

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, March 5, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1948, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS**

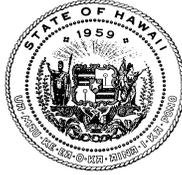
House Bill 1948, House Draft 1 proposes to prohibit lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests and establishes civil penalties. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the deleterious impacts of plastic debris on wildlife and their habitats as a primary natural resource issue throughout the State of Hawai'i. Plastic in the environment degrades both land and ocean-based habitat and impacts wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial) through ingestion, entanglement, smothering, and transport of invasive species. In addition, each step involved in the manufacturing, distribution, and ultimate disposal of single-use plastic products (e.g., bottles and containers) produces greenhouse gas emissions and will increase the impacts of climate change on our aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Hawai'i already has some of the highest reported debris accumulation rates in the United States. While the majority of marine debris may arrive from the ocean, it is our responsibility as a State to reduce the amount of plastic debris entering our ocean and the environment from local sources. This measure would help reduce the amount of plastic debris entering Hawai'i's cultural sites, forests, waters and coastlines, and contribute to the improved health of our wildlife and their habitats.

The Department recognizes that Chapter 342H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health (DOH) and defers to DOH regarding implementation of this proposed program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1948 HD1
RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS.**

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID A. TARNAS, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date, Time, and Room Number: 03/05/2026, 02:00 pm, 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** If the Department of Health (Department) is tasked with implementing
2 HB1948 HD1 as currently written, one full-time equivalent (FTE) Environmental Health
3 Specialist IV position would be required. The Department requests that this measure be
4 considered as a vehicle to provide the funding needed, so long as it does not supplant the
5 priorities and requests outlined in the Governor's executive budget request.

6 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments.

7 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division, Solid and Hazardous Waste
8 Branch (EMD-SHWB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

9 This measure proposes to prohibit lodging establishments from providing small plastic
10 containers with personal care products in any sleeping room accommodation, bathroom used
11 by guests or the public, or to any guests. The new statute would provide an exception for bulk
12 personal care product dispensers and personal care products in containers made from non-
13 plastic materials.

14 The Department supports measures that reduce waste contributed to Hawai'i's landfills.
15 However, we would require one additional full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to conduct
16 the inspection and enforcement actions written in this measure. Based on previous hearings,

1 we understand that the Legislature is not inclined to add funding to this measure, in which
2 case, the Department recommends removing the enforcement provisions that require
3 resources and place the measure in Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), Chapter 486K, Hotels.

4 The Department also recommends placing this measure in HRS, Chapter 486K, Hotels,
5 instead of the currently proposed HRS 342H, Solid Waste Pollution because it does not fit
6 within solid waste statutes. The regulated parties in this measure are lodging establishments,
7 which are unlikely to review solid waste pollution statutes when determining the requirements
8 for their businesses. Placing the language in a more relevant chapter will likely increase
9 compliance, simply by awareness. Like other requirements in HRS 486K, Hotels, this measure
10 regulates lodging establishments' responsibilities, in this case, specifically for product
11 distribution. We defer to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
12 (DBEDT) on the proper location for this proposed language and implementation.

13 If the Department is tasked with implementing this measure, we respectfully request
14 clarification on the civil penalty provision. The measure states that "any lodging establishment
15 that violates subsection (a) shall be subject to a civil penalty..." We note that subsection (b) also
16 provides limitations on where establishments may provide personal care products in non-
17 plastic containers. Is the intent that the civil penalties in this measure only apply to subsection
18 (a)? Or is the intent to utilize the penalties in §342H-9, designed for solid waste facilities, to be
19 applied to subsection (b)?

20 **Offered Amendments:** The Department recommends placing this language in HRS Chapter
21 486K, Hotels, and defers to DBEDT on its proper location.

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



Date: March 4, 2026

To: The Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Solid Waste Reduction Task Force of Hawaii Environmental Change Agents

Re: HB1948 HD1 – Relating to Single-Use Plastics

Hearing: Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 2:00pm

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in support of HB1948 HD1 – Relating to Single-Use Plastics.**

The Solid Waste Reduction Task Force supports policies that reduce unnecessary waste at its source and help Hawaii move toward a more sustainable future, recognizing that preventing waste from being generated in the first place is the most effective long-term strategy. HB1948 HD1 represents a practical step in that direction.

HB1948 HD1 addresses a common and avoidable source of plastic waste in Hawaii’s lodging industry: small plastic toiletry containers that are typically used once and discarded. These items contribute to landfill burden, environmental pollution, and the growing presence of microplastics in our ecosystems.

Importantly, the bill establishes a clear standard while allowing practical compliance options, such as the use of bulk dispensers or non-plastic alternatives. It also provides phased implementation timelines that give lodging establishments sufficient time to transition.

For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB1948 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

~Solid Waste Reduction Task Force of Hawaii Environmental Change Agents
Lindsey Sabec-Kozuma

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 3:28:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sydney Millerd	Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i **supports** HB1948. This measure is a practical, upstream solution to reduce unnecessary single-use plastic waste at its source. Small plastic toiletry bottles embody the disposable culture that contributes to marine debris, and transitioning lodging establishments to refillable or bulk alternatives will help to reduce pollution before it reaches our shorelines. By advancing this measure, Hawai'i reinforces its commitment to protecting our ocean, strengthening sustainable tourism, and fostering shared responsibility to mālama 'āina.

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 6:59:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Magee	Global Preservation Initiative	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aaron Magee, and I am writing in support of HB1948.

This bill is a meaningful step toward shifting the mindset of tourism in Hawai‘i. By replacing single-use plastic toiletries with refillable bulk dispensers, we can begin changing the expectation of tourism from one centered on convenience and disposal to one grounded in sustainability and responsibility.

While disposable products may appear convenient, they create long-term challenges for our waste management systems and our environment. As an island state with limited resources and world-renowned natural ecosystems, Hawai‘i is uniquely positioned to lead by example in reducing unnecessary plastic waste.

This effort also reflects the values of mālama ‘āina — caring for the land and ocean that sustain us — which stands in contrast to a throwaway culture.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony, and I respectfully urge you to pass HB1948.



March 4, 2026

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Legislature
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1948 HD1, Relating Single-Use Plastics
Hearing: Thursday, March 5, 2026, 2:00 PM CR 325 & Via Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee

Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region strongly supports House Bill 1948 which prohibits lodging establishments in the State from providing personal products packaged in small plastic containers in any sleeping room accommodations, space within sleeping room accommodations, and bathrooms used by the public or guests.

Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots activist network dedicated to the protection of our oceans, waves, and beaches for all people. Surfrider Foundation has been tackling plastic pollution for over a decade and has established various plastic reduction initiatives to address plastic pollution at the source. Our Ocean Friendly Hotel program helps hotels to reduce single-use plastic and make more sustainable choices for the ocean. One of the mandatory criteria is that toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, lotion, etc.) are not packaged in small plastic bottles¹. HB1948 is a proactive measure that directly aligns with our Ocean Friendly Hotel Program.

As of December, the State of Hawai'i received nearly 9.5 million visitors in 2025, over six times the state's population². The visitor industry significantly contributes to plastic pollution which often ends up on beaches and in the ocean. This measure applies to lodging establishments defined as hotels, condominium hotels, motels, resorts, bed-and-breakfast homes, and transient vacation rentals. Hawai'i has over 280 hotel-class lodging properties, along with hundreds of bed-and-breakfast homes and tens of thousands of transient vacation rental units operating statewide. By eliminating small, single-use plastic toiletry containers at lodging facilities, this bill would prevent millions of plastic bottles each year from entering the waste stream, creating a scalable, source-based solution to reduce the plastic footprint of

¹ Surfrider Foundation, *Ocean Friendly Hotels Program*, <https://www.surfrider.org/programs/ocean-friendly-hotels>

² Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT), *Tourism Dashboard: Visitor Statistics*, reporting approximately 9.5 million visitors to Hawai'i in 2025, <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/visitor/tourism-dashboard/>

Hawai'i's tourism industry—one lodging establishment and one traveler at a time.

Not only will HB1948 reduce plastic pollution, but it will also save hotels money. In 2018, Marriott stated that they could save about \$2,000 per hotel every year by switching from single-use toiletry bottles to bulk containers³. According to Marriot, a large pump bottle contains the same amount of product as around 10-12 small single-use toiletry bottles. Additionally, we estimate that hotels spend about \$0.37 per ounce on shampoo, conditioner, and lotion bottles packaged in small plastic containers compared to \$0.17 per ounce on shampoo, condition, and lotion packaged in bulk.

This aligns with feedback received from hotels participating in Surfrider's Ocean Friendly Hotels Program. Since switching to refillable bulk toiletries, an Ocean Friendly Hotel in Alaska has noticed significant cost savings and found that tracking bulk containers is more efficient than tracking thousands of tiny bottles. Similarly to Hawai'i, Alaska has limited supply chains and logistical hurdles, making refillable personal care products a common-sense approach to saving businesses time and money, while also reducing plastic pollution.

While a number of lodging establishments may be actively moving towards a more sustainable future, most hotels and motels have yet to adopt refillable toiletry containers. A regulatory approach sets the standard and provides a much needed jump start to reducing the environmental impact generated by lodging establishments. Washington, New York, California and Illinois all have similar regulations to ban or limit hotel toiletries. Considering the scale of the visitor industry in Hawai'i, it is time that Hawai'i follows suit.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB1948 on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's three Hawai'i chapters and members statewide.

Sincerely,

Hanna Lilley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation

³ Saabira Chaudhuri, "*The Beginning of the End for Those Tiny Shampoo Bottles*," **The Wall Street Journal**, May 1, 2018. The article reports that Marriott estimated switching from single-use toiletry bottles to bulk dispensers could save roughly **\$2,000 per hotel annually**.
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-beginning-of-the-end-for-those-tiny-shampoo-bottles-1525180702>

STARN · O'TOOLE · MARCUS & FISHER

A LAW CORPORATION

March 4, 2026

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair,
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony Regarding House Bill 1948 HD1
Relating to Single-Use Plastics

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe,
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding House Bill 1948 HD1 relating to single-use plastics. Our firm represents several clients in the lodging industry.

House Bill 1948 HD1 prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests. Over the past few years, seeking to promote sustainable and responsible tourism that minimizes environmental impacts, the lodging industry has moved toward bulk dispenser usage of its personal care products.

For the foregoing reasons, our clients support House Bill 1948 HD1. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Mahalo nui,



Ivan M. Lui-Kwan
Cori J. Terayama



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026 AT 2:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

COMMENTS ON HB1948 HD1 RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like to offer COMMENTS on HB1948, which prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests.

The Chamber emphasizes that we have long supported sustainability efforts and fully support accommodations that are already moving in this direction. We recognize that many establishments have already made the switch. However, before advancing legislation that adds to the overall regulatory burden on businesses, we would prefer the state to conduct a public education campaign to inform accommodations about the benefits of making the switch and to survey them about the reasons some have not yet adopted these changes. Given the growing movement away from individual toiletries, it is important to understand the factors preventing others from making the switch. If many cite cost as a barrier, the state could explore offering incentives or tax credits to help offset the additional costs. If shipping challenges are a concern, a state agency such as DBEDT could potentially provide recommendations or explore bulk purchasing options. Depending on the survey results, the state could consider other ways to support accommodations in making the transition.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our comments on this bill.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

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



*Testimony of
Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association*

*Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Thursday, March 5, 2026*

HB 1948– RELATING TO SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association (HLTA), representing hotels and lodging operators statewide, submits this testimony providing **COMMENTS** on HB 1948 which seeks to prohibit lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests.

As the state's largest private sector tourism organization, representing nearly 50,000 hotel rooms, and 40,000 lodging employees. Our members share the goal of protecting Hawai'i's natural resources and recognize the importance of aligning tourism operations with broader environmental objectives.

HLTA emphasizes that the lodging industry has long supported sustainability efforts and fully supports accommodations that are already moving in this direction. We recognize that many establishments have voluntarily transitioned away from single-use plastic toiletries. However, before advancing legislation that adds to the overall regulatory burden on businesses, HLTA encourages the State to first pursue a public education campaign to inform lodging operators about the environmental and operational benefits of making this change and to survey those that have not yet adopted these practices to better understand the barriers they face. Given the growing movement away from individual toiletry bottles, it is important to identify the practical factors preventing wider adoption.

The State could explore incentives or tax credits to help offset the expenses associated with converting to bulk dispensers or alternative packaging. For many properties, particularly small and independently operated establishments, the cost of replacing existing systems and products can be significant. In addition, many lodging operators currently maintain substantial inventories of small plastic containers purchased under long-term supply contracts. A mandate that does not account for the exhaustion of existing inventory may unintentionally result in increased waste and financial loss.

HLTA also notes that shipping and supply chain challenges remain a real issue for Hawai'i-based businesses. If logistics and availability are barriers, a state agency could provide guidance to accommodations or explore cooperative purchasing options to improve access to compliant products at reasonable cost.

For these reasons, HLTA respectfully recommends an incentive-based and collaborative approach rather than a strict regulatory mandate. Incentives, education, and technical assistance would encourage voluntary transition while allowing businesses to adapt in a practical, cost-effective manner. Such an approach would better support innovation, reduce unnecessary economic disruption, and still advance the State's sustainability objectives.

HLTA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this measure and looks forward to working with the Legislature and state agencies to develop solutions that balance environmental stewardship with the operational realities of Hawai'i's lodging and tourism industry.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association



March 4, 2026

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair,
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing: Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of HB 1948, HD1
Relating to Single-Use Plastics

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe,
and Members of the House Committee on
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

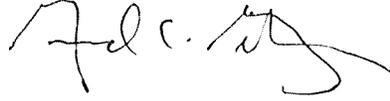
Hawaii Hotel Alliance (“HHA”) thanks you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1948, HD1 relating to single-use plastics as it pertains to prohibiting lodging establishments from providing personal care products in small plastic containers within sleeping room accommodations, any space within sleeping room accommodations, or bathrooms used by the public or guests. The lodging industry has moved toward bulk dispenser usage of its personal care products, including shampoo, hair conditioner, and bath soap.

The lodging industry recognizes that plastic pollution is a major threat to oceans, the environment and human health and seeks to do its part in promoting sustainable and responsible tourism in Hawaii that minimizes environmental impacts and preserves natural resources.

March 5, 2026
Page 2

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Hawaii Hotel Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard Gibson", written over a horizontal line.

By

Gerard Gibson
President

HAWAII YOUTH CLIMATE COALITION

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & JHA Committee,

Hotels should convert from single-use plastic toiletries to refillable dispensers to significantly reduce environmental waste, lower long-term operating costs, and meet growing guest demand for sustainable, "green" travel. This transition eliminates millions of plastic bottles annually, aligns with regulatory trends, and enhances brand reputation.

Key Reasons for Conversion:

- **Environmental Impact & Sustainability:** Millions of mini bottles, shampoo, and soap containers end up in landfills or oceans annually. Switching to bulk dispensers dramatically reduces this waste.
- **Cost Savings:** While there is an upfront investment, purchasing toiletries in bulk to refill dispensers is significantly cheaper than repeatedly purchasing thousands of single-use, travel-sized bottles.
- **Regulatory Compliance & Brand Image:** Many regions are banning single-use plastic bottles, making the switch necessary for compliance. Furthermore, modern travelers increasingly prefer eco-friendly hotels, boosting brand reputation.

The county of Honolulu has already implemented an ordinance to ban plastics. The state should help by supporting with a stronger enactment requiring hotels to transition into this sustainable lifestyle & ethical business strategy.

Aloha,

HAWAII YOUTH CLIMATE COALITION



HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 2:51:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Burke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1948 HD1. Small plastic toiletry bottles contribute to unnecessary waste and plastic pollution in Hawai'i. This bill takes a practical step by reducing these items in lodging establishments while allowing alternatives such as bulk dispensers.

I urge your support of HB1948 HD1. Mahalo."

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:43:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Small plastic toiletry bottles contribute to unnecessary waste and plastic pollution in Hawaii. This bill takes a practical step by reducing these items in lodging establishments while allowing alternatives such as bulk dispensers.

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:58:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seuta'atia Cochran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affair,

I am writing to voice my support of HB1948. In this day and age, it is crucial that we pull away from plastic usage, reduce overall waste culture, and develop sustainable eco-friendly products. As a state that prides itself on protecting our 'āina, I believe it is our duty to set this example and carry this kuleana.

Mahalo nui loa,

Seuta'atia Cochran
Ewa Beach, 'Iolani Schools

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:27:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House members,

This is a simple bill to not only save the hospitality industry money, but save the state of Hawaii more needless environmental costs.

please support this measure.

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 2:39:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Constance Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB 1948 banning single use plastics to tourists. This creates more trash going onto landfills we do not have room for in our landfills.

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 10:07:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catarina Zaragoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1948 HD1. Small plastic toiletry bottles contribute to unnecessary waste and plastic pollution in Hawaii. This bill takes a practical step by reducing these items in lodging establishments while allowing alternatives such as bulk dispensers.

I urge your support of HB1948 HD1. Mahalo.

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 10:34:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
charlotte marriott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i relies on our tourism industry for economic security and prosperity. We have millions of visitors coming to the islands on an annual basis making tourists a significant aspect of the islands population that must be accounted for. Tourists do not engage with sustainability the same way that residents do, as they do not see the effects of their actions the way that permanent residents do. They are also reliant on temporary resources in order to accommodate their needs while traveling. One commodity that is often used by resorts and hotels to accommodate needs are single use plastic bottles. These have obvious negative impacts in terms of coastal and marine pollution and can be easily substituted for reusable containers which would significantly reduce the amount of plastic waste produced by our tourism industry. Because it is not practical to rely on tourists to make sustainable decisions, it is the State's responsibility to pass this bill in order to protect Hawai'i's coastlines. It is essential, not only on an ethical basis in respect to Hawaiian culture and environmental sovereignty, but also to Hawai'i's thriving tourism industry that we ensure that our coastlines are ensured protection and mitigation of harmful waste such as single use plastics.

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 10:34:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie McKenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB1948, which would phase out small plastic toiletry bottles in lodging establishments. Hawai‘i faces serious challenges with plastic pollution, and these single-use items contribute unnecessary waste that often ends up in our landfills and oceans.

Research from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation warns that by 2050 there could be more plastic in the ocean than fish by weight if current trends continue. Reducing unnecessary single-use plastics, like small hotel toiletry bottles, is a practical step Hawai‘i can take to address this growing problem.

Many hotels around the world have already transitioned to refillable dispensers, demonstrating that this is a practical and effective solution. Phasing out small plastic toiletries is a simple step that can significantly reduce plastic waste while helping protect Hawai‘i’s beaches, marine life, and ecosystems.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for supporting efforts to reduce plastic pollution in Hawai‘i.

All the best,
Marie Maile McKenzie

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 10:38:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aleksandra Varlamova	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Aleksandra Varlamova, and I am writing in strong support of HB 1948.

Every day, thousands of tiny plastic bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and body wash are used once and thrown away. In a state that depends on a clean ocean, healthy reefs, and natural beauty, this kind of waste is unnecessary and harmful. Much of this plastic ends up in landfills or in the ocean, where it breaks down into microplastics that damage marine life and enter our food system.

Many hotels around the world have already switched to refillable dispensers. This change is simple, cost-effective, and significantly reduces plastic waste without reducing comfort or quality for guests.

Hawai'i should lead by example in protecting our environment. HB 1948 is a practical step toward reducing plastic pollution and preserving the islands for future generations.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this bill.
Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Representative, Chair of the House Committee Nicole E. Lowen
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP)

Written Testimony for Bill HB1948 HD1

Relating to Single-Use Plastics

Hearing Notice

Tuesday, February 17th, 2026, 9:30am, VIA Videoconference from Conference Room 325 at the State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Isabella Joachim and I am a senior at Hawai'i Pacific University studying Marine Conservation, policy and sustainability. I am submitting testimony in **SUPPORT** of this Bill being passed as it will not only improve Hawai'i's plastic pollution problem, but help society move towards renewable and sustainable practices, like reusable items. This bill, if passed, will remove single-use plastics from lodging, i.e. hotels, Air BNBs, etc, in order to reduce our fossil fuel usage and bring down our state's carbon footprint. As stated in the Bill, the plastic industry is "on track to overtake coal as a source of atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions", which is a shocking statement, especially in Hawai'i where we have limited recycling facilities, usually sticking to burning our waste. This Bill follows in the footsteps of the food industry getting rid of plastic take out, and will improve our environment significantly.

Isabella Joachim
Student at Hawai'i Pacific University

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 11:22:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Bucher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How have we seriously not done this already?

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 11:37:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support this Bill HB1948 HD1. It is needed to reduce our disposal plastic waste stream. Allowing bulk dispensers is a responsible, doable alternative for the benefit of our environmental kuleana and very doable and supported by industry and consumers.

Sincerely,

Marsha Hee, life-long resident of Hawaii

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 11:40:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jotis Russell-Christian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

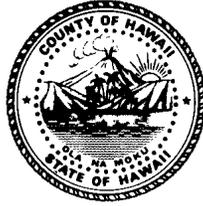
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1948 HD1. Small plastic toiletry bottles contribute to unnecessary waste and plastic pollution in Hawaii. This bill takes a practical step by reducing these items in lodging establishments while allowing alternatives such as bulk dispensers.

I urge your support of HB1948 HD1. Mahalo.

Jotis Russell-Christian

Kapahulu, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: March 4, 2026
TO: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB 1948

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing in **strong support of HB1948**. Plastic pollution is a major threat to Hawaii's oceans, environment, and public health. Small single-use toiletry bottles which are provided to millions of travelers to Hawai'i each year contribute a significant amount of waste.

Allowing single-use plastic toiletries is not only harmful to the environment, but also goes against the Hawai'i County Tourism Strategic Plan which emphasizes responsible tourism, pono based visitor communication, and infrastructure that supports sustainable visitor management. Reducing these unnecessary plastics would support these goals and help decrease the volume of waste entering county waste management systems and landfills while also protecting our coastlines, ecosystems, and public space.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Kagiwada".

Jenn Kagiwada

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 12:33:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Isaac-Magdalene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL. IT'S A NO BRAINER.

HEALTHY ISLAND = HEALTHY LIFE

PROSPERING PEOPLE = BLESSED FUTURE.

PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE ONLY BORROWING THIS PLACE FOR OUR GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRAND CHILDREN AND WE NEED TO TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF IT.

THIS IS YOUR LEGACY. YOUR KULEANA..

PLEASE STOP BLOCKING GOOD BILLS. PLEASE SUPPORT HB1948

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
JHA

Written Testimony for Bill HB1948 HD1

Relating to Single-Use Plastics

Hearing Notice

Thursday, March 5th, 2026, 2:00pm, VIA Videoconference from Conference Room 325 at the State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Isabella Joachim and I am a senior at Hawai'i Pacific University studying Marine Conservation, policy and sustainability. I am submitting testimony in **SUPPORT** of this Bill being passed as it will not only improve Hawai'i's plastic pollution problem, but help society move towards renewable and sustainable practices, like reusable items. This bill, if passed, will remove single-use plastics from lodging, i.e. hotels, Air BNBs, etc, in order to reduce our fossil fuel usage and bring down our state's carbon footprint. As stated in the Bill, the plastic industry is "on track to overtake coal as a source of atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions", which is a shocking statement, especially in Hawai'i where we have limited recycling facilities, usually sticking to burning our waste. This Bill follows in the footsteps of the food industry getting rid of plastic take out, and will improve our environment significantly.

Isabella Joachim
Student at Hawai'i Pacific University

HB-1948-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 1:53:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli McLeod	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. This is a simple way that we can reduce the amount of single use plastic and garbage being used on our islands. This will help protect our ocean and environment.