



## HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

1188 Bishop St., Suite 608, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone (808)533-1292 - Fax (808)599-2606 - Email: hawaiifoodind@aol.com

February 2, 2010 @ 8:30 am in CR 325

To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair  
Rep. Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, President

Re: HB 2125 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chairs & Committee Members:

While we are in full agreement that we cannot continue to be a disposable society using thousands of one way bags to carry our purchases home each year, we do not believe this measure is the ultimate solution to address the situation.

Our industry is already making a difference with the following steps:

- Pay customers up to a nickel for every bag of their own brought in for their purchases;
- Sell or give away reusable bags while encouraging consumers to use them;
- Create and support plastic recycling programs where bags and other plastics are collected and returned to the Mainland for recycling; and
- Utilize biodegradable plastic bags and/or compostable bags.

As an industry trade association, we stayed away from a proposal to charge customers for bags, as it could lead to anti-trust issues. If government came up with the idea, it would be more acceptable, and all retailers would be required to comply. This idea however has been attempted in other jurisdictions, and resulted in a backlash.

We believe consumers rejected this idea based on the psychology of the issue. I will give you two examples:

- One of our major retailers saw a big increase in their program of paying customers a nickel for each bag of their own used. Customers would instruct the clerk to limit the number of items in each bag so as to maximize their nickels. This shows that customers are akamai enough to maximize their return.
- If the customer were charged for every bag, we can reasonably expect the opposite result. Customers would want to fill the bags to the extent they may fall apart. This would be the reverse of the nickel payout.

When the House adopted HCR 43 last year, it was a House only adoption, which means the measure can be considered meaningless. We did however use this as an opportunity to bring the issue to the HFIA leadership, asking for a Working Group to be established to come up with a report on what industry believe would work, without interfering with what different retailers were already doing and utilizing as a marketing tool.

The Group did come to an agreement as follows:

### OFFICERS

Chairman  
Michael Walters  
(Love's Bakery)

Vice Chair  
Randy Stentz  
(Times Supermarkets)

Secretary/Treasurer  
Bonny Amamiya  
(Anheuser-Busch Sales Hawaii)

Immediate Past Chair  
Paul Kosasa  
(ABC Stores)

President  
Richard C. Botti (HFIA)

Executive Director  
Paula S. Aono (HFIA)

### DIRECTORS

ABC Stores—Paul Kosasa

Ah Fooks—Raymond haw

Advantage Webco - Tim Doyle

American Savings - Larry Ishii

Anheuser Busch Sales - Bonny Amamiya

Armstrong Produce - Kelvin Shigemura

Avis/Budget - Gordon Kai

Better Brands - George Sziget

Big Save - Charles Kawakami

C&S Wholesale Grocery—Beau Oshiro

Coca Cola—Marshall Pagan

ConAgra Grocery - Stan Brown

Down to Earth—Mark Fergusson

Foodland—Joe Detto

Frito-Lay of Hawaii - John Erickson

Horizon Lines - Mike Ohashi

HPC Foods - Ernie Tottori

KTA Superstores - Barry Taniguchi

KYD, Inc. - Dexter Yamada

L.H. Gamble Co. - Hoagy Gamble

Love's Bakery - Mike Walters

Manukai - Roy Ishihara

Molson Navigation - Cliff Mattos

Meadow Gold Dairies—Glenn Muranaka

Midweek/Star Bulletin - Jay Higa

Nestle - Leighton Kido

Oahu Sales - Paul Nakata

RSM Hawaii - Gary Hanagami

Seven-Eleven - Glenn Nagatori

Tamura Superette - Cliff Tamura

Tamura's Wahiawa - Glenn Tamura

Tesoro - Alan Nakamura

The Honolulu Advertiser - Mike Wiley

The Pepsi Bottling Co. - Gary Yoshida

The Pint Size Corp. - Brian Christensen

Times Supermarket - Randy Stentz

Trade Publishing - Faith Freitas

Waianae Store - Kyle Okimoto

Whole Foods—Claire Sullivan

Wholesale Unlimited - Wayne Yamada

## HFIA's Working Group Recommendations

While supporting any new tax is undesirable, precedence has been established with the Glass Advance Disposal Fee adopted by the City & County of Honolulu in 1989 when HFIA was challenged by the City & County of Honolulu address a problem with glass not burning in HPOWER, but rather melting on the walls, requiring the facility to shut down to conduct periodical clean-up with major cost involved. HFIA supported a small broad brushed fee to address this specific problem. We felt it was necessary for our industry to be a part of the solution rather than the problem. The ADF was later adopted by the Legislature and made state-wide.

- Realizing that any ban or fee will ultimately reduce consumer choices, create shortages, and be paid for by the consumer, we support a law that will:
  - Be the least costly to implement;
  - Directly address the problem with a final long term solution;
  - Allow for competition within the various types of bags while reaching environmental goals;
  - Will be small enough to minimize the impact on product pricing that would be passed on to consumer, if any; and Generate funding that maintains a direct nexus to the issue it is addressing.

### HFIA's Proposal

HFIA is proposing that the Legislature impose an ADF (Advance Disposal Fee) on all single use bags used at retail establishments at the rate of one cent per bag regardless of size, payable to the State, with 90% of the revenues distributed to each county based on a de facto population earmarked to fund education to encourage resource reuse and recycling, as well as Waste to Energy projects that will utilize or divert landfill waste. County funding would be contingent upon legislative preemption of existing or proposed county ordinances relating to the subject matter.

With landfills becoming landfills, we believe the future will include mining our landfills for sources of energy. The best example of this is plastic has approximately the same British thermal unit (BTU or Btu) as does oil. Yet we are landfilling it when we could be reducing our consumption of imported oil by using all products packaged in plastic as energy. We need to use 5% of the funding for long range planning to ultimately reduce our landfills by mining them as a source of energy, and to study a means of separating plastic prior to entering our landfill to be used as a strategic energy reserve.

Plastic bags as previously stated are made from natural gas created in America. While they are not made from imported oil, they do still have a high Btu value, and can produce energy, and should be utilized for this purpose.

Require 5% of the total revenues generated from the ADF to educate consumers on the importance of:

- Reducing single use bag consumption;
- Reusing bags for other purposes such as wet waste, trash, lunch bags, etc.;
- Promoting reusable bag use by consumers; and
- Recycling of all types of bags, whether they are compostable, biodegradable, regular plastic, or paper.

### HFIA Mahalos

HFIA thanks the following participants as part of the HFIA Working Group

ABC Stores - Paul Kosasa

Down to Earth - Mark Fergusson & Frank Santana

Foodland - Simon Cutts

HFIA Legal Counsel - Robert F. Miller

Island Plastic Bags - David Hong

KTA Superstores - Derek Kurisu

KYD - Glenn Horichi & Dexter Yamada

Seven-Eleven - Glenn Nagatori

Times Supermarkets - Randy Slentz

Tropical Brokerage - Dave Oshita

Whole Foods Market - Claire Sullivan





UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

Water Resources Research Center  
Environmental Center

RL: 2257

HB 2125  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Public Hearing – February 2, 2010  
8:30 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 325

By  
Peter Rappa, Environmental Center  
Melissa Ihori, Environmental Health and Safety  
Nicole Lowen, Environmental Center

Bill No. 2125  
Support ☒ Y ☐ N  
Date 2/1  
Time 17:08  
Cat AF ☒ AS ☒ AX ☒ BC  
Type 1 ☒ 2 ☐ WI

HB 2125 requires businesses in the State to collect an offset fee for each plastic disposable checkout bag distributed to customers. Our statement on this measure does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Worldwide production of single use plastic grocery bags is estimated to be over 500 billion each year. In the U.S. alone, consumers throw away 100 billion single use plastic grocery bags each year. Most end up in landfills where they can last for a thousand years. Except for those bags that are recycled, only about 5 – 7 percent each year, or burned in garbage to energy plants, all the plastic bags that have ever been made are still in the environment in smaller in smaller pieces. Some of the plastic ends up in the marine environment where it kills an estimated 100,000 marine animals a year. We support the intent of this proposed legislation which attempts to address some of the problems caused by the handling of single use plastic grocery bags by charging an offset fee for each disposable bag provided to a customer.

This proposed legislation follows the example set by Ireland. In 2002, they passed the first country wide plastic bag tax. The aim of the tax was not to raise revenue, though it did raise 9.6 million in its first year, but to change people's behavior. In that area it was a great success. The tax resulted in a 90 percent drop in the use of plastic bags, from 1.2 billion annually to about 230,000 today. Hawaii would do well to implement a similar program.

Another way to proceed is to copy the City of San Francisco. The San Francisco City Council banned the use of plastic bags for carry out retail in 2007. The ordinance is the first such law in any city in the United States and has been drawing global scrutiny to see how it works. The city banned hard-to-recycle plastic bags in grocery stores, and so far, that has translated into 5 million fewer plastic bags every month.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Bill No. 2125

In reply, please refer to:  
File: Support Y (N)

Date 2/1

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Time 17:20

H.B. 2125, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Cat AF AS AX B C

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health

Type 1 2 WI

February 2, 2010  
8:30 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of this measure to reduce  
2 plastic bag waste, but respectfully opposes this bill as written. .

3 **Fiscal Implications:** There will be added costs to consumers who do not use or switch to reusable  
4 shopping bags. The total collective cost to consumers could be substantial, especially without an  
5 education campaign.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill requires businesses to charge a 20 cent "offset fee" for each  
7 disposable checkout bag that is provided to its customers, with some exceptions. Stores must submit the  
8 fees to the department for deposit in the general fund.

9 DOH generally supports the reduction of solid waste, litter, and the use of petroleum resources.  
10 State policy already sets source reduction and recycling as the top two priorities for solid waste  
11 management (HRS §342G-2(b)). However, imposing fees on the general public is inappropriate at this  
12 time of economic difficulty. The proposed fee potentially represents millions of dollars of extra costs to  
13 the general public.

14 The handling of the offset fee and payment and reporting to DOH also imposes an extra burden  
15 on stores.

1       The bill adds significant administrative functions to the DOH without adding any resources to  
2 manage them. DOH will have to process the payments and receipts of fees from virtually all stores in  
3 the state, with no new staff or other resources. DOH will also need to enforce the law. By contrast,  
4 deposit beverage container program administration and enforcement are funded by the container fees.

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

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee  
on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support HB 2125 because, in my humble opinion, the pervasiveness of plastics in our ocean is an environmental issue as serious as the threat of global warming. Plastics never fully biodegrade, but instead break down into smaller and smaller particles. These plastic particles pass up the food chain, first through microscopic organisms, and then up to larger predatory fish (and eventually, to humans). The implications of this bioaccumulation of plastics into the tissues of marine animals and humans are not fully known, but many scientists fear it may have grave consequences on marine ecosystems on a macro-level. Furthermore, countless whales, turtles, and birds die from plastic bag ingestion each year, mistaking the bags for jellyfish and squid.

Human civilization has existed for thousands of years without plastic bags and can definitely continue without them. The idea of plastic bags being "progressive" because they are inexpensive and seemingly infinite is a dangerous and irresponsible mentality. We owe it to our children and the countless generations yet to come to leave our oceans clean and healthy.

Hawaii, as an ocean and coastal community, is directly affected by the wastefulness of single-use plastic bags, as they wind up in the ocean around us. We need strong political will to stand up to the petro-chemical industry lobbyists who try to keep our citizens addicted to plastic bags. They value short-term profit over long-term sustainability and try to frame the issue of a tax on plastic bags as one that is "anti-business". This could not be further from the truth. A plastic bag tax or ban is business neutral and, more importantly, pro-health and pro-environment. Hawaii should set an example for the rest of the states to follow.

Please pass HB 2125.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Charlie Taylor  
Director, Environmental Law Society  
William S. Richardson School of Law  
University of Hawaii, at Manoa

Bill No. 2125  
Support (Y) N  
Date 2/1  
Time 1739  
Cat ~~AF~~ ~~AS~~ ~~AX~~ (B) C  
Type 1 (2) WI





Bill No. 2125  
Support Y (N)  
Date 1/30  
Time 13:30  
Cat AF AS AX (B)C  
Type (1) 2 WI

February 1, 2010

To: The Honorable Hermina Morita, Chair  
House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee

From: Tim Shestek  
Senior Director, State Affairs  
American Chemistry Council

Re: **HB 2125 - OPPOSE**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose HB 2125, legislation that would impose a \$0.20 "offset fee" for each plastic retail bag provided to customers by businesses.

Though we support the intent of reducing plastic bag litter and waste, we believe that the most environmentally responsible and economically sustainable solution to addressing this issue is a comprehensive program aimed at recycling these bags so that they may be used as feedstock in the production of other products, such as new bags, pallets, containers, crates, and pipe. Recycling policies have been recently adopted by the State of California, New York, Rhode Island, and Chicago and many voluntary initiatives are underway in other jurisdictions.

Recycling of plastic bags is growing fast in the United States. In 2008 over 832 million pounds of plastic bags and wraps were recycled, representing a 28 percent increase in only a few years. According to EPA data, recycling of polyethylene bags and wraps reached 12 percent in 2007.

The "offset fee" contained in HB 2125 would only apply to plastic bags and is essentially a "de-facto ban" on this product. Experience has shown that policies applying only to plastic bags (e.g. City of San Francisco's bag ban) result in consumers simply using paper bags. This bag shift results in unintended environmental and economic impacts. For example, a recent study of the ban on plastic bags in San Francisco shows that this policy has dramatically increased paper bag use and done little to promote reusable bags<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Use Less Stuff: A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bags in San Francisco, September 2008. <http://cygnus-group.com/use-less-stuff/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

Furthermore, the San Francisco Examiner reported (January 25, 2010) that the city's bag ban has increased one local grocer's expenses "by \$900,000 a year in its 15 San Francisco stores."

ACC urges the committee to consider the overall environmental and economic impacts that could result from widespread consumer shift from recyclable plastic to paper bags:

- Plastic grocery bags require 70 percent less energy to manufacture than paper bags and generate 50% less greenhouse gases.
- For every seven trucks needed to deliver paper bags, only one truck is needed for the same number of plastic bags, helping to save energy and reduce air emissions.
- Plastic bags generate 80 percent less waste than paper bags.<sup>2</sup>

In his recent review of life cycle data relating to disposable, biodegradable, and reusable grocery bags, Robert Lilienfeld of "Use Less Stuff" ([www.use-less-stuff.com](http://www.use-less-stuff.com)) concluded that "Legislation designed to reduce environmental impacts and litter by outlawing grocery bags based on the material from which they are produced will not deliver the intended results. While some litter reduction might take place, it would be outweighed by the disadvantages that would subsequently occur (increased solid waste and greenhouse gas emissions). Ironically, reducing the use of traditional plastic bags would not even reduce the reliance on fossil fuels, as paper and biodegradable plastic bags consume just as much non-renewable energy during their full lifecycle." He notes that:

- Even though traditional disposable plastic bags are produced from fossil fuels, the total non-renewable energy consumed during their lifecycle is **no greater** than the non-renewable energy consumed during the lifecycle of paper and biodegradable plastic bags.<sup>3</sup>
- Paper sacks generate 70 percent more air, and 50 times more water pollutants, than plastic bags.<sup>4</sup>
- It takes 91 percent less energy to recycle a pound of plastic than it takes to recycle a pound of paper.<sup>5</sup>
- While the data appear to indicate that paper and compostable plastic bags may account for less litter, data also indicates that this finding is offset by the increased environmental impacts these bags produce versus traditional plastic bags.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Boustead Consulting, "Life Cycle Assessment for Three Types of Grocery Bags - Recyclable Plastic; Compostable, Biodegradable Plastic; and Recycled, Recyclable Paper," 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Évaluation des impacts environnementaux des sacs de caisse Carrefour (Evaluation of the Environmental Impact of Carrefour Merchandise Bags), prepared by Price-Waterhouse-Coopers/Ecobilan (EcoBalance), February 2004, #300940BE8. ([www.ademe.fr/htdocs/actualite/rapport\\_carrefour\\_post\\_revue\\_critique\\_v4.pdf](http://www.ademe.fr/htdocs/actualite/rapport_carrefour_post_revue_critique_v4.pdf))

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website, Questions About Your Community: Shopping Bags downloaded from the Internet, May 2007.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> REVIEW OF LIFE CYCLE DATA RELATING TO DISPOSABLE, COMPOSTABLE, BIODEGRADABLE, AND REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS, The ULS Report, June 2007 <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/>

Furthermore, though the city of San Francisco banned plastic grocery bags, a 2008 San Francisco Streets Litter Re-Audit, a city-commissioned study, revealed that total bag litter increased by 1.5% after the ban and plastic bag litter remained the same before and after the ban at only 0.6% of the litter composition;

When the City of Seattle, WA was considering a similar “bag tax” proposal, a fiscal analysis stated the city’s Department of Executive Administration’s (DEA) costs **“would also include approximately \$250,000 to DEA to administer the fee.”**<sup>7</sup>

**You may also be interested in knowing that last year Seattle voters overwhelmingly rejected \$0.20 consumer bag charge, and the California State Assembly Appropriations Committee last month held two pieces of legislation (AB 68 and AB 87) that would have required certain grocers and retailers to impose a \$0.25 per bag consumer charge.**

ACC would welcome the opportunity to partner with the State of Hawaii, the grocery and retail industry, recyclers, and other interested stakeholders to enhance and/or develop a system that effectively and efficiently helps to recycle these products. Our industry is involved in many similar programs in California, Washington State, Illinois, and Philadelphia to name just a few and it is our view that **a per bag fee as proposed in HB 2125 is unnecessary and would result in unintended environmental and economic impacts.**

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to provide these comments. Should you have any questions or comments, please 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 representatives Red Morris or John Radcliffe at 808-531-4551.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/~public/fnote/116251.htm>

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 1:43 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** greenhi3@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 1/30

Time 13:43

Cat AF AS AX ☒ BC

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Philip Barnes  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Pahoa, HI 96778  
Phone:  
E-mail: [greenhi3@yahoo.com](mailto:greenhi3@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2010

### Comments:

Everyone in Hawaii is now aware that oil is a scarce commodity tht should be used wisely. Making plastic bags is not a good use. In addition to wasted oil the litter problem from discarded bags can be seen everywhere. These bags become a particular problem when they are blown into the ocean where they can entangle or be consumed by marine birds, fish, and mammals. Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai'i's sustainable future.

Please discourage their continued use by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag given away by retailers. I know that it takes a few weeks to get use to taking your reusable bags to the store but this is a small price to pay to save oil and protect our aina.

Pass support HB2125.

**Cyndi Apana**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 2:34 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** mauibrad@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Brad Parsons  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [mauibrad@hotmail.com](mailto:mauibrad@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2010

Comments:  
Aloha Representatives:

Regarding HB 2125 a bill to Require a Small Fee for each Single-Use Plastic Bag. I do NOT support this bill. Almost everywhere where a FEE has been used to try and reduce plastic bag use, it has failed. A number of places, in fact, this type of fee has been overturned by referendum vote of the public. Bans are much more effective than fees for reducing use of plastic bags. This bill shows lack of creative problem solving. Please KILL this bill. The Counties can solve this problem on their own.

Mahalo,  
Brad Parsons

Bill No. # 2125

Support Y ☒ N

Date 1/30

Time 14:34

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 2 WI



**Cyndi Apana**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 2:52 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** alanaisforlovers@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 1/30

Time 14:52

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Alana Bryant  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 2746 Kahawai Street HI  
Phone: 808 429-0479  
E-mail: [alanaisforlovers@aol.com](mailto:alanaisforlovers@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2010

**Comments:**

Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai'i's sustainable future. They're wasteful and pose a consistent threat to avian and marine life in Hawai'i. They are also an extremely unnecessary use of petroleum resources. Please discourage their continued use by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag given away by retailers. Washington, DC already requires this, and it is an extremely successful program.

Pass support HB2125.

**Cyndi Apana**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 4:43 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** t\_smitty2@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: trevor  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [t\\_smitty2@hotmail.com](mailto:t_smitty2@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2010

**Comments:**

Please do anything you can to prevent the use of wasteful single use plastic bags. They kill marine life, and pollute the Earth in many ways. Educate yourself then vote with integrity and confidence because you have our support.

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 1/30

Time 16:43

Cat AF AS AX ☒ B ☐ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2010 5:46 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** steven.mazur@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 1/29

Time 17:46

Cat AF AS AX ☒ B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Steven Mazur  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [steven.mazur@gmail.com](mailto:steven.mazur@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/29/2010

### Comments:

I support a bill that will significantly reduce or eliminate the use of single use plastic bags in all of Hawaiian Islands. As a surfer, I have removed numerous plastic bags floating off several beaches on Oahu. There are multitudes of published articles across the world discussing the harms that plastics are causing to our oceans. Just last week, 7 sperm whales were beached in Italy and confirmed dead from ingesting plastics. Hawaii is also a major breeding ground for Humpback Whales increasing the likelihood that similar problems occur here. Whales not only have extrinsic value, they bring large amounts of revenue to the Hawaii tourism industry. On islands such as Hawaii, it is too easy for plastic bags to find there way into the ocean, and I have 1st hand witnessed this taking place more times than I can count. There are very simple substitutes for plastic bags, such as paper bags or other reusable bags. Plastic bags are also derived from petroleum which has other environmental issues. The proven success and leadership in Maui, Kauai, and San Francisco, for taxing or removing plastic bags can be considered, and Hawaii is in position to be the 1st to take such a stance on the state level, which many other states can follow. The environmental impact greatly outweighs any benefits of plastic bags. Taxing the use of plastic bags can generate much needed revenue for the state if a ban cannot be considered. I hope that the state's leadership does what we all know is right and pass a bill to eliminate this petroleum based sea life killer that no one actually needs. Aloha.

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 9:55 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** mh@interpac.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 1/30

Time 21:55

Cat AF AS AX ☒ B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Cory Harden  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [mh@interpac.net](mailto:mh@interpac.net)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2010

### Comments:

Aloha legislators,

We have to stop feeding to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a floating "graveyard" twice the size of Texas for "three and a half million tons of trash that's 80 percent plastic." Some of the trash floats, but most lingers one inch to 300 feet down. There are buoys, crates, bottle caps, toothbrushes, cigarette lighters, and tiny bits of plastic that don't quite float or sink. The discoverer, Charles Moore, says the bits turn the ocean into "plastic soup", and when they wash up on beaches, become plastic sand.

Ten years after the Garbage Patch was discovered, it has become "a totally different animal" says Moore. The patch doubled in size, the amount of plastic in samples doubled, and every sample analyzed from thousands of square miles contained plastic. "In the central North Pacific, plastic outweighs surface zooplankton 6 to 1." Moore says there's no way to remove the plastic without removing the plankton.

There may be four more garbage patches--a Western Pacific patch, one off Japan, one in the Sargasso Sea in the Atlantic Ocean, and one more elsewhere.

Large pieces of plastic entrap, suffocate, and drown marine animals. Small pieces can choke animals, cause starvation because the belly feels full, or cause intestinal blockage.

The plastic absorbs "PCBs, DDT and other toxic chemicals...Fish...ingest the tiny plastic particles. Scientists...say that fish tissues contain some of the same chemicals as the plastic. The scientists speculate that toxic chemicals are leaching into fish tissue from the plastic they eat. The researchers say that when a predator - a larger fish or a person - eats the fish that eats the plastic, that predator may be transferring toxins to its own tissues, and in greater concentrations since toxins from multiple food sources can accumulate in the body. [1] Two years ago, Moore and his crew found that 85 percent of the larger species of lanternfish they collected from the Garbage Patch were eating plastic.

Mahalo.

Bill No. 2129Support (Y) NDate 1/31Time 5:55

## Reduce Plastic Bag Use

*Require a Small Fee for each Single-Use Plastic Bag*

Posted by Robert D. Harris on Saturday, January 30, 2010 Under: Legislative

The Sierra Club supports reducing the use of single-use plastic bags in Hawai'i by imposing a statewide ban or modest fee. (See, e.g., HB2645, HB2125, SB2559 and SB2560). Oil-based plastic bags simply are not a part of Hawai'i's sustainable future. Consider:

Cat AF AS AX BCtype 1 2 WI

- Plastic bags contribute to litter and pose a consistent threat to avian and marine life in Hawai'i -- the endangered species Capitol of the world;
- Plastic bags are manufactured from a polluting resource that is becoming increasingly scarce;
- Plastic bags contribute to a growing trash problem on all our islands and foible the State's waste diversion efforts;
- Americans **throw away nearly 100 billion plastic bags** each year and only 0.6 percent of plastic bags are recycled.

Hawai'i is facing a growing solid waste crisis. For example, the "2006 Waste Characterization Study" (available at [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org)) completed for the City and County of Honolulu, reveals some shocking facts about Oahu's solid waste situation. Since the last waste characterization study in 1999, the trash from Oahu households increased by 30.2% from 316,491 tons annually in 1999 to 412,016 tons in 2006 (R.W. Beck, "2006 Waste Characterization Study," April 2007, at 3-11). The population increased by roughly 3% over the same period (878,906 to 906,000)—**meaning waste generation from households increased 10 times faster than population growth**. The proliferation of plastic bags contributes to this problem.

Plastic bags are an expense that can be avoided and its alternatives promoted. In Hawai'i, plastic bags are an expense -- the cost of purchasing tens of millions of plastic bags annually -- which is most certainly passed on to local consumers. In addition, plastic bags tax our economy and environment when they are littered or placed in our overflowing landfills.

For example, a recent study conducted in Seattle concluded -- even with a high 13% recycling rate (greater than the national average of 3-5%) -- approximately 1,650 tons of plastic bags were put into the landfill annually. The net cost to Seattle and ratepayers of collecting, transferring and disposing of waste was calculated to be approximately \$121 per ton or approximately \$200,000 for plastic grocery bags.

Even if plastic bags are burned at H-POWER (only on O'ahu) they are essentially converted to greenhouse gasses, further hastening global climate change, and not addressing the root of the waste problem. Similarly, with nearly 40% of the State's solid waste-stream able to be diverted from disposal at the landfill, plastic bags pose the single-most significant challenge to composting facilities, contaminating the compost, getting wrapped in the splines of processing equipment, and reducing the value of the compost product.

It should also be noted that two highly successful business in Hawai'i -- Costco and Wholefoods -- do not offer its customers plastic bags. These businesses are flourishing. The switch by Wholefoods alone kept approximately 100 million plastic bags out of the environment between April 22, 2008 and end of 2008.

*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai'i's sustainable future. They're wasteful and pose a consistent threat to avian and marine life in Hawai'i. Please discourage their continued use by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag given*



*away by retailers.*

***Pass HB2125.***

Aloha,  
Todd C. Wetmore

## Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2010 9:03 AM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** charon@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Charlene Hosenfeld  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone: 263-3878  
E-mail: [charon@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:charon@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2010

**Comments:**

Single-use plastic bags are wasteful and a threat to bird and sea life in Hawai'i. Please discourage their continued use.

Support HB2125.

Mahalo.

Bill No. 2125

Support Y N

Date 1/31

Time ~~5:59~~ 9:03

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

## Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2010 11:00 AM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** mhesketts@mac.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Marvin Heskett  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 419A Atkinson Dr. #1207 Honolulu, HI 96814  
Phone: 808.728.4617  
E-mail: [mhesketts@mac.com](mailto:mhesketts@mac.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2010

Comments:  
Aloha,

The effects of plastic refuse on the marine environment is extremely dangerous. Seabirds, turtles and whales have been killed by plastic bags. We, as responsible stewards of our oceans cannot allow this to continue. I urge your immediate support of banning the use of these lethal conveniences immediately.

Thank You,  
Marvin Heskett

Pass support HB2125.

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 1/31

Time 11:01

Cat ☐ AF ☐ AS ☐ AX ☒ B ☐ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ WI

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2010 3:55 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** lbc@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lois Crozer  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 1081 Kooahoo Place Kailua, HI 96734  
Phone: 8082624129  
E-mail: [lbc@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:lbc@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2010

### Comments:

I support HB2125.

20 years ago I visited Denmark and found I needed to bring a bag for shopping. It was a shock to me, but it dawned on me then that of course we should be doing this in the US. It is now 20 years later and still this is not common practice. Laws need to be passed in order for people in this country to wake up and do something for the good of all. Please pass this bill. People will fight it at first, but hopefully it will become just a matter of some forethought so that we bring our reusable bags to the market. I have been doing it for years and am truly amazed that people are still accepting plastic bags with all we know about how they end up in the ocean in turtles' stomachs, how much energy it takes to make them, how much energy it takes to recycle them, etc. This law is a win-win. Nobody loses here.

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 1/31

Time 15:55

Cat AF AS AX ☒ B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

**Cyndi Apana**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2010 4:53 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** rheayamashiro@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Rhea Yamashiro  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 142 Kailuana Pl Kailua  
Phone: 263-0913  
E-mail: [rheayamashiro@gmail.com](mailto:rheayamashiro@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2010

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 1/31

Time 16:53

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

**Comments:**

Please pass this bill to discourage use of plastic bags. It is such a simple thing for each of us to use cloth/ reusable bags, yet the benefit to the environment is huge. I support this bill, please vote for it!





est. 1947

# Hawaii Restaurant Association

1451 South King St, Suite 503  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
www.hawaiirestaurants.org

Phone: 808.944.9105  
Fax: 808.944.9109  
hra@hawaiirestaurants.org

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Duke's Waikiki

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Kahuna's Complex / MCB  
Hawaii

**Past Chair  
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McDonald's Restaurants

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Bryan Andaya  
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Mike Flores  
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Biff Graper  
Colliers Monroe Friedlander  
Tom Jones  
Gyotaku Japanese Restaurants  
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Ruff's Chris Steak House  
Waikiki  
Brian Kawabe  
American Express  
Bob Lathian  
Hansen Distribution Group  
Don Lakey  
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February 2, 2010

## AMENDED Testimony in Strong Opposition to HB 2125 – ENE – 2/2/10, 8:30 a.m., Rm. 325

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Restaurant Association (HRA) respectfully opposes SB 2559 that seeks to impose a fee for every plastic disposable checkout bags that is distributed by businesses. The HRA would consider withdrawing its opposition, however, if the exceptions contained within the bill are broadened to cover restaurants where plastic bags are used to transport food containers prone to spillage and leaks.

The HRA appreciates the intent of this bill, which is to reduce the consumption of plastic bags for environmental and other reasons. The HRA submits, however, that there are less drastic measures to effect the same purpose, including requiring the use of biodegradable or recyclable bags.

In the restaurant industry, plastic disposable bags are used not simply to carry items but for consumer safety and other practical reasons including the prevention of leaks and spills of items that are often hot in temperature and sometimes greasy and aromatic.

Unlike supermarkets that sell primarily packaged foods, restaurants sell freshly cooked foods that are most often hot and contain liquids. We noticed an exception in this bill for "[b]ags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish, flowers or potted plants, or other items to contain dampness." Similarly, food from restaurants, contain "dampness" either from gravies, sauces, or the heat that results in condensation.

In addition, restaurants that are forced to collect a fee for take-out bags will likely suffer a further reduction in traffic and sales. In this difficult economy, consumers have already started to eat out less. This additional fee would further discourage them and exacerbate the fragile restaurant industry. With over 3,500 locations directly employing over 82,000 dedicated people, restaurants form a cornerstone of Hawaii's economy that must be kept viable.

<sup>2125</sup>  
Bill No. In summary, the HRA reiterates its **opposition to HB2125.**

Support **Y** **(N)**

Very truly yours,

Date 4/21

HAWAII RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION  
By: Bryan P. Andaya

Time 1143

Cat **AF AS AX BC**

Type **1 2 WI**

**Cyndi Apana**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2010 11:30 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** meghangombos@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: meghangombos  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 3204 Ahinahina Pl HI  
Phone: 808 741 0329  
E-mail: [meghangombos@yahoo.com](mailto:meghangombos@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2010

**Comments:**

please pass the bill that would require a fee for single use plastic bags. These bags are posing a threat to Hawaii's marine life and therefore our economy.

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 1/31

Time 23:30

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** Mele Coleman [melecoleman@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 12:59 AM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags  
Bill No. 2125

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Mele Coleman  
[melecoleman@gmail.com](mailto:melecoleman@gmail.com)  
6247 Milolii Place  
Honolulu, HI 96825

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 00:59

Cat AF AS AX ☒ B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because disposable plastic check out bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment and harm marine life; this Bill is an great way for the State to encourage the use of reusable bags. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful. Because Hawai'i is the endangered species capitol of the world our community is well aware of the negative impacts of disposable plastic bags and will be accepting of the new legislation.

Not only are disposable plastic bags a significant source of litter and waste on land they also adversely affect the entire marine food web. Plastic bag litter makes its way to the ocean and never truly disappears. Small plastic particles are mistaken for food by filter feeders while various forms of other marine life ingest intact plastic bags. Although plastics cannot be digested, they concentrate organic chemicals and environmental pollutants, and bioaccumulate as they make their way up the food chain.

Most consumers will transition to using reusable bags and our environment will benefit tremendously. Some consumers will continue to use disposable plastic bags and the State will benefit tremendously; it's a win-win situation. However, I respectfully suggest that two amendments be made to the Bill: (1) a purpose statement added that discusses the environmental hazards of disposable plastic bags, and (2) allow businesses to keep five cents out of every twenty cents they collect for disposable bags in order to decrease opposition to the Bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 8:41 AM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** s.fineran@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Stacey Fineran  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 1520 Ward Ave Honolulu, Hi  
Phone: 8083544712  
E-mail: [s.fineran@gmail.com](mailto:s.fineran@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2010

**Comments:**

Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai'i's sustainable future. They're wasteful and pose a consistent threat to avian and marine life in Hawai'i. Please discourage their continued use by requiring a small fee (\$1 suggested) for each plastic bag given away by retailers.

I have been using re-usable bags for over five years now and it is very easy and affordable. I strongly support this measure.

Bill No. 2125

Support (Y) N

Date 2/1

Time 8:41

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** Tim Tybuszewski [surfrideroahu@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 9:00 AM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Bill No. 2125

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Support Y N

Date 2/1

Tim Tybuszewski  
[surfrideroahu@gmail.com](mailto:surfrideroahu@gmail.com)  
731 10th Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Time 9:00

Cat AF AS AX B C

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Type 1 2 WI

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125. Single use plastic bags are used for approximately 10 to 30 minutes depending on the distance of your car ride home and are then thrown away. Unfortunately plastic does not biodegrade into other useful material, only smaller particles of plastic, which can be dangerous to wildlife. This is a complete waste of resources for only a few minutes of use and a perfect example of humans wasteful consumption that needs to be curbed. Please support this bill that will help chart our community in the right course of responsible natural resource management.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



Representative Hermina Morita, Chair  
Representative Denny Coffman, Vice Chair  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

HEARING Tuesday, February 02, 2010  
8:30 am  
Conference Room 325  
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Bill No. 2125

Support Y ☒ N

Date 2/1

Time 9:02

Cat AF AS AX ☒ B C

Type ☒ 1 2 WI

RE: HB2125, Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and Members of the Committee:

Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a not-for-profit trade organization representing 200 members and over 2,000 storefronts, and is committed to support the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii.

**RMH strongly opposes HB2125**, which requires businesses in the state to collect an offset fee for each plastic disposable checkout bag distributed to customers.

With all due respect, we are confused about the purpose of this measure. If it is to protect the environment by reducing the number of plastic bags in the environment, the exemptions provided, particularly that for bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste or yard waste, merely substitutes a purchased bag for the free one provided at checkout.

To that point, HB2125 is highly discriminatory, unfairly imposing additional administrative burden on a specific sector of business.

From the consumer point of view, HB2125 is highly regressive, adding further cost burden at the grocery level for those residents who have the fewest resources.

We urge you to hold HB2125. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Carol Pregill, President

RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
1240 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 215  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
ph: 808-592-4200 / fax: 808-592-4202

**Cyndi Apana**

---

**From:** Diana LaBedz [DianaLaBedz@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 9:05 AM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags **Bill No. 2125**

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Diana LaBedz  
[DianaLaBedz@aol.com](mailto:DianaLaBedz@aol.com)  
P. O. Box 808  
Waimea, HI 96796

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 9:05

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because it's time the State of Hawaii support a cleaner environment. Planet Earth is dying under the present people impact. Leadership is required to change our direction towards a healthy future for the children all leaving on Kauai and the State.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Cyndi Apana**

---

**From:** Ken Taylor [taylor021@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 9:32 AM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Bill No. 2125

Support Y N

Date 2/1

Time 9:31

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Ken Taylor  
[taylor021@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:taylor021@hawaii.rr.com)  
1720-A Makaleha Pl.  
Kapaa, HI 96746

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because....we owe the children of today and tomorrow a sustainable future. Plastic bags never completely biodegrade; are a significant source of litter, endanger marine life and will remain in our environment forever.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



Cyndi Apana

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**From:** Sandra Herndon [pb1wahine@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 9:38 AM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Sandra Herndon  
[pb1wahine@gmail.com](mailto:pb1wahine@gmail.com)  
4433 Panihi Rd  
Kapaa, HI 96746

Bill No. 2125

Support Y N

Date 2/1

Time 9:39

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because.... they are some of the most UN- sustainable products that are brought into the islands. They never really biodegrade, taking up precious space in even more precious land fill areas; use an oil based production process at a time when fossil fuel reserves are also getting tight, and last but not least cause great harm to our oceans and sea life. People will ALWAYS take the path of least resistance, until they are required to "maka ala". That is usually most effectively done by "getting your hand in their pocket", so to speak. A fee on bags will encourage them to bring their own, and the end result is that they take some responsibility in the cleanup of their waste...and the state has a new stream of badly needed revenue!

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** Samel Chapin [schapin@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 10:22 AM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Samel Chapin  
[schapin@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:schapin@hawaii.rr.com)  
5271a Kapaka  
Princeville, HI 96722

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because.... it's quite simple really - there is no reason to contribute any further to the largest garbage dump in the world - the pacific ocean. I would, of course, prefer that the revenue raised would be used to mitigate marine pollution in a more direct way... but doing nothing would be at best irresponsible.  
Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Bill No. 2125

Support Y N

Date 1/2

Time 10:22

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

Cyndi Apana

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**From:** Paul Massey [paul@kauainature.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 9:33 AM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Paul Massey  
[paul@kauainature.com](mailto:paul@kauainature.com)  
P.O. Box 2078  
Kapaa, HI 96746

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because plastic checkout bag use in the state of Hawaii is an unnecessary, wasteful, and environmentally damaging activity that is long overdue for eliminating. Shoppers have plenty of alternatives such as bringing their own reusable bags or purchasing one at the retail location where they are shopping. Often a single purchased item can be hand carried and does not need a bag at all.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Bill No.

Support Y N 2125

Date 2/1

Time 10:28

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** Marjorie Bonar [margeb@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 10:34 AM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Marjorie Bonar  
[margeb@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:margeb@hawaii.rr.com)  
400 Auli'i Dr.  
Pukalani, HI 96768

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because the damage done to sea life, land based degradation and ultimate damage to humans is not worth the price of cheap plastic bags.

Plastic check out bags are a new, but not improved, method for carrying purchases. They are not necessary.

Bag taxes must be large enough to hurt. I would support an even higher charge.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 10:35

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

**Cyndi Apana**

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**From:** Kris McElwee [mcelweek@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 10:36 AM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags 2125

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Kris McElwee  
[mcelweek@mac.com](mailto:mcelweek@mac.com)  
668 Paopua Lp.  
Kailua, HI 96734

Bill No. 2125

Support Y N

Date 2/1

Time 10:36

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because plastic bags are easily lost from the waste stream creating litter on land and blowing into our oceans. Marine life is put at risk by ingesting or becoming entangled in bags. In addition, plastic bags can foul the intakes on boats, creating a hazard to human life. House Bill 2125 would effectively decrease our use of plastic bags by charging for them. People would adopt the use of reusable bags, become more aware of how their actions affect the environment, and likely lead to more responsible ocean stewardship in general. I urge you to support passage of the bill as well.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Cyndi Apana**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 10:52 AM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** Sarah.Falzarano@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time 10:52

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sarah Falzarano  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 117 Aikapa Pl Kailua, HI  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Sarah.Falzarano@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.Falzarano@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2010

**Comments:**

Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai'i's sustainable future. They're wasteful and pose a consistent threat to avian and marine life in Hawai'i. Please discourage their continued use by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag given away by retailers. A fee for their true cost is a much better motivator than a discount for bringing your own bag. It is very similar to the beverage container recycling fee and will have similar positive results.

## Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** Tim Clark [clark@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 11:03 AM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Tim Clark  
[clark@hawaii.edu](mailto:clark@hawaii.edu)  
1708 Wilhelmina Rise  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125. I am a marine biologist in Hawaii and have seen the negative impact plastics have on our marine life. For my PhD I researched the foraging ecology of the manta ray in Hawaii. Manta rays feed on plankton, and we would routinely observe them skimming plastic pieces off the waters surface as they fed. Plastic bags litter our ocean, and are consumed by fish, sea turtles, and sea birds. Studies of the North Pacific central gyre have found six times as much plastic by weight as plankton. Endangered sea turtles mistake plastic bags for jelly fish, ingesting the bags and dying when they can't pass them through their intestine. Sea birds swallow plastic pieces, mistaking them for food and die from starvation. Plastics are ingested by fish and litter our coral reefs. While single use plastic bags break down into smaller plastic pieces over time, these pieces never leave our environment. HB2125 would help reduce the level of plastics in our!

environment by requiring people to make a conscious decision every time they go to the grocery store. They can either pay 20 cents for a plastic bag that they know will never go away, or they can invest in our environment by bringing their own reusable bags. I hope you will invest in Hawaii's future by supporting HB2125.

Mahalo,

Tim Clark

Bill No. 2125

Support (Y) N

Date 2/1

Time 11:03

Cat AF AS AX B (C)

Type (1) 2 WI

Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** jennifer murray [jennifer@veganfusion.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 11:23 AM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Bill No. 2125

Support (Y) N

Date 2/1

Time 11:28

Cat AF AS AX B (C)

Type (1) 2 WI

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

jennifer murray  
jennifer@veganfusion.com  
1343 ihona place  
kapaa, HI 96746

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because the use of plastic bags on our small island is so unnecessary, especially when there are so many bio-friendly alternatives available.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Murray



## Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** Heather Freitas [heather@7genfund.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 1:13 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Bill No. 2125

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Heather Freitas  
heather@7genfund.org  
2986 Mack Road, Apt. D  
Arcata, CA 95521

Time 12:21

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because now is the time to react respectfully towards our environment and discourage the use of plastic bags that become litter, waste, and harmful to the natural environment. This is a step that more states need to work towards so I am thankful to see an Hawaiian island taking an exemplary step towards responsible stewardship!

I am very pleased for the consideration of this bill and look forward to its realization.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

## Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** Soo Sun Choe [soosunc@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 12:23 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Soo Sun Choe  
[soosunc@gmail.com](mailto:soosunc@gmail.com)  
2819 Kaonawai Place 2D  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because as the mother of a young toddler, while often carrying a reusable bag to the grocery store, in the chaos of the check-out line I've too often had the experience of everything being packed for me in a plastic bag, before I get around to opening my mouth to request otherwise. It was really refreshing to go the Big Island and be asked every time if I needed a plastic bag. Lets get rid of excess plastic production and waste! It is simple. We live on an island!! Please support HB2125.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Soo Sun Choe

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 12:23

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

**Cyndi Apana**

---

**From:** Aydee Virgen [aydeevirgen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 12:23 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Aydee Virgen  
[aydeevirgen@gmail.com](mailto:aydeevirgen@gmail.com)  
2914B Lauoha Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because we need to take responsibility for the impacts our actions have to our ocean environment and marine wildlife. Being that we are an island community we need to be extra careful with the amount of waste we produce and our dependency on fossil fuel, which are needed to manufacture plastic bags.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aydee Virgen

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 12:23

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

Cyndi Apana

**From:** Jessica Rivera [jessicajunebug@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 11:48 AM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Jessica Rivera  
[jessicajunebug@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicajunebug@yahoo.com)  
PO Box 622  
Lawai, HI 96765

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because plastic bags kill wildlife. They make our island look ugly. They never go away.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Bill No. 2125

Support Y N

Date 2/1

Time 12:28

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** Stacy Takekawa [stacykt@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 12:57 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Bill No. 2125

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Stacy Takekawa  
[stacykt@hawaii.edu](mailto:stacykt@hawaii.edu)  
1082 Maunawili Rd.  
Kailua, HI 96734

Date 2/1

Time 12:57

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because I believe plastic bags are an extremely unnecessary hazard to the natural beauty of Hawaii's environment, as well as the marine life so strongly and adversely affected by the proliferation of plastic bags floating around in the ocean.

Nobody wants to come to Hawaii and see trash on the streets. Trash is inevitable in any populated area. People make waste. However, the bags being targeted by this bill are an unnecessary and completely avoidable source of waste. Waste that remains in the environment forever.

There is already a trend of reusable bags being sold which demonstrates the public mindset in support of this fee system. Most people now are not compelled to remember to carry their reusable bags into the store every time because they are only receiving a few cents credit to their overall cost. However, by implementing a fee system, people are more likely to use reusable bags to avoid money being taken from their pockets.

The fee system will also create revenue for the State, which should be something that the legislature is striving for in this tough economic time.

Please support HB2125!!!!

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

-Stacy Takekawa  
William S. Richardson School of Law  
First Year Law Student

**Cyndi Apana**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 1:02 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** barleigh2@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Barbara Leigh Cooney  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [barleigh2@yahoo.com](mailto:barleigh2@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2010

**Comments:**

Please help our aina by reducing the amount of discarded plastic bags. Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai'i's sustainable future. They're wasteful and pose a consistent threat to avian and marine life in Hawai'i. Please discourage their continued use by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag given away by retailers.&#160;

Please pass support HB2125.

Bill No. 2125

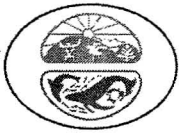
Support Y N

Date 2/1

Time 13:02

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI



## Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

HB 2125 Relating to Environmental Protection

Hearing: Tuesday, February 2, 2010 8:30 am Room 325

Bill No. 2125

Support (Y) N

Date 2/1

Time 13:22

Cat AF AS AX (B) C

Type (1) 2 WI

In support of HB 2125

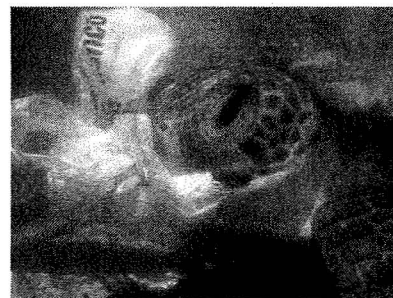
Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 2125, which requires businesses in the State to collect an offset fee for each plastic disposable checkout bag distributed to customers.

HB 2125 would encourage more residents and visitors to use reusable bags. This would reduce the number of sea turtles and other marine wildlife that are killed or harmed by ingesting disposable plastic bags. Sea turtles ingest plastic bags, mistaking them for food, and may suffer a gruesome death. The ingested bag may get trapped in the turtle's gut, prevent food from going down, lead to absorption of toxins, and reduce the absorption of nutrients from real food. Trapped food decomposes, leaks gases into the body cavity, and causes the turtle to float. The turtle then slowly starves to death or succumbs to other secondary life-threatening conditions, such as a boat strike.

HB 2125 would also reduce the number of disposable bags we use, and the energy needed to manufacture, ship, and discard them. This saves the people and the government money, and contributes to a more sustainable way of living on these islands. Americans go through more than 100 billion plastic bags each year, yet less than 5% are ever recycled. Let's make a positive change and not support this wasteful practice any longer.

Please pass HB 2125. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – *Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu*

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) • web: [www.conservehi.org](http://www.conservehi.org)  
P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814  
President: Maura O'Connor \* Treasurer: Kim Ramos \* Secretary: Douglas Lamerson  
Directors: Madelyn D'Enbeau \* Maka'ala Ka'aumoana \* Hannah Springer  
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler

Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** Jeff Phillips [ljefe00@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 1:49 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Jeff Phillips  
[ljefe00@gmail.com](mailto:ljefe00@gmail.com)  
3405 Wela Street  
Honolulu, HI 96815

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because the time to move beyond single use plastic bags is long overdue. I am a professional marine biologist and am weary of seeing our marine environment polluted by unnecessary plastic waste and marine ecosystems disrupted from the planktonic base of the food web all the way up to predatory fish, marine mammals, and seabirds. Not to mention the unnecessary filling of our landfills and polluting of our upland areas as well. As an island state, we should be all the more sensitive to living sustainably and moving beyond a 'throw-away' consumer culture.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Jeff Phillips

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 13:28

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI



Cyndi Apana

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**From:** Benton Pang [launahale@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 2:16 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags  
Bill No. 2125

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Benton Pang  
[launahale@hotmail.com](mailto:launahale@hotmail.com)  
3204 Carlos Long St  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 14:28

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I am a resident of Hawai'i living in Palolo Valley and a Native Hawaiian whose ancestors left us an important legacy-to protect the islands we live in. I strongly support House Bill 2125 because it will help to reduce trash in our landfills, protect our marine and animal life, and preserve our island home for future generations.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.  
3204 Carlos Long St  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

**Cyndi Apana**

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**From:** Mariya Gold [mariyakai@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 2:33 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Mariya Gold  
[mariyakai@gmail.com](mailto:mariyakai@gmail.com)  
2419 Ferdinand Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

It just makes sense! Plastic bags are wasteful, bad for the environment and thus bad for our health. It is evident with more and more reports coming out that animals are dying and that the oceans are increasingly polluted, with disposable plastic bags being a major contributor.

I continue to be amazed at the amount of disposable plastic bags that are used every single time I go to the grocery store. It's as if there's a contest to see how many plastic bags can be used for each item purchased. I also find it amazing that a bill such as HB2125 has not yet been passed. It just makes sense, for our environment, for our health, and for our future.

I strongly support House Bill 2125!

Mahalo for your support, your Awareness, and your attention to such an important, yet simple action.

With much aloha,  
Mariya Kai Gold

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 14:34

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

## Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 3:06 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** kent@trisland.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 15:06

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kent Fonoimoana  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kent@trisland.com](mailto:kent@trisland.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2010

### Comments:

Please pass this measure that requires a small fee for every single use plastic bag distributed. These plastic bags, although convenient, end up in the wind and are deposited on land and in the ocean and become death traps for critters and reef systems.

## Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** Tammy Chang [tamacha@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 3:09 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Tammy Chang  
[tamacha@gmail.com](mailto:tamacha@gmail.com)  
1519 Nuuanu Ave, #85  
Honolulu, HI 96817

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Bill No. 2125

Support (Y) N

Date 2/1

Time ~~10:15~~ 15:10

Cat AF AS AX B (C)

Type (1) 2 WI

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because there needs to be more legislation in place to protect our delicate environment, here in Hawaii. The "taxation" of disposable plastic bags will further push the use of reusable bags and provide needed income to the State.

While reusable bags have become more popular over the past year, with retailers all over the state giving them away for free, this will motivate people to use them more consistently.

Plastic bags unnecessarily take up space in landfills, never completely biodegrade, are left to pollute the ocean, and harm sea life. I believe these issues are magnified 1000 times by the fact that we live on an island and need to be more sustainable to see our grandchildren swim in the oceans we swam in, and see the honu and whales (without having a landfill in their backyard that will never diminish).

In addition, the State will benefit from the 20 cent charge and it can be used for, hopefully other sustainability projects that will keep Hawaii above water in all senses of the term.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Tammy

## Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** Eric Zielke [zielke@berkeley.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 3:17 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Eric Zielke  
[zielke@berkeley.edu](mailto:zielke@berkeley.edu)  
2914B Lauoha Place  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I don't want to waste your time, I just want to let you know that I am a citizen here in Honolulu and I strongly support House Bill 2125 for a variety of reasons.

Mahalo,  
Eric

Bill No. 2125

Support Y N

Date 2/1

Time 15:18

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

**Cyndi Apana**

---

**From:** Emily Jean Attanasio [mlejea@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 2:54 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Bill No. 2125

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Emily Jean Attanasio  
[mlejea@yahoo.com](mailto:mlejea@yahoo.com)  
569d keolu dr  
kailua, HI 96734

Time 15:28

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Type ☒ 1 ☐ 2 WI

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because plastic bags are very unnecessary.

I always bring a bag with me when I go shopping because I do not want to contribute to the disastrous effects plastic bags wreak on the fragile environment of our earth, oceans and sealife.

It is obvious there are ways around using plastic bags and passing HB2125 is not only a great idea, but a great way for Hawaii to reduce the amount of plastic waste the state produces.

I hope you pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** Krystal Morris [smellslikepoop@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 4:37 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Bill No. 2125

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Support Y N

Date 2/1

Krystal Morris  
smellslikepoop@gmail.com  
59-444C Alapio Rd  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Time 16:38

Cat AF AS AX B C

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Type 1 2 WI

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because I want to keep the ocean beautiful for future generations. I want my children to be able to appreciate the beautiful coral reef, green sea turtles, spinner dolphins, and Hawaiian monk seals in their clean and natural habitat.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** Tricia Grant [tricia.grant@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 4:56 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 16:57

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Type 1 ☒ 2 ☐ WI

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Tricia Grant  
[tricia.grant@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.grant@gmail.com)  
718 Tenth Ave #C  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because it is an easy and measurable way to reduce waste and hold consumers accountable for their environmental actions.

Plastics - especially plastic bags - contribute to litter and the large amount of waste collected in Hawaii. Any measure that can reduce waste (and therefore waste collection costs) and environmental impact is worth considering, and a simple measure like the one proposed in House Bill 2125 will benefit the environment AND our economy.

In this time, when it is SO easy to bring a reusable bag for groceries and errands, and when our state is in dire need of any additional funds it can collect, HB2125 is a win-win decision for Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



Cyndi Apana

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**From:** pamela burrell [good.designworks@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 5:05 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Bill No. 2125

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 17:06

pamela burrell  
[good.designworks@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:good.designworks@hawaiiantel.net)  
po box 289 5564 kahiliholo rd  
kilauea, HI 96754

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Type 1 ☒ 2 ☐ WI

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because the average use of a plastic take out bag is 10 minutes. Then it is free to blow in to our streams and oceans. Plastic bags also use barrels and barrels of fossil fuel. I personally always carry 6-7 re-useable bags with me at all times. It is not a hardship. It is just a Habit change.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Cyndi Apana

**From:** Marie Ferguson [tatazina@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 5:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags **Bill No 2125**

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Marie Ferguson  
tatazina@yahoo.com  
2801-N2 Lai Road  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Support **(Y)** N

Date **2/1**

Time **17:28**

Cat AF AS AX B **(C)**

Type 1 **(2)** WI

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because plastic bags create a very real threat and hazard in our terrestrial and marine environments. I am a marine scientist and frequently on research cruises that travel throughout the Pacific, visiting and conducting research on remote/uninhabited atolls and reef environments. Every year we conduct marine ecological studies along reefs in the Northwestern Hawaiian Island chain and we also clean up marine debris that becomes entangled on these reefs. Each time I visit these reefs and the small areas of land along the chain, I am astonished at the amount of trash that collects in these pristine locations. How can an environment so far from human in-habitation collect so much trash? This trash mostly consists of un-biodegradable plastic, much of it disposable plastic bags. And it has traveled throughout the Pacific for years and years as it doesn't degrade in the environment. It breaks down into small pieces where endangered and threate!

ned marine animals either swallow (thinking it is food) or become entangled. I have seen firsthand the damage these plastic bags create. And, I feel, that we can start to minimize this catastrophic impact by eliminating human use of plastic bags. We can make a difference and it must start with us, especially on our island home, where there is only so much environmental degradation it can take. The people of Hawaii love their home and it is our responsibility to keep it healthy and clean for our keiki and generations to come. Please listen to the voice of the local people and help minimize this problem.

Mahalo for your time and consideration with this matter. Your thoughts and actions can and do make a difference.

Marie Ferguson

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** Renate Seldon [msrenate@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 4:42 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags **Bill No. 2125**

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Renate Seldon  
[msrenate@hotmail.com](mailto:msrenate@hotmail.com)  
p.o. box 439  
Anahola, HI 96703

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 17:28

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Type 1 ☒ 2 ☐ WI

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because....

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jasmine Cardinale  
Joyce Jenkins  
Renate Seldon  
*Ashley Kaono*

Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** Jillian Burmeister [jburmeis@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 5:42 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags  
Bill No. 2125

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Jillian Burmeister  
jburmeis@hawaii.edu  
3518B Waialae Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 17:42

Cat AF AS AX B ☒ C

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Type 1 ☒ 2 ☐ WI

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because plastics are becoming a serious hazard to our environment. Not only are they harming our oceans and wildlife, if we were to put at 20 cent tax on all bags it would reduce state waste abundantly. If we were able to reduce state waste our government would profit not only from less shipping costs but also the return from the 20 cent tax. Reusable bags are in abundance and sold at a very low cost, consumers would benefit by reducing personal waste as well. I urge you to consider this bill seriously, not only for our environments sake, but for the benefit of the state as a whole.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee  
on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support HB 2125 because, in my humble opinion, the pervasiveness of plastics in our ocean is an environmental issue as serious as the threat of global warming. Plastics never fully biodegrade, but instead break down into smaller and smaller particles. These plastic particles pass up the food chain, first through microscopic organisms, and then up to larger predatory fish (and eventually, to humans). The implications of this bioaccumulation of plastics into the tissues of marine animals and humans are not fully known, but many scientists fear it may have grave consequences on marine ecosystems on a macro-level. Furthermore, countless whales, turtles, and birds die from plastic bag ingestion each year, mistaking the bags for jellyfish and squid.

Human civilization has existed for thousands of years without plastic bags and can definitely continue without them. The idea of plastic bags being "progressive" because they are inexpensive and seemingly infinite is a dangerous and irresponsible mentality. We owe it to our children and the countless generations yet to come to leave our oceans clean and healthy.

Hawaii, as an ocean and coastal community, is directly affected by the wastefulness of single-use plastic bags, as they wind up in the ocean around us. We need strong political will to stand up to the petro-chemical industry lobbyists who try to keep our citizens addicted to plastic bags. They value short-term profit over long-term sustainability and try to frame the issue of a tax on plastic bags as one that is "anti-business". This could not be further from the truth. A plastic bag tax or ban is business neutral and, more importantly, pro-health and pro-environment. Hawaii should set an example for the rest of the states to follow.

Please pass HB 2125.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Charlie Taylor  
Director, Environmental Law Society  
William S. Richardson School of Law  
University of Hawaii, at Manoa

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 17:39

Cat AF AS AX ☒ B ☐ C

Type 1 ☒ 2 ☐ WI

2125  
Bill No. 2521Support ☒ Y ☐ NDate 2/1Time 18:31Cat AF AS AX ☒ B CType 1 ☒ 2 WI

Feb. 1, 2010

Hawaii House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

**RE: Strong Support for House Bill 2125 – Offset Fee for Single-Use Plastic Bags**

Dear Chair Morita, Vice-Chair Coffman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stuart Coleman, and I am the Hawaii Coordinator of the Surfrider Foundation. With almost 5000 members across the state, the Hawai'i Chapters of the Surfrider Foundation ("Surfrider") strongly support passage of HB2125, a bill designed to address the harms of non-biodegradable single-use plastic check out bags that are degrading the environment and harming marine life. Millions of sea birds and hundreds of thousands of marine mammals die each year due to ingestion and entanglement of plastics.

This bill will encourage people to switch to reusable tote bags and improve Hawaii's natural environment. Imposing an offset fee also provides a practical and economical solution that will:

1. bring needed revenue to the state's general funds;
2. help local stores save money by buying fewer plastic bags;
3. help the counties cut costs in having to clean up these toxic tumbleweeds;
- and 4. extend the life of our landfills.

Governments across the world have successfully reduced plastic bag use, either through plastic bag bans, fees or taxes. Maui and Kaua'i County passed their own bans, and the Big Island came very close. The following countries have all taken measures to reduce their plastic bag usage in an effort to protect their precious natural resources and valuable coastlines: Ireland, China, Tanzania, Taiwan, Australia, Italy, and South Africa. And these cities have followed their lead: San Francisco, Manhattan Beach, Malibu, Los Angeles, Edmunds (WA), Outer Banks (NC), District of Columbia, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro and Mumbai. Eventually, all governments and people will realize how economically wasteful and environmentally damaging single-use plastic bags are. Will our state be a leader or a latecomer in this movement? Hawai'i will only benefit if it seizes the opportunity to lead this movement.

The Hawaii Chapters are supporting HB2125 because Surfrider's mission is to preserve the health of our oceans and the quality of our beaches. Plastic bags that end up in the ocean or on our coastlines not only endanger sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals, but they also adversely affect the entire marine food web. Because plastic does not biodegrade, plastic waste never truly disappears, it only breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces called "micro-plastics," which are often consumed by fish and filter feeders that mistake them for food. Because plastics cannot be digested, they concentrate organic chemicals and environmental pollutants, and bioaccumulate as they make their way up the food chain. So this is a human health issue as well as an environmental hazard.

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION • HAWAII CHAPTERS

2121 ALGAROBIA ST., #1107 • HONOLU, HI 96826

(808) 942-3841 • [www.surfrider.org/oahu](http://www.surfrider.org/oahu) • [scoleman@surfrider.org](mailto:scoleman@surfrider.org)

The hidden costs of single-use plastic bags also hit our wallets, and everyone pays for these so-called “free” bags. Taxpayers spend as much as \$0.17 on each plastic bag they receive because they have to subsidize the recycling, collection, and disposal of these toxic tumbleweeds. Retailers spend as much as \$0.05 per bag (a price which is incorporated into the price of food and goods, then passed on to consumers) when they provide a consumer with a “free” plastic bag. States, cities, and counties together spend about \$4.41 per capita, per year on general litter abatement.<sup>1</sup> By reducing the amount of plastic bags, this money will be better spent.

Most consumers will transition to using reusable bags and our environment will benefit tremendously. Some consumers will continue to use disposable plastic bags, and the State will benefit tremendously; so it’s a win-win situation. However, we respectfully suggest that two amendments be made to the Bill: (1) a purpose statement added that discusses the environmental hazards of disposable plastic bags, and (2) allow businesses to keep five cents out of every twenty cents they collect for disposable bags in order to decrease opposition to the Bill and provide them money for the cost of collecting the fees.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Stuart H. Coleman  
Hawaii Coordinator  
Surfrider Foundation  
808-942-3841

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<sup>1</sup> “The True Cost of Single-Use Bags,” by Heal the Bay. Available at: [www.healthebay.org](http://www.healthebay.org)

**Cyndi Apana**

Bill No. 2125

**From:** Gabriela Taylor [gabriela@keapana.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 6:53 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 1853

Cat AF AS AX ☒ B

Type 1 ☒ 2 ☐ WI

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Gabriela Taylor  
[gabriela@keapana.net](mailto:gabriela@keapana.net)  
5620 Keapana Rd.  
Kapaa, , HI 96746

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because we need to reduce non degradable trash in landfill by simply bringing reusable bags to the store.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Gabriela Taylor





# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803  
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

Bill No. 2125

Support (Y) N

Date 2/1

Time 1911

Cat AF AS AX (B)

Type 1 (2) WI

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
February 2, 2010, 8:30 A.M.

(Testimony is 2 pages long)

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 2125

Aloha Chair Morita and Members of the Committees:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports HB 2125, which discourages the use of wasteful, single-use plastic bags by requiring an offset fee for each bag distributed to customers. The creation of a fee would create a direct market reflection of the actual economic and environmental costs created by the abuse of single-use plastic bags in Hawai'i.

Plastic bags simply are not in Hawai'i's sustainable future and strong efforts should be made to discourage their continued use. Consider:

- Plastic bags contribute to litter and pose a consistent threat to avian and marine life in Hawai'i -- the endangered species Capitol of the world;
- Plastic bags are manufactured from a polluting resource that is becoming increasingly scarce;
- Plastic bags contribute to a growing trash problem on all our islands and foible the State's waste diversion efforts;
- Americans throw away nearly 100 billion plastic bags each year; and only 0.6 percent of plastic bags are recycled.

Hawai'i is faced with a solid waste crisis. A study completed for the City and County of Honolulu by consulting group R.W. Beck, the "2006 Waste Characterization Study" (available online at [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org)), reveals some shocking facts about Oahu's solid waste situation. Since the last waste characterization study in 1999, the trash from Oahu households increased by 30.2% from 316,491 tons annually in 1999 to 412,016 tons in 2006 (R.W. Beck, "2006 Waste Characterization Study," April 2007, at 3-11). The population increased by roughly 3% over the same period (878,906 to 906,000) -- meaning waste generation from households increased 10 times faster than population growth. The proliferation of plastic bags contributes to this problem.

Plastic bags are an expense that is not directly seen by customers. The cost of purchasing tens of millions of plastic bags in Hawai'i annually is most certainly passed on to local consumers, but it is not a visible cost and, thus, normal market controls do not take place. As with anything "free," we tend to take advantage of the ready supply plastic bags without considering the indirect costs.

Plastic bags tax our economy and environment when they are littered or placed in our overflowing landfills. For example, a recent study conducted in Seattle concluded -- even with a high 13% recycling rate (greater than the national average of 3-5%) -- approximately 1,650 tons of plastic bags were put into the landfill annually. The net cost to Seattle and ratepayers of collecting, transferring and disposing of waste was calculated to be approximately \$121 per ton or approximately \$200,000 for plastic grocery bags.

Even if plastic bags are burned at H-POWER (only on O'ahu) they are essentially converted to greenhouse gasses, further hastening global climate change, and ultimately not addressing the root of the problem. Similarly, with nearly 40% of the State's solid waste-stream able to be diverted from disposal at the landfill, plastic bags pose the single-most significant challenge to composting facilities, contaminating the compost, getting wrapped in the splines of processing equipment, and reducing the value of the compost product.

It should be noted that two highly successful business in Hawai'i -- Costco and Wholefoods -- do not offer its customers plastic bags. These businesses are flourishing. The switch by Wholefoods alone kept 100 million plastic bags out of the environment between April 22, 2008 and end of 2008.

The plastic bag measure before this Committee recognizes the critical issues at stake for our environment and encourages consumers to take responsible, proactive action, to change their habits. We urge this Committee to consider the various approaches that numerous cities across the United States, as well as several countries around the world have taken in addressing the challenges posed by plastic bags. We hope you will move this measures forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Cyndi Apana

**From:** Matthew Izor [izorpants@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 7:47 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Matthew Izor  
[izorpants@hotmail.com](mailto:izorpants@hotmail.com)  
1551 Thurston Ave Apt B1  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Bill No. 2125  
Support ☒ Y ☐ N  
Date 2/1/05  
Time 1947  
Cat AF AS AX ☒ B  
Type 1 ☒ 2 WI

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because we here in Hawaii have a very clear connection to the oceans surrounding us. By continuing the use of such things as single-use plastic bags we are acting in direct disregard for the waters that make Hawaii beautiful. It is irrational to continue making something for one-time use that never goes away. Those simple plastic bags catch the breeze, slip off the beach, and eventually make their way into the food chain, which we are part of. Not to mention degrade the quality of water on our planet and endanger many species of oceanic lifeforms.

By imposing a fee on plastic bags, consumers will become more aware of the importance of our actions. We cannot just let these things be thrown away at exhausting rates. Fees will discourage consumers from getting the bags at stores when they could easily bring their own and save money.

It is imperative to act now to reduce the amount of waste in the oceans in places like the North Pacific Gyre and the South Pacific Gyre, which surround our great archipelago.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Matthew A Izor

**Cyndi Apana**

Bill No. 2125

**From:** Ivory McClintock [ivorym@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 7:49 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 1949

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Cat AF AS AX ☒ B

Type 1 ☒ 2 ☐ WI

Ivory McClintock  
[ivorym@hawaii.edu](mailto:ivorym@hawaii.edu)  
P.O. Box 781  
Anahola, HI 96703

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because a plastic free Hawai'i is beneficial to the future of Hawai'i.

Plastic bags are an invention of our own consumer society, however there was a time before plastic bags, and it is important that we look at the long term effects that they have on the environment. They may be in our hands for a 20 minutes on it's journey from the grocery store to our house, but they NEVER leave our environment!

Please consider the future of Hawai'i when passing this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Ivory McClintock

**Cyndi Apana**

Bill No. 2125

**From:** Amanda Hamilton [amanda.r.hamilton@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 7:52 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 1952

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Cat AF AS AX ☒ B

Type 1 ☒ 2 ☐ WI

Amanda Hamilton  
[amanda.r.hamilton@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.r.hamilton@gmail.com)  
2333 Kaalani Place  
Honolulu, HI 96816

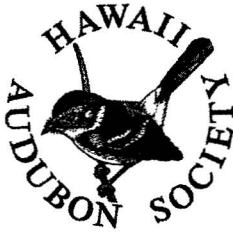
Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because it will benefit both Hawaii's environment and its fiscal situation. Governments all over the world are now charging for plastic bags, and it's time Hawaii began to do so as well--especially since our limited land space makes conserving resources and reducing waste even more important than in many other places. Protect our environment while generating revenue for the state by passing HB 2125!

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



*For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife*  
**HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY**

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709  
Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com  
www.hawaii-audubon.com

Bill No. 2125

Support (Y) N

Date 2/1

Time 1955

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

**Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**  
**Representative Hermina Morita, Chair**  
**Representative Denny Coffman, Vice Chair**

**Hearing: Tuesday, February 2, 2009; 8:30 A.M., Conference Rm. 325**

**Re: HB2125, Relating to Environmental Protection**

**Testimony in Support**

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman and members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection. On behalf of the Hawaii Audubon Society we offer testimony in support of HB2125 which would establish a 20¢ offset fee for each plastic disposable checkout bag distributed to customers.

The Hawaii Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and has over 1,500 members statewide. The Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawaii's native birds, wildlife, and habitats, as well as, our aquatic and coastal resources. This includes preventing various types of waste including plastic bag litter from entering Hawaii's ecosystems.

The Society notes that plastic bag litter legislation has been passed in a number of countries including Australia, Bangladesh, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, South Africa, and Taiwan. Here in the United States, San Francisco has a ban to plastic carry out bags. New York City and Washington D.C. have a 5¢ fee. On July 1, Los Angeles will begin charging a 25¢ fee on all plastic bags.

We also would urge the committee to amend HB2125 to allocate a portion of the revenues collected from the offset fee to ecosystems conservation specifically, DLNR's Forest & Wildlife Resource Fund and the Endangered Species Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Sincerely,

George Massengale, JD  
Legislative Analyst

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** Erin Pfuntner [e\_pfuntnr@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 8:06 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Bill No. 2125  
Support Y N  
Date 2/1  
Time 2006  
Cat AF AS AX B  
Type 1 2 WI

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Erin Pfuntner  
[e\\_pfuntnr@yahoo.com](mailto:e_pfuntnr@yahoo.com)  
3176 Papala St  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because plastic bags are a hazard to our environment. They endanger our marine life, take fossil fuels to manufacture, and are not biodegradeable.

Malama Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Cyndi Apana**

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**From:** Valerie Loh [vallohfoto@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 7:46 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Bill No. 2125

Support Y N

Date 2/1

Time 2028

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Valerie Loh  
[vallohfoto@yahoo.com](mailto:vallohfoto@yahoo.com)  
2552 Peter Street  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because the more bags brought into the islands, the more we smother our environment. We will soon be "drowning" in bags because we'll have run out of space.

Even when plastic bags fall apart, they remain as plastic powder or dust, which coats every surface, including in our homes, on our beaches, and even on our food.

Also, have you ever seen a photo of a sea turtle with a plastic bag trailing out of it's cloaca (anus)? These bags are starving our wildlife who cannot tell the difference between a jellyfish and a plastic bag. They don't know that the bags are inedible.

If you would like to see the turtle photo, let me know, and I will send a copy.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



**Cyndi Apana**

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<b>From:</b>	Shannon Yadon [smyadon@yahoo.com]	<b>Bill No.</b>	2125
<b>Sent:</b>	Monday, February 01, 2010 7:52 PM	<b>Support</b>	(Y) N
<b>To:</b>	Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony	<b>Date</b>	2/1
<b>Subject:</b>	Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkouts	<b>Time</b>	2028
Hermina M. Morita Denny Coffman Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection		<b>Cat</b>	AF AS AX (B)
Shannon Yadon smyadon@yahoo.com 2115 Kamehameha Avenue Honolulu, NY 96822		<b>Type</b>	1 (2) WI

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because I think that people in Hawaii (and everywhere) use too many non-needed plastic bags because they are forced into the users hands without thought. People take more bags than they need (which in my opinion is none at all) because they don't think about it. They have checkers double bag their groceries for a 2 minute walk to the car and then the bags end up clogging our oceans, landfills, and blowing aimlessly in our tradewinds, becoming a fatal food for birds, whales and all types of marine life. I'd like to see a conscious effort to pull back (completely) on single-use plastic bags, as I think that once Hawaii's residents put thought into what they are taking home, they will realize how much easier their lives are and how much cleaner our islands are without the unnecessary, toxic single-use plastic bags. The people of Hawaii will also realize that they don't need the bags at all.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Shannon

Cyndi Apana

---

**From:** Jules Darling Kirby [julesnkirby@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 8:45 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Bill No. 2125

Support Y N

Date 2/1

Time 2045

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Jules Darling Kirby  
[julesnkirby@gmail.com](mailto:julesnkirby@gmail.com)  
825 third avenue  
new york, NY 10022

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because I love to come and visit Hawaii. It is one of my favorite destinations. I have been coming for nearly 30 years now and I have seen the nature deteriorate more and more. Without tourism and your scenic picturesque beaches and landscape what would Hawaii as a State do?

Mahalo for your time and consideration.  
sincerely,  
jules kirby

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 9:03 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** carl.imparato@juno.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carl Imperato  
Organization: Individual  
Address: P.O. Box 1102 Hanalei, HI  
Phone: 808-826-1856  
E-mail: [carl.imparato@juno.com](mailto:carl.imparato@juno.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2010

Bill No. 2125

Support Y N

Date 2/1

Time 2103

Cat AF AS AX (B)

Type 1 (2) WI

### Comments:

Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

Although I consider myself to be a supporter of sound environmental regulation, I strongly oppose HB2125. The bill goes too far in imposing a tax on disposable checkout bags, for little arguable benefit.

Disposable checkout bags - whether paper or plastic - are very convenient during their initial use and they have many uses after their initial use. Many people, including myself, re-use them at home, re-use them for garbage disposal, and re-use them for picking up animal waste. Taxing these bags at 20 cents apiece will just increase costs for Hawaii residents by requiring them to purchase what they currently obtain for free.

I do not believe that there is any justifiable reason to impose this tax (or alternatively, the burden of using cloth bags) on people. Even if zero percent of all disposable checkout bags were re-used as described above, the impacts of disposable checkout bags would be trivial. First, these bags do not constitute a major source of waste. They take up incredibly little space in landfills when compared to the volume of all other trash. Second, as a person who picks up litter along my local highway, I can honestly say that plastic bags are a vanishingly small volume of the trash that is on the highway.

If some people want to forego the benefits and convenience of checkout bags and carry a half-dozen cloth bags with them wherever they go shopping, that is their prerogative. But I oppose their goal of imposing their narrow view of environmental correctness on others. I oppose their methodology of using government taxes and prohibitions to advance social engineering. And I strongly resent the growing trend of using "big brother" government, including prohibitions and fees, to restrict the choices of citizens and to modify citizens' behavior in pursuit of questionable goals.

There are instances in which government should act to advance the general welfare. HB2125 is NOT one of those instances. HB2125 is environmental advocacy gone overboard. Please do not impose more restrictions and costs on our lives, particularly when the purported societal benefits would be meager to non-existent.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** Lisette Langlois [mangokoaparadise@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 9:06 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Lisette Langlois  
[mangokoaparadise@gmail.com](mailto:mangokoaparadise@gmail.com)  
POBOX 1002  
Waimea, HI 96796

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because....

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Bill No. 2125

Support (Y) N

Date 2/1

Time 2106

Cat AF AS AX B (B)

Type 1 (2) WI

**Cyndi Apana**

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**From:** Noelani Love [noelanilove@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 9:16 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags 2125

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Noelani Love  
noelanilove@gmail.com  
59-014 Huelo St  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 2:16

Cat AF AS AX ☒ B

Type 1 ☒ 2 ☐ WI

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because it is important as an island nation to preserve the natural beauty which draws in so much tourism to create our economic success. Plastic bags kill sealife and litter the beaches. The more plastic bags we use, the more that are likely to end up in our oceans and on our beaches. It is unnecessary to use plastic bags.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Cyndi Apana

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**From:** Sara Stuart [saraasc@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 10:02 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Sara Stuart  
[saraasc@gmail.com](mailto:saraasc@gmail.com)  
3027 Kaimuki Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 because every day I see plastic bags floating in the ocean amongst the nalu. We are a state proud of our natural resources and raw beauty, we need to set an example and show our aina the respect it deserves. Plastic bags are not a necessity, our natural resources are. I hope that we can come together on this issue, and begin to think more about the future of Hawaii. More Plankton not Plastic!

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Support Y N

Date 2/1

Time 2202

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 (2) WI

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2010 2:31 AM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Cc:** sheilasarhangi@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2125 on 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ N

Date 2/2

Time 23

Cat AF AS AX ☒ B

Type 1 ☒ 2 WI

Testimony for EEP 2/2/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2125

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sheila Sarhangi  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [sheilasarhangi@hotmail.com](mailto:sheilasarhangi@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2010

### Comments:

Plastic bags are handed out at grocery stores without much thought to the harm that they actually cause. Sea birds and marine mammals ingest them. They clog up our landfills. When we burn plastic bags at the HPOWER plant, they produce greenhouse gases and pollute our clean air. And less than 1-percent are ever recycled. All of this for a bag that we don't even need

Take Whole Foods, for example, paper is used, but even better, most people have made it a habit to bring their own canvas bag. And how about Costco, no plastic bags needed there, either.

We live on islands, let's act like it. Plastic bags have no place in our daily lives, and it's up to us to protect the ecosystems that we value and cherish.

You can change behavior and make a difference in Hawaii by placing a tax on plastic bags...

I urge you to support HB2125.

With Aloha,  
Sheila Sarhangi

## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** John Harder [dumpdoctor@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 10:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

John Harder  
[dumpdoctor@hotmail.com](mailto:dumpdoctor@hotmail.com)  
PO Box 272  
Anahola, HI 96703

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

Zero Waste Kauai, a local non-profit with over 60 active members strongly supports House Bill 2125, however we are concerned it would override plastic bag bans recently passed on Kauai and Maui. In addition we feel the major portion of the funds collected should be targeted to support County recycling efforts and coastal water protection programs.

Bill No. 2125  
Support Y N  
Date 2/1  
Time 2228  
Cat AF AS AX EX  
Type 1 2 WI



## Cyndi Apana

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**From:** Judie Lundborg [judie@aloha.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 10:59 PM  
**To:** Rep. Hermina Morita; Rep. Denny Coffman; EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Hermina M. Morita  
Denny Coffman  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Judie Lundborg  
[judie@aloha.net](mailto:judie@aloha.net)  
4865 Nonou Rd  
Kapaa, HI 96746

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 08:30 AM

Strong support for HB 2125 -- Reduce Usage of Disposable Plastic Checkout Bags

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support House Bill 2125 for a number of reasons 1) the bags do not completely biodegrade. 2) the bags are a constant source of litter. 3) the bags endanger marine wildlife.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Bill No. 2125

Support ☒ Y ☐ N

Date 2/1

Time 2300

Cat AF AS AX ☒ EE

Type 1 ☒ 2 ☐ WI