

**SB-2941**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:03:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/18/2026 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joell Edwards, and I am a resident of Wainiha on the North Shore of Kaua‘i. I strongly support SB2941.

In our small, rural coastal community, we see firsthand how polystyrene products break apart, wash up on our beaches, and enter our ocean and streams. These materials fragment easily, add to landfill burdens, and pose real risks to marine life and seabirds.

Kaua‘i recently passed Bill 2976, signed by Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami, prohibiting disposable polystyrene foam bodyboards. It passed unanimously because the environmental harm was clear and preventable.

SB2941 reflects that same responsibility to protect our ‘āina and reduce unnecessary waste. I respectfully urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair  
Addison Bulosan  
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Felicia Cowden  
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4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawaii 96766

February 17, 2026

**TESTIMONY OF FERN HOLLAND**  
**COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**  
**SB 2941, RELATING TO DISPOSABLE BODYBOARDS**  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
3:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2941, Relating to Disposable Bodyboards. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I serve as Chair of the Parks & Recreation / Transportation Committee, and on Kaua'i, we as a Council took decisive, unanimous action last year with the passage of Bill No. 2976, which prohibits the sale, rental, and distribution of disposable polystyrene foam bodyboards in the County of Kaua'i. My colleagues and I recognized the cumulative environmental degradation and harmful impacts caused by the litter of these short-lived, disposable bodyboards, thus, a transition is underway on Kaua'i to support products with longer lifespans and reduced environmental impact.

During outreach meetings conducted with first responders, including lifeguards and rescuers, they raised critical safety concerns that come with the false sense of security offered by these unstable and disposable bodyboards. When combined with limited ocean experience, the use of poorly constructed, easily breakable bodyboards can increase the risk of drowning and injury among visitors.

I wholeheartedly support a statewide ban to comprehensively expand this positive environmental policy and support a shift towards durable and reusable options to effectively reduce waste, promote responsible tourism, and encourage a more mindful environmental footprint that works to sustain the state's coastal and marine habitats.

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee  
Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2941  
February 17, 2026  
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# Testimony for Measure SB-2718

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FERN HOLLAND  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

RM:dmc

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



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
AND REHABILITATION**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalua Kalaima  
a Ho'oponopono Ola*  
1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**TOMMY JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

**Melanie Martin**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Vacant**  
Deputy Director  
Correctional Institutions

**Sanna Muñoz**  
Deputy Director  
Rehabilitation Services  
and  
Programs

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2718  
RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM.

by  
Tommy Johnson, Director  
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

**AND**

Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 18, 2026; 3:02 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Via Video Conference

Chairs Gabbard and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Richards and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) respectfully **opposes** Senate Bill (SB) 2718, which, beginning January 1, 2028, requires the Departments of Education, Health, Corrections and Rehabilitation, Defense, and University of Hawai'i to ensure that thirty percent of the produce purchased by the four departments consists of fresh local agricultural products or local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products. Requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to develop a nutrition- and aina-based program for integration into public school curricular. Requires DAB to partner with a regional aggregator to support the aggregation and processing of Native Hawaiian staple crops, facilitate procurement pipelines, and expand access to

Native Hawaiian crops. Requires DAB to prioritize grants for an organization that meets certain requirements.

DCR's food service program is an institutional food service program funded by the State's general revenues, which requires large quantities of a variety of food items, reliably delivered in large quantities when they are to be prepared and consumed at all 8 correctional facilities statewide. DCR has struggled to meet the benchmarks set under Act 144, SLH 2022, as local food products are not available in the quantities and variety required. In Fiscal Year 2025, an average of 9,683 meals were prepared daily across all 8 correctional facilities.

Furthermore, DCR is required to purchase through the lowest-bid vendors approved by the State Procurement Office, under the Department of Accounting and General Services. In Fiscal Year 2025, DCR spent \$10,311,428 in total food purchases, of which only 4.17% met the criteria for local food products.

DCR supports a gradual increase in the rate of local products purchased by the Department that also considers the economic feasibility to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **opposition** of SB 2718.