

DATE: 16th February, 2015

TO: Chair Mike Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment
Chair Josh Green and Members of the Committee on Health

FROM: Dean Otsuki
P.O. Box 25284
Honolulu, HI 96825

LATE

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1170**
Relating to Environmental Protection. Relating to Plastic Products.
Prohibits the sale of plastic products labeled as "biodegradable" and
require the department of health to adopt the most recent ASTM
International standard D6400

Committee hearing, Tuesday 17th February, 2015 at 3:45pm.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Green and Committee members,

I am writing in support of SB1170 because there are so many manufacturers of plastic products that claim their plastic products are biodegradable or "good for the environment when they are not made of natural compostable materials. Having products meet the ASTM D6400 standards for compostability is needed to protect the public from being deceived.

Plastic products whether they are in one piece or broken into tiny pieces are detrimental for the environment, especially the ocean environment. Plastic never biodegrades, only photodegrades into smaller and smaller pieces which may be ingested by marine life. Plastic lasts forever. Many plastic products labeled biodegradable usually have a natural substance mixed in with the plastic which makes the product break down faster but never completely breaks down into compost.

California's law banning the words "biodegradable, degradable, and decomposable" on plastic products has been successful in preventing misleading environmental claims on plastic products. Please amend the section "Prohibition against biodegradable label; exception" by adding "degradable" and "decomposable" labels. I feel this would make the bill stronger.

The deception that plastics are biodegradable by plastics manufacturers needs to stop and requiring products that are compostable to be labeled with the ASTM D6400 designation needs to be signed into law. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB1170.

Aloha,

Dean Otsuki