We are part of a global economy and need to participate in a global solution.

We can reduce waste by reducing production of new virgin plastics, as new plastic production increases the existing load of circulating plastics that, unaddressed, will last for centuries. We also need to ramp up efforts to better manage plastic waste streams particularly recycling and reuse. In 2018, McKinsey had projected that “if plastics demand follows its current trajectory, global plastics-waste volumes would grow from 260 million tons per year in 2016 to 460 million tons per year by 2030, taking what is already a serious environmental problem to a whole new level.” It is clear that if we allow demand to shape our future, there is little incentive for change. The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment latest report update reported that they “see alarmingly little investment in efforts to reduce the need for single-use packaging” and that “just 11% of signatories launched more than three pilots [for reusable plastic packaging] in the last year, while 56% launched none at all.” More pressure, more voices, need to be heard in show of our concern and desire for change.

As an individual, I can only do so much. Policies, infrastructure, and innovation are the types of system-level changes that are needed. Per the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment report, “extended producer responsibility policy (EPR) is the only proven way to ensure sufficient funding for collection, sorting and recycling of packaging, and that without it recycling is unlikely to ever scale.” This is government-level action. However, as Kamilo Beach reminds us, we cannot act alone. Passing this resolution is a first step to showing a united commitment to change.

I strongly support the passage of this resolution!

Mahalo,
Cara Oba

SCR-57

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 4:14:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/28/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii should not be invloved in anything that has to do with Comunist Gobleizum!!



Monday, March 28, 2022, 1:00 pm

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 57:

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR
to ENDORSE THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT
and
the OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
to SET TARGETS TO FULFILL THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT.

Position: Strong Support

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

It is well known that plastics, like DDT, are ubiquitous around the world, in absolutely every habitat, and up and down the food chain. They are a huge waste problem, littering everywhere you go, piling up on our beaches, infesting every urban corner, clogging our waste dumps, creating a Pacific Gyre Garbage Patch seen from space. Most of them are single use containers and very difficult to recycle. They break down and get into everything, causing widespread animal deaths and invading our food supply.

Recently, a Dutch study published in *Environment International* detected and quantified microplastics in human blood, meaning that these particles could be making their way into organs, possibly crossing the blood-brain barrier, with unknown effects. Nearly 80% of healthy volunteers exhibited polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and polystyrene. Ominously, these are found in drinking bottles and disposable food containers. The study noted that there could be other kinds of microplastics in blood, particles larger than the diameter of the needle used to take the samples.

What is the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment?

- (1) Eliminate unnecessary plastic packaging and products;
- (2) Encourage reuse;
- (3) Incentivize reusable, recyclable, and compostable packaging;
- (4) Increase collection and sorting of waste;
- (5) Stimulate demand for recycled plastics; and
- (6) support social and behavioral change;

The problem is so great, it is well past time to be tackling it. Thankfully, this has begun, and is catching on, although it has not scaled up to anything like where it needs to go. Many producer groups are joining the global movement to reduce unnecessary packaging, and retailers are promoting reusable containers. Much more must be done for recycling these materials and saving our landfills. The idea of waste-to-energy has been shown to be a poor substitute for major material waste reduction, as it still results in greenhouse gas emissions, which can no longer be tolerated with the acceleration of climate change, worsening disasters, and costly disaster response.

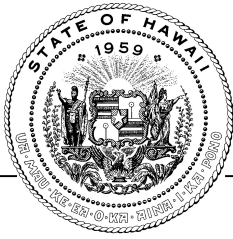
Mahalo for the opportunity to address this issue,

/s/ Charley Ice, retired senior Hydrologist, Commission on Water Resource Management

With Ted Bohlen, retired Deputy Attorney General

Co-chairs of the Energy & Climate Action Committee, Environmental Caucus, Hawaii Democratic Party

**Building the new normal with People and Land: Food Security Health Care Public Banking
Regenerating Soils Cutting Waste Eliminating GHG emissions**



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, March 28 2022

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

on

SCR 57

**REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ENDORSE THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL
COMMITMENT AND THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO
SET TARGETS TO FULFILL THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT.**

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

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **offers comments** on SCR 57/SR 52, which requests the Governor to endorse the new plastics economy global commitment and the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to set targets to fulfill the new plastics economy global commitment.

The OPSD-Statewide Sustainability Branch previously participated in the State's Plastic Source Reduction Working Group and strongly supports the recommendations of that working group report. Additionally, as the publisher of the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan, and lead agency of that State's Sustainability Branch representing both sustainable development and climate change policy development, OPSD strongly supports the development of circular economic policies for the State of Hawai'i.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development would like to emphasize that for the past 5 years, the Statewide Sustainability Branch is only staffed with 1 state employee, and notes that this Concurrent Resolution does not provide additional staff support to the agency, or budgetary support to the branch. It is not feasible for the State of Hawai'i's government to continue to rely upon 1 sole employee for this extensive amount of work. However, if provided a sufficient amount of staffing, including digital support staffing, the Statewide Sustainability Branch looks forward to reviewing and managing the Aloha+ Challenge Targets, the State of Hawai'i's UN Sustainable Development Goals Targets, the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan's progress, and other sustainable targets like the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment as proposed in this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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: **SCR 57 / SR 52 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ENDORSE THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT AND THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO SET TARGETS TO FULFILL THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT**

Hearing: Monday, March 28, 2022, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 224 and via Videoconference

Position: **Strong Support**

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

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of SCR 57 / SR 52. These Resolutions would request the Governor to endorse the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment and the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to set targets to fulfill the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment.

The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment aims to reduce reliance on single-use plastic products and limit the production of plastic waste by: (1) eliminating unnecessary plastic packaging and products; (2) encouraging reuse; (3) incentivizing reusable, recyclable, and compostable packaging; (4) increasing collection and sorting of waste; (5) stimulating demand for recycled plastics; and (6) supporting social and behavioral change.

These resolutions request the Governor to endorse the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the United Nations Environment Programme's New Plastic Economy Global Commitment and further request the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to develop and publish meaningful targets to achieve these goals which are sorely needed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Melodie Adajia

Alan B. Burdick

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