



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

February 11, 2019 2:00 p.m. Room 224

In **SUPPORT** of **SB893**: Relating to recycling

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of both committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB 893**, which seeks to prohibit counties from rejecting number 1 and 2 plastic bottles presented for recycling solely because the bottles are accompanied by or adjoined to nonrecyclable bottle caps. This bill requires and appropriates funds for the counties to separate and appropriately dispose of such nonrecyclable bottle caps. This bill adds the definition of "PP", or polypropylene plastic material, into integrated solid waste management law. This bill also requires counties to include feasibility assessment of recycling PP materials.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is committed to supporting efforts seeking to reduce waste and consumption across the islands, that initiate on-island recycling and processing, and that explore innovative ways to upcycle and reuse various waste materials, notably plastics.

Plastic number 1 & 2 are the most common types of plastic containers and the most easily recyclable. Currently, the counties do not accept number 1 & 2 plastic bottles that are accompanied by or adjoined to nonrecyclable bottle caps that are made of polypropylene (#5 plastic). This is unfortunate because many of the number 1 & 2 plastic bottles are made with these types of caps such as single-use water bottles, soda bottles, and many other plastic beverage containers. By having the counties separate caps from bottles, we can increase recycling rates and reduce the volume of waste being sent to H-POWER, which creates pollution when burning plastic.

It's simple, when recycling gets easier, participation goes up and that is exactly what Sierra Club is striving for. Our communities have come so far in their support for recycling programs, and *we should continue moving toward a zero waste Hawai'i in a way that is clean, efficient, and causes minimal harm to the environment.*

We urge the committee to pass this measure, which will serve our collective efforts to keep Hawai'i's land, freshwater bodies, and oceans free of plastic pollution and other waste.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 893**.

Mahalo,
Lori Mallini
Volunteer, Sierra Club of Hawai'i

SB-893

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 1:37:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-893

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 8:49:12 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-893

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 11:03:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm for supporting anything that helps our recycling centers from functioning properly.

SB-893

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 2:26:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB893. Many people keep the caps on bottles because it limits cockroaches and other vermin in the home which would otherwise smell the contents of containers.

We need to take whatever steps necessary to limit plastic pollution. Many plastics leach suspected carcinogens and neurotoxins as they degrade into smaller and smaller pieces, and studies show some of these toxins are slowly accumulating in the fatty tissues of humans and other animals.

Last year a whale died in Thailand after swallowing 17 pounds of plastic, and a dead sperm whale washed ashore in Spain with 64 pounds of plastic in its stomach. Birds, fish and sea turtles also commonly mistake plastic for food. The great garbage patch between Hawaii and California is steadily growing. Most plastic is not biodegradable and only degrades into smaller and smaller pieces, thereby contaminating the lowest levels of the food web.

Additionally, many plastics are made with petroleum, the manufacture of which is a great contributor to the heat-trapping gases responsible for the greenhouse effect we are now seeing.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Hawaii

SB-893

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 6:42:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dain Christensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-893

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 10:35:25 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: