BILL059(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 526

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)

Meeting

Meeting Date: Nov 20, 2024 @ 02:30 PM

Support: 44

Oppose: 2

I wish to comment: 3

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ryan Dadds, PA-C	ryan_dadds@yahoo.com	96819
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 16, 2024 @ 11:26 AM

Testimony:

I support this bill which will ban plastic bottle sales at city facilities. Reliance on seeing use plastics needs to be eliminated and this is a great start. As an island, we have limited resources with recycling and pay huge cost every year to ship this plastic back to the mainland for disposal.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dyson Chee	cheedyson@gmail.com	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 17, 2024 @ 03:20 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Weyer, Vice-chair Kia'āina, and Honorable Councilmembers of the HSH Committee,

I hope you are doing well and are excited for the holiday season as I am! My name is Dyson Chee, I am a resident of Ala Moana, and I am testifying in strong support of Bill 59, relating to plastic.

Having been born and raised on O'ahu, I feel very lucky to have been able to go to the beach every day with my friends and family. It's where my father and grandfather taught me how to fish, dive, and add food to the table.

However, as issues such as plastic pollution made our beaches filthier and filthier, it became much more difficult to find the same healthy fish we had always sought. While this bill alone won't solve all of the plastics problem, it is a step in the right direction by showing people in Hawai'i and the world that the City is committed to protecting the place that we call home. There are so many compostable and reusable options to plastic water bottles that we can use, and while large corporations like the American Beverage Association might oppose such an initiative, this is something that individual, home-grown Hawai'i people like myself support, because we live and suffer through the consequences.

As a young person who hopes – but struggles – to have a future in Hawai'i, I sincerely encourage you to vote in support of Bill 59.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Dyson Chee

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Juli GALLEGOS	itsajul@outlook.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 04:22 AM

Testimony:

I am in support of Bill 59 (24) that would phase out the sale of single-use plastic bottles.

I feel that water and beverages should be sold in more sustainable options like aluminum bottles or cardboard containers, and have the City encourage the use of refillable bottles.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
RICHARD FURST	RFURST808@GMAIL.COM	96821
Representing:	**Position:**	**Submitted:**
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 05:27 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Weyer and other Committee members,

My name is Richard Furst, and I am a resident of Aina Haina. I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 059 (2024), which prohibits the sale of single-use plastic water bottles at some City events / venues. Section one of this bill does an excellent job of summarizing the reasons why this legislation is needed, and I strongly agree with these provisions. I humbly ask that you pass this important bill as quickly as possible, and without weakening it at the behest of industry representatives who care only for their profits and don't share our priorities to protect the health of our people and our ocean resources.

Mahalo nui for your support for this important bill.

Sincerely,

Richard Furst

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Rebecca Reuter	rebfranreu@gmail.com	96744
Representing:	**Position:**	**Submitted:**
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 07:01 AM

Testimony:

Since moving to Oahu, I have witnessed garbage cans filled with single-use plastic. Tourists purchase single-use plastic bottles. Locals are purchasing single-use plastic. Businesses selling single-use plastic. I have picked up beach trash, and it is 100% plastic. Plastic is not the miracle product once thought decades ago; it is a plague, an epidemic. Plastic is choking our waterways and poisoning our bodies. It is not recyclable in the true sense of recycling - it never has, and it never will. Recycling plastic is a farce - untrue. The American Petroleum Industry and the American Beverage Company are misinforming Americans; they are bold-faced, lying to make their insane profits. Please vote for people, not profits.

Name:	Email:	Zip:

April Blades	Firedancer71@outlook.com	96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2024 @ 07:19 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Committee on Housing, Sustainability, and Health,

My name is April Blades, a concerned citizen/environmental steward in support of Bill 59 (24) to phase out the sale of single-use plastic bottles at city facilities and events. I am testifying on the importance of taking steps to protect our island community and surrounding environment.

Scientific studies have shown that chemicals leach from plastic water bottles. These compounds have been proven to be linked to serious health issues such as endocrine disruption, weight gain, insulin resistance, decreased reproductive health, and cancer. Plastic water bottles also are a detriment to our fragile island ecosystem. Many of these plastic water bottles end up in our waterways, on the beaches, and in the ocean posing additional physical, and mental, threats to humans as well as to Hawai'i's wildlife and marine life.

As an environmental steward, I regularly pick up trash at Ala Moana Beach Park/Magic Island. Plastic water bottles are a recurring item throughout the park, on the beach and in the ocean. I implore each of you to consider the health of our island ecosystem and all of its inhabitants, both human and animal. We must, as a whole, do better at protecting the health of our community and our surrounding environment.

Please support Bill 59 (24)

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

April Blades

Name: Gregory Young	Email: greg.young7@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2024 @ 07:52 AM

Testimony:

I strongly support Bill 59(24) to phase out single use plastic bottles.

As an active member of Surfrider's Blue Water Task Force I see so many plastic cups in bottles as I sample water along Magic Island.

The amount of plastic waste that ends up in our beaches and oceans is truly staggering.

Please ban single use plastics

Mahalo,

Greg

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Gwen Young	gwen.young7@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 07:59 AM

Testimony:

Thank you for hearing my testimony. I strongly support Bill 59(24) co-introduced by Councilmember Weyer and Chair Waters. It is critical that we phase out single-use plastic bottles at City facilities and events, reducing plastic pollution and protecting our environment. As a Hawaii resident, who volunteers statewide in conservation efforts, single use plastic and especially water bottles are littering our streams, parks, 'aina, and oceans. This plastic degrades and fully impact the lifecycle of all flora and fauna in our state (and planet). I have supported turtles, monk seals, pelagic birds, and other species of birds that meet their demise due to the ingestion of plastics. These bottles are not contained to near shore and are found in Papahanaumokuakea Marine Sanctuary and the Pacific Garbage patch. The number of bottles found during PMDP (Papahanaumokuakea Marine Debris Project) recent voyage alone should justify passing this Bill. Please support passing this Bill! Mahalo Nui Loa

Name:	Email:	Zip:
John & Rita Shockley	shockleyjr@gmail.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Free Access Coalition	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 08:00 AM

Testimony:

Aloha!

Plastic pollution is both a local and world-wide threat. Perhaps a "show of concern" bill banning plastic water bottles from government buildings is small--but it's a start. Water doesn't need to be packaged in plastic. There are water-proof containers made of paper that can be substituted for plastic which is not recycled enough to keep our oceans clear of this horrendous blight on our planet.

The Free Access Coalition SUPPORTS Bill 059(24) as a start that we care about the planet for future generations.

Mahalo for your time.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Trevor Howard	thowar23@gmail.com	96717
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 08:28 AM

Testimony:

Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, and Members of the Committee on Housing, Sustainability, and Health,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 59 (24), which aims to phase out single-use plastic bottles at City facilities and events. As someone deeply committed to preserving our environment and protecting our beaches, I believe this measure is a critical step forward in reducing plastic pollution and promoting sustainability in our community.

Single-use plastic bottles are among the most pervasive sources of pollution in our waste stream and on our beaches. They not only threaten marine life and ecosystems but also contribute to the growing climate crisis. By transitioning to more sustainable alternatives, such as aluminum bottles, cardboard containers, or refillable options, we can significantly mitigate the negative impact of plastic waste on our environment and safeguard the natural beauty of our islands for future generations.

Bill 59 (24) represents a practical and meaningful approach to reducing plastic waste. Phasing out the sale of single-use plastic bottles at City facilities such as the Blaisdell Arena, Honolulu Zoo, and City golf courses, as well as at City-permitted events, sets a powerful example for businesses, organizations, and residents to follow. Encouraging the use of refillable bottles and promoting sustainable alternatives aligns with broader efforts to combat plastic pollution and foster a culture of environmental responsibility.

This initiative not only protects our natural environment but also positions Honolulu as a leader in sustainability and innovation. By implementing this policy, we demonstrate our commitment to addressing one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time and inspire other communities to take similar action.

I urge the Committee to pass Bill 59 (24) and take this important step toward a cleaner, greener future for Honolulu. Thank you for your leadership in championing sustainability and for considering this measure to protect our environment and the health of our community.

Mahalo nui loa,

Trevor

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lorin Sisco	lorinsisco1@gmail.com	96730
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 08:31 AM

Testimony:

loha Honorable Members of the Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 59, which seeks to ban single-use plastics in Hawaii. As someone deeply invested in the well-being of our islands and the health of our environment, I believe this legislation is a crucial step

toward protecting Hawaii's natural beauty, marine life, and the health of future generations.

Hawaii is uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of plastic pollution due to our position in the Pacific and reliance on tourism. Single-use plastics—such as utensils, straws, and takeout containers—often end up as litter on our beaches or in the ocean, where they harm marine animals and ecosystems. Turtles, monk seals, and fish ingest or become entangled in plastic waste, leading to injuries or death. These items break down into microplastics, infiltrating our water and food supply, threatening not only wildlife but also human health.

We have a responsibility to mālama ʻāina, to care for our land, and lead by example as stewards of the environment. Bill 59 aligns with this value by encouraging the use of sustainable alternatives. Other cities and states that have adopted similar bans have seen significant reductions in plastic waste, proving that this shift is both feasible and impactful.

Additionally, transitioning to reusable or compostable materials supports Hawaii's local economy by fostering innovative businesses in sustainable industries. It also aligns with our state's goal of achieving zero waste and reducing our reliance on imported goods.

Passing this bill is an investment in Hawaii's future—a commitment to preserving our natural resources and ensuring the islands remain a place of beauty and abundance for generations to come. I urge the council to pass Bill 59 and take decisive action against single-use plastics. Let us lead the country in efforts to keep our land and our bodies clean and free of plastic.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this vital legislation.

Respectfully,

Lorin

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mark Hines	hinesmark@mac.com	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 08:45 AM

Testimony:
I am in support of Bill 59 (24) to phase out the sale of single-use plastic bottles in places like the Blaisdell Arena, Blaisdell Exhibition Hall, Waikiki Shell, Honolulu Zoo, City golf courses, the vending machines at Honolulu Hale and other City facilities. We are at a point where we recognize the damage this does to the environment, and a bill like this would make inroads into points sources of plastic in the environment, which we know are not just bad for humans, but for all aspects of the ecosystem.

Name:	Email:	Zip:

Molly Mamaril	mollymamaril@gmail.com	96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2024 @ 08:56 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Committee on Housing, Sustainability, and Health,

As a Kaimukī, O'ahu resident, I am writing in support of Bill 59 (24) to phase out single-use plastic bottles (having a capacity of 1 litre or less) at City and County of Honolulu facilities and events in order to reduce plastic pollution and protect our natural environment.

Mahalo,
Molly Mamaril

Name: Allison Guard	Email: allison.guard@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2024 @ 09:59 AM

Testimony:

I am for banning the use of single use plastic bottles.
We should emphasize the use of reusable water bottles and provide fill stations around the city and at venues as is done in many other places in the world.

Name: Jenny Chung	Email: jhc2691@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2024 @ 10:41 AM

Testimony:

I support banning single-use plastic bottles at events, keeping plastic out of our waste stream and off our beaches. We need to protect our environment and our island. Mahalo.

Name: Dan Gardner	Email: daniel.dano.gardner@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2024 @ 10:47 AM

Testimony:

My wife and I would like to thank Council Chair Waters for putting this legislation forward. This is an excellent positive step toward improving our environment here in Hawaii and beyond. We certainly hope that all council members will continue to support this legislation to its enactment. Thank you!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
John Elkjer	john@sustainableislandproducts.com	96740
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Sustainable Island Products	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 01:09 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters and county council members.

My name is John Elkjer and I am the CEO of Sustainable island Products. As a company our mission is to reduce solid waste in Hawaii and we are in support of Bill 59. We have an opportunity each day to reduce our mark on the land we live on. This is one step forward to doing just that.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Angela Posatiere	angela@myartmail.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 01:11 PM

Testimony:

I am in favor of eliminating single use plastics.

Especially at grocery stores in food packaging!

Save our precious planet!

Mahalo.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Andrea Anixt	andreapeatmoss6@gmail.com	96730
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 02:13 PM

Testimony:

Too many end up on Kamehameha Highway Route 83 through Ka'a'awa when the road becomes beach as the ocean erodes away the section of Highway.

Recycled is very necessary, and the best result once created; but I don't think they are even safe to drink out of initially.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Hayley Yoshinaga	hyoshinaga31@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 02:16 PM

Testimony:

I support Bill 59, as it aims to reduce the use of unnecessary single-use plastics, contributing to the preservation of our oceans and the overall well-being of the environment.

Name:	Email:	Zip:

Roberta Foster	hawaiibobbie@gmail.com	96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2024 @ 03:10 PM

Testimony:

Especially on an island with no real recycling options, I believe it is important to limit the sale of one-time-use plastic bottles. There are other more environmentally friendly options like cardboard or cans, but the best option is water fountains to refill re-usable containers. This is one way to reduce the amount of plastic in our trash, dumps and beaches. Please vote to limit the sale of plastic bottles. Mahalo.

Name: Hyo Kwon	Email: hyo.know@hotmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2024 @ 03:20 PM

Testimony:

I’m a resident of Honolulu and a mother to a 7 year old.

Raising a child in Hawaii, we learn every day how important it is to protect island and reduce plastic waste.

It only makes sense to me that the city facilities and places that serves families of our communities to lead and show examples how we can be creative to protect our precious environment and that we’re able to make a change.

Single use plastic bottles are being proven that they’re not only harmful for our environment and ocean, but also for consumers due to high amount of microplastics found inside the bottle that occurs during manufacturing process.

Cigarettes used be sold in vending machines and people were allowed to smoke indoors but fortunately that is not the case today and the death related to tobacco use reduced significantly compared to the 80’s.

We don’t need any more research or proof to explain how harmful single plastics are and it would be non-sensual to continue selling these single use bottles on city facilities and events.

Let’s make this change now to protect our ocean and our health.

Name: Samantha Carroll	Email: samfc1235@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2024 @ 03:43 PM

Testimony:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 59, which aims to [insert purpose or summary of the bill]. As a concerned citizen of Hawaii, I believe this bill is an essential step toward addressing environmental conservation, public health, and public education, which has a direct and significant impact on our community.

The need for education on single-use plastic has never been more urgent. I work in the no -profit field educating keiki and community about the impact of plastic pollution. I visit school after school and all the keiki ranging from 4y/o to 19 y/o all show great remorse for our dying planet. It is the models that they have in their lives, parents, aunty/uncle, grandparents, teachers, etc; that make the true difference This bill offers a practical solution to these challenges and represents a forward-thinking approach to ensuring the long-term well-being of our islands and residents.

The provisions outlined in Bill 59, will have a positive impact by reducing emissions, improving public access to healthcare, enhancing educational opportunities, and much more. I am particularly supportive of the education surrounding plastic pollution

I urge you to pass this bill and take decisive action to address the pressing concerns that affect the future of Hawaii. It is crucial that we act now to safeguard our environment, public health, and the overall quality of life for residents and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. I look forward to seeing the positive changes that Bill 59 will bring to our state.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Michael Koster	thirstyearfest@aol.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 05:56 PM

Testimony:

Single use plastics are destructive to marine life and human health, their manufacture is destructive to our atmosphere, and plastic litter is everywhere in our city. Please do everything you can to phase them out.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Alexandra Kahn	a.kahn328@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 07:36 PM

Testimony:

Dear Committee members and Chair,

With today’s options for water purification and alternative single-use materials- there is no longer a need for plastic

bottles. There are box, aluminum, and glass options to be used for single-use which are less destructive for the environment and better in terms of human health. Consuming water in plastic bottles in Hawaii, where the days are often hot and sunny, often amounts to the inevitable degradation of the plastic bottle into the water itself. The other single-use materials do not degrade into the water when exposed to heat and sun.

Additionally, starting the phase out of plastic bottles and combining that with an integration of more filtered water refill stations and a campaign about reusing and refilling can have a significant impact on our overall plastic contribution as an island.

When tourists visit, they are so accustomed to buying single use water bottles throughout their trips, but if movements were made in legislation and affiliated marketing, we could break this habit and encourage a more sustainable method of tourism.

Aside from water, these single use bottles are used to contain artificial and unhealthy drinks such as soda and sugary juices in a place with the highest diabetes rate in the USA and in a place with pretty unhealthy food options in general. These drinks companies are owned by mega corporations from the continent that do not care about our island or our people- only profits. On principle, we should not be supporting these corporations, but also from a health standpoint we should be encouraging that our community members and tourists drink more water and local drinks like mamake tea- rather than processed drinks.

I fully support the councils efforts to rid our community of single use plastic and I'm committed to helping them with their goals! We have an opportunity to make our community and even our tourists healthier, while decreasing the environmental impact affiliated with plastic bottles- one of the most commonly used single- use plastic items.

Mahalo!

Alex

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kate Paine	kate@hula.net	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 08:21 PM

Testimony:

For the known health issues, being proactive in lowering plastic pollution is mandatory.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Maiah Isemunger	mh.iseminger@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Nov 18, 2024 @ 09:12 PM
Testimony: Screw plastic		

Name: Jacqueline Brebeck	Email: jbrebeck@alumni.nd.edu	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2024 @ 11:01 PM
Testimony: I support this bill as reducing the amount of single use (and other plastics too) is integral for moving towards a more circular economy and reducing pollution and harm to our environment.		

Name: Jordan Rowley	Email: jraerowley@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 07:38 AM
Testimony: Aloha whom it may concern, I wish to support bill 59 in an effort to phase out single use plastic bottles at city facilities and events. I believe it is our duty to protect the delicate ecosystem that is Hawaii and reinforce an infrastructure that protects the longevity and health of the Hawaiian archipelago. Living on an island, most of the plastic ends up in our waterways which eventually leads back to the ocean. This contaminates our waters and puts our wildlife in danger. This bill would mitigate a large portion of that waste that ends up in the ocean. Mahalo for the opportunity to address the committee and voice my support for bill 59. Warmly, Jordan Rowley of Kaneohe		

Name: Donald Sakamoto	Email: cyclonone@aol.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 08:00 AM
Testimony: comment		

Name: Christine Dobrowolski	Email: christine.c.dobrowolski@gmail.com	Zip: 96734

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 08:29 AM

Testimony:

Aloha,

I'm in support of bill 59(24). As someone who walks the beach with my dog every morning, I see the amount of plastics on the beach from bottles and caps. It's disheartening to see so much plastic on the beach and when out in the water paddling, there are plastic bottles floating in the ocean. This harms sea life, the environment, and takes away from the personal enjoyment of all who love the ocean and our beautiful beaches.

There are reasonable alternatives to plastic. People can bring empty refillable bottles to events and water stations can be added. The bill has exemptions and will allow single-use plastics for emergency measures.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Tracey Kelley	tracey@stott.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 08:51 AM

Testimony:

Aloha,

As an avid ocean swimmer, the amount of plastic in our ocean is horrible. Anything we can do to help solve this issue is important. A bit of inconvenience is worth less plastic floating in our ocean. I wonder why we add plastic to everything? Can't we have the cardboard containers with no plastic cap again or yogurt containers that are not plastic? Thank you for starting the revolution of less plastic use in beverages!

Tracey

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kathryn Ellman	1@kathrynellman.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 08:59 AM

Testimony:

I strongly support this bill.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Claudia Avila Martin	claudia.am@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 09:39 AM

Testimony:

Dear [Recipient's Name],

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 59 (24) that aim to limit the use of single-use plastics and encourage more sustainable practices to protect our environment. As we face increasing environmental challenges—from the degradation of marine ecosystems to the accumulation of plastic waste in landfills— it is essential that we take proactive steps to address these issues and work towards building a culture that prioritizes the responsible use of natural resources.

Single-use plastics, such as straws, bottles, and packaging, have become ubiquitous in our daily lives, but their environmental impact is undeniable. They often end up in our oceans, rivers, and landscapes, contributing to pollution and threatening wildlife. Many species mistake plastic debris for food, leading to serious harm or death. Moreover, the production and disposal of plastic materials contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and waste accumulation, exacerbating the global environmental crisis.

One of the most effective ways to mitigate these harmful effects is to reduce our reliance on single-use plastics and promote the adoption of alternative materials that are more sustainable and biodegradable. This shift requires collaboration among businesses, governments, and communities to create a culture of sustainability. It is imperative that we invest in and incentivize innovations that promote reusable products, recyclable materials, and eco-friendly packaging solutions.

Additionally, raising public awareness about the consequences of plastic waste is crucial. By educating consumers and fostering a deeper understanding of the impact of their choices, we can inspire more conscious purchasing decisions and encourage individuals to adopt sustainable behaviors. Local businesses, schools, and organizations all play a critical role in this transformation, creating a ripple effect that can lead to lasting cultural change.

I commend your Bill 59 in its efforts to explore ways to reduce plastic consumption, and I urge you to continue advocating for policies and practices that limit single-use plastics. Whether through implementing packaging reforms, introducing plastic bans or restrictions, or investing in alternative solutions, your leadership can help shape a future where we protect our environment and preserve our natural resources for generations to come.

Together, we can build a world where sustainability is not just an ideal, but a standard practice embedded in every aspect of our lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to seeing the positive changes our aina.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Thomas Emerick	tomemerick2@gmail.com	96815

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 09:44 AM

Testimony:

I support the reduction of single use plastics as intended by this bill.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Natalie Wohner	natalie.wohner@gmail.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 12:13 PM

Testimony:

Dear Chair Waters, Councilmember Weyer, and members of the HSH Committee,

My name is Natalie, resident of Kailua, and I am in support of Bill 59 (24), to phase out disposable plastic bottles, of 1 liter or less, at City facilities and events. In the bill you are listing aluminum and cardboard as better options for plastic, but those are also disposable options, and I would like to suggest that you emphasize refill options as the priority for City facilities and events.

As an avid water woman and core volunteer for the Surfrider Foundation O'ahu Chapter, I am witnessing the detrimental effects of our throw-away culture daily. One of the top 10 items found at beach cleanups are plastic bottle caps and plastic water bottles, that are only used once and then pollute our environment for a lifetime. Especially at concerts or street festivals, I see a shocking amount of empty plastic bottles being thrown on the ground.

This can easily be avoided by offering refill stations at City facilities and events. Being born and raised in Germany, I am used to reusable bottles, water refill stations, and being able to request free tap water anywhere I go. I have to say that we are terribly lagging behind here on O'ahu. I am not even allowed to bring my (empty) reusable bottle to events and forced into buying expensive bottled water.

The Kokua Hawai'i Foundation is already showing how easy it is to host plastic-free events with their water refill stations that you can rent from them. They hosted concerts at the Aloha Stadium and Waikīkī Shell where no disposable cups or bottles were offered, everything was reusable. Flowater Hawai'i is another local company offering refill stations that can be easily installed at events. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has refill stations in every building and floor and every student is carrying their own reusable water bottle with them.

These examples demonstrate how offering sustainable solutions to consumers will easily change their behavioral habits. I witnessed the same behavioral change when we first banned disposable plastic bags in supermarkets and now you see everyone show up with their reusable bags. I do not think this change would have happened that quick by simple education and without a ban.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your commitment to a more sustainable future for our island!

Mahalo,

Natalie Wohner

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Christine Villanueva	cvillanueva3@my.hpu.edu	96706
Representing:	**Position:**	**Submitted:**
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 01:03 PM

Testimony:

I support Bill 59 (24) which aims to phase out single-use plastic bottles having a capacity of 1 liter or less at City facilities and events. It's important that we as a people make the decision to lessen the use and creation of plastic when we can. Everybody who lives on Hawai'i, whether they make the conscious decision or not, are stewards of this land. We should be making collective decisions such as Bill 59 (24) for our health, our land, and our world.

I support the sale of water and beverages, but they must be in more sustainable options. If they are not, then the ones who create the waste should be responsible for it. I am not referring to the consumer, though. These companies and corporations that make their products to become forever plastic waste have shifted the burden of waste onto their customers for too long.

Especially because of our unique location and culture, we need to commit to decisive action while keeping our present and futures in mind. While change isn't always easy, we must commit to limiting our plastic waste consumption. Hawai'i has no recycling facilities on island, has limited space for landfills and waste, and sees the effect of plastic waste every day. If you walk on any beach, you will find pieces of microplastics among the sand. You can see discarded plastic bottles in the 7 Eleven parking lots and on the sidewalks downtown. You'll find these same plastic bottles floating in our ocean near the docks and harbors, beaches in Waikīkī. We need to acknowledge the problem of plastic pollution-- chemical waste produced in the process of its creation, limited reusability, and directly harming other organisms both on and off land among a few. We need to stop contributing to the problem. We need to take action now.

The American Beverage Association (ABA) is flying in to testify against this measure. Key words: flying in. These people do not know our ʻāina, our culture, or what problems we face. They do not care about the chemicals leaching into our waters, the microplastics filling our fish and birds, the pollution poisoning our soil. They only care for profit and how they will be affected. They poison us with their packaging with the justification of convenience. They come here, they try to convince us to keep letting them poison us with lies and plastic packaging. Is this not the mindset of those who came and took from the Hawaiians here before us? The same mindset that has already stolen too much land and resources from the original stewards of our islands.

These people don't care about our health or our land! Anyone who supports the continuation of plastic bottles when there

are more sustainable options doesn't care about our keiki or kūpuna. We shouldn't have to eat plastic in our poke, see our birds eating plastic waste by the side of the road, or know that every beverage we buy and drink is contributing to the microplastics in our bodies.

We didn't always have plastic. And plastic isn't our only option: there is aluminum, cardboard, and refillable beverage stations. We need to do better by ourselves and the islands we love. This is a step in the right direction and we should not only allow this bill to pass, but also champion it and hold ourselves and each other accountable in upholding it. Don't let strangers who stepped off a plane 2 days ago convince us to keep poisoning ourselves and our world. Let us pass Bill 59 (24) and go into the future knowing we tried our best as stewards to the environment and as considerate, loving ancestors to those inheriting the ʻāina from us.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Montserrat Ruz	montserzcn@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 01:18 PM

Testimony:
Aloha council members I am testifying to support this bill because I believe it is important to remove single use plastic from the entire world.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Katharine Bryant	kathybryant225@gmail.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2024 @ 02:08 PM

Testimony:
I strongly support Bill 59 (24). As an ocean swimmer and paddler, I've seen first hand the amount of plastic, including single use plastic bottles, that end up in the ocean. I've participated in several beach clean-ups and plastic bottles are always in the park bushes, naupaka, and in the water. As a golfer, I see single use bottles filling trash cans and in the parks. Increasingly, people are carrying their own bottles and the city should continue their efforts to encourage this practice and provide water refill stations at all city venues. Cardboard containers are now readily available and provide a sustainable option for the city where needed. As an island community, we must do everything possible to reduce our dependence on plastic. We can find solutions and overcome the convenience associated with single use plastic in our city venues. I strongly encourage you to pass this bill. It is absolutely the right thing to do.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
David Thorp	dthorp@americanbeverage.org	80023
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
American Beverage Association	Oppose	Nov 19, 2024 @ 03:37 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:

Jennifer McLennan	jennifer.carver47@gmail.com	96834
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 04:15 PM

Testimony:

I've seen first hand what damage plastic water bottles can have in the environment. Reusable bottles are ubiquitous and easy for people to use. There is no need for plastic bottles.

Name: Gavan Abe	Email: gabe@dhs.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96817
Representing: State of Hawaii, Department of Human Services	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 04:40 PM

Name: Mike Foley	Email: haikulani@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 05:29 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Weyer and other Committee members,

I am writing in support of this measure, which is an important step to address the plastic pollution crisis impacting our oceans and environment. The truth about the difficulty in recycling plastic is now widely known. As a longtime volunteer with the Surfrider Foundation, I have been following their lawsuit against a major petrochemical company, alleging they "covered up the truth about the dangers of the single-use plastics it produces, and... knowingly caused the public to believe that single-use plastics can be safely disposed of, despite knowing otherwise, thereby directly contributing to the plastic-pollution crisis" https://www.surfrider.org/news/surfrider-sues-exxon-for-burying-the-truth-about-plastics.

You will likely hear opposition to this measure from the petrochemical industry. They may repeat their misinformation about plastic recycling. When you do, please ask to see the data on how much plastic is currently recycled on Oahu. Alternatively, if you question the importance of this measure, please ask the Honolulu Department of Environmental Services to provide current plastic recycling data.

There are sustainable alternatives to plastic beverage containers for use at city events and facilities. Refillable water bottles are a convenient, healthy and environmentally responsible option. Filtered water distribution stations like we see at Honolulu International Airport should be made more common city-wide. Once you pass this important measure, please take additional steps to help address the plastic waste crisis on Oahu.

Mahalo,

Mike Foley Kailua		
Name: Hanna Lilley	Email: hlilley@surfrider.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Surfrider Foundation O`ahu Chapter	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 05:35 PM
Name: Lynn Kader	Email: lynncooliokader@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 08:12 PM
Testimony: I support the move for reducing plastic use. When it comes to businesses the easiest thing we can do is try to reduce it by not making it an option! As a consumer it makes it both easier and forces us to reduce plastic as well. Thanks.		
Name: Sirena Pendragon	Email: mermaidflow@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 08:12 PM
Name: Kiana Otsuka	Email: kiana.otsuka@gmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 08:33 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Housing, Sustainability, and Health Committee,

I'm writing in strong support of this bill. I feel strongly that the City should take leadership in providing an example for residents, visitors, and businesses to reduce plastic consumption, and therefore plastic pollution and other negative consequences of plastic production and consumption. City facilities also host numerous events, so this bill has the potential to make a huge impact on reducing plastic consumption.

Thank you for introducing and hearing this bill, and for consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,

Kiana

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Donald Sakamoto	cylonone@aol.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Nov 20, 2024 @ 08:27 AM

Testimony:

Providing comments

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sumaccha Duyn	suma.duyn@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2024 @ 08:31 AM

Testimony:

Reducing plastic bottle use is essential for the health of our planet. Plastic takes hundreds of years to decompose, and in that time, it pollutes our oceans, harms wildlife, and contributes to growing landfills. By supporting this bill and promoting the use of non plastic alternative/refillable water stations we can cut down on the demand for single-use plastic, conserve natural resources, and reduce our carbon footprint. Small changes in our daily habits can make a big difference in protecting the environment for future generations.

Written Testimony of
David Thorp, American Beverage Association

Before the Honolulu City Council
Housing, Sustainability and Health Committee
Opposition of Bill 59: Relating to Plastic
November 20, 2024

Good afternoon, Chair Weyer and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in opposition of Bill 59 – relating to plastic bottles.

I am David Thorp, Vice President, State Government Affairs West for the American Beverage Association (ABA). The American Beverage Association is the trade association representing the non-alcoholic beverage industry across the country and here in Hawaii.

Beverage industry's local impact on Hawaii's economy
The beverage industry is an important part of Hawaii's economy – and one of the few remaining industries still manufacturing on the Islands. Unlike most consumer products, many of our beverages, aluminum cans and plastic bottles are manufactured and distributed in Hawaii by local workers.

Non-alcoholic beverage companies in Hawaii provide 1,200 good-paying jobs across the state. The industry helps to support thousands more workers in businesses that rely in part on beverage sales for their livelihoods and, such as grocery stores, restaurants and theaters.

Hawaii beverage companies are taking bold actions to reduce their use of new plastic and make sure their bottles do not end up in nature or wasted in landfills. We are carefully designing our bottles to be 100% recyclable, even the caps.

What is PET?
Our bottles are made of a specific type of plastic - polyethylene terephthalate or PET, a durable lightweight plastic that is the most recyclable and recycled plastic in the US. Unlike other types of plastic, PET is NOT single use but is made to be remade. That's why America's beverage companies use it for beverage bottles.

Setting the record straight about plastic bottles in the environment
There's a lot of misinformation about the value of our fully recyclable plastic bottles. Here are things you may not know.

1. PET beverage containers are collected and recycled under the state's HI-5 program and Honolulu's curbside recycling program. The state recognizes that these bottles are valuable and much different from other plastics that have no value because they are not

recyclable. The state places a deposit on our bottles because it wants to encourage consumers to bring them back and be remade into new bottles as intended.

2. Our recycled bottles are valuable and in high demand. Recycled PET can be used to make new bottles and is also highly sought after by producers of other products to reduce their use of new plastic.

3. Our bottles comprise only 1% of municipal solid waste in the U.S., according to an analysis of U.S. EPA data. Other plastics make up more than 10 times that.

4. Our industry is leading to educate consumers on the value of our plastic bottles. That's why we are placing a uniform message on bottle caps so consumers understand that our bottles are fully recyclable: “Recycle bottle…with cap on.”

5. We are working with environmental groups, such as World Wildlife Fund, to advocate for modern collection policies that have worked elsewhere to raise recycling rates and keep plastic out of nature.

Our commitments are meant to serve as a catalyst for other industries to do more to reduce our plastic footprint. We are eager to work with those who share the goal of using less new plastic. Government and industry should come together to develop new, innovative ideas that will help us use less new plastic and ensure our bottles and caps don't wind up in places they shouldn't.

Sincerely,

David Thorp

David Thorp
American Beverage Association
Vice President, State Government Affairs West

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

November 19, 2024

TO: The Honorable Councilman Matt Weyer, Chair
Honolulu City Council Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health

The Honorable Councilwoman Esther Kia'āina, Vice Chair
Honolulu City Council Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director
Gavan Abe, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

SUBJECT: **BILL 59 (24) – RELATING TO PLASTIC.**
Hearing: November 20, 2024, 2:30 p.m.
City Council Chamber & Via Videoconference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the bill, provides comments, and requests an amendment.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to prevent the purchase or sale of single-use plastic bottles having a capacity of one (1) liter or less:

(1) For use at any city facility, city-authorized concession, city-sponsored or city-permitted event, or city program;

(2) By the city.

The Licensed Blind Vendor (LBV) program, also known as the Randolph-Sheppard Act program, is one of the most successful entrepreneurial programs for legally blind individuals in the State of Hawaii and nationally. The blind vending program offers blind people a chance at self-determination, self-sufficiency, pride, and financial independence. Ho`opono, the Services for the Blind Branch of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Human

Services, is the State Licensing Agency that is responsible for the licensing and oversight of the LBV program in Hawaii. Attached to the program is the Randolph-Sheppard Revolving Account (RSRA), authorized by section 347-12.5, HRS. There are LBV facilities in numerous City and County of Honolulu buildings that operate under permits, which include the sale of beverages in plastic bottles.

The RSRA is used to benefit blind vendors in the manner of retirement, health insurance, new and replacement equipment, training, and other costs related to the blind vending program. One of the vital costs that is regularly paid by the RSRA is for the purchase of initial inventory to support the success of blind vendors in new and refurbished facilities. Beverages, bottled and canned, constitute approximately 50% of initial inventory. Beverages are the blind vendors' best sellers and constitute a majority of the blind vendors' sales and income. The profits from beverage sales pay for everyday personal expenses of the LBV, such as rent, food, and transportation, i.e., everything necessary to live an independent life, be taxpaying citizens, and become less reliant on public assistance.

We respectively request that an exemption to this proposed ordinance be allowed for the Licensed Blind Vendor program to continue to operate according to our existing permit terms in City facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

November 19th, 2024

Testimony in Support of Bill 59 (24)
Committee on Housing, Sustainability, and Health (HSH)
City and County of Honolulu
Hearing on November 20, 2024, at 2:30 pm

Dear Chair Waters, Councilmember Weyer, and members of the HSH Committee,

The Surfrider Foundation O'ahu Chapter would like to offer this testimony in support of Bill 59 (24), to phase out disposable plastic bottles (having a capacity of 1 liter or less) at City facilities and events, reducing plastic pollution and protecting our environment.

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Founded in 1984, the Surfrider Foundation has been advocating for plastic pollution reduction laws for over a decade through our grassroots Rise Above Plastics campaign and Plastic Pollution Initiative. The O'ahu chapter works hard to ensure that our beaches and coastal waters are clean and free from pollution and people are able to enjoy surfing, swimming and recreating in the ocean safely.

Plastic pollution on our beaches and parks overwhelmingly comes from products that are used for a few minutes, are discarded into the environment, and then persist in our streets, waterways and ocean for a lifetime. We believe that critical change is needed to stem the current flow of single-use plastic pollution. We advocate at the local, state and federal level for product restrictions and better product alternatives that encourage everyday citizens to switch to reusables.

Plastic is problematic from the point of raw material extraction to its eventual disposal and dispersion. Roughly two-thirds of all plastic ever produced remains in the environment—either as pollution in oceans and other landscapes, as microparticles in air, soil, and rain, or as microparticles in humans and animals.[1]

[1] Center for International Environmental Law, Plastic & Health: The Hidden Costs of a Plastic Planet (Feb. 2019).

Americans consumed nearly 14 billion gallons of bottled water in 2018, reaching $19 billion in sales. In the next three years sales are expected to exceed $24 billion. This bill presents a cautious and sensible step to begin to reduce this staggering number.

There are four main reasons why the Surfrider Foundation O`ahu Chapter supports this bill.

1. Bill 59(24) takes proactive measures targeting a significant category of plastic pollution, single use plastic bottles. Recycling is not only a reactive measure but is very clearly not the solution to plastic pollution.[2] In 2015, over 400 million metric tons of plastic were produced worldwide, and an estimated 8 million metric tons of plastic are going into the ocean as pollution every year. Only a dismal 9% of plastics are recycled,12% of plastics are incinerated, and the remaining 79% plastic waste ends up going to landfills or polluting the environment.[3] The first resort must be source reduction of plastic, which is the focus of this bill.

2.This policy would address single-use plastic bottle litter at public City facilities, city-authorized concession, city-sponsored or permitted events or programs, such as concerts and street festivals. Single-use plastic beverage bottles and caps are consistently one of the top 10 items collected at litter clean-ups.[4] Plastic bottle caps are made of polypropylene and when littered in aquatic environments they often float on the water's surface due to their relatively light density. Bottle caps floating on the ocean's surface look like food to many animals, including fish and birds, most notably the Laysan Albatross. One study estimates that nearly 90% of the world's seabirds have eaten plastic.[5]

Plastic pollution is not limited to our oceans. Plastics also plague national, state and city parks, clog drains and waterways and disrupt the aesthetics of our environments. Plastic litter can migrate into pastures on ranchland where it is consumed by livestock and can contaminate crops.

3. We are beginning to hear more and more about bottled water as an extractive industry, as water rights for bottled water at spring sites become increasingly disputed.[6] More than half of the bottled water sold in the United States comes from municipal tap water.[7] Bottled water

[2] Hocevar, John, Circular Claims Fall Flat: Comprehensive U.S. Survey of Plastics Recyclability, Greenpeace Reports (Feb. 2020).
[3] Geyer, R., Jambeck, J.R. & Law, K.L., Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made, Science Advances, Vol. 3, No. 7 (2017)
[4] The Ocean Conservancy, Top Ten Items, (May 2017).
[5] Wilcox, Chris, Van Sebille, Erik & Hardesty, Britta Denise, Threat of plastic pollution to seabirds is global, pervasive, and increasing, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (Aug. 2015).
[6] Brown, Alex, States look at banning, restricting bottling firms from tapping local groundwater, The Washington Post (Feb. 2020).
[7] Food & Water Watch, Tap Water vs. Bottled Water

comes from some of the most drought-ridden places in the country, including California,[8] and is then being shipped to Hawai'i.

4. The sale of bottled water generates avoidable greenhouse gas emissions throughout the process.[9] From extraction of oil to manufacturing, from transportation to disposal, each of these steps generates emissions. In the bottled water sector, one of the biggest costs is transportation, bottles are often trucked 1,000 miles. Even when a bottle is recycled there are emissions from manufacturing and transport.

All of these environmental harms are avoidable by drinking clean and safe tap water where available, and switching to more sustainable options, such as refillable bottles.

Our islands stand as symbols of sustainability, conservation, and environmental education for millions of residents and visitors. In order to preserve the ʻāina and these values for generations to come, we should phase out the sale of small single-use plastic water bottles altogether.

We therefore suggest to strengthen this bill by adding the following improvements (in bold):

34-_.2 Restrictions on single-use plastic bottles. Unless exempted by this article, no single-use plastic bottle having a capacity of one liter **[two liters]** or less may be purchased, sold, or offered for sale:
[(3) **By any box store, grocery store or supermarket doing business in the city.**]

34-_.4 Enforcement, civil penalties, and injunctive relief.
[(d) **The director of the department of environmental services must assign staff to conduct regular audits of box stores, grocery stores and supermarkets doing business in the city and produce an annual report to council on compliance with this article.]**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Hanna Lilley
Hawai`i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation

[8] Perkins, Tom, The fight to stop Nestlé from taking America's water to sell in plastic bottles, The Guardian (Oct. 2019).
[9] The Story of Stuff Project, The Story of Bottled Water with Annie Leonard (Mar. 2010).

November 19, 2024

To whom it may concern regarding Bill 59 (24),

If you have ever taken a plane over the Pacific Ocean from the mainland, you may have seen "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch," also known as the "Pacific Trash Vortex." There's another one near Asia. What a shame it is to see, 1.6 million square kilometers of garbage over the ocean, an area twice the size of Texas, and 3 times the size of France, and humans claim to be smarter than animals!

94% of this mess is microplastics and direct toxicity from plastics comes from lead, cadmium, and mercury, all heavy metals, which enter our food chain through eating seafood and fish. So by eating fish and seafood, heavy metals, we can look forward to gastrointestinal and kidney dysfunction, nervous system - brain disorders, skin lesions, vascular damage, immune system dysfunction, birth defects, and cancer.

It should be obvious that we need to stop using plastic, yet there is a debate.
We need Bill 59 (24) to pass and we also need it to be enforced.

We also need the sunscreen law to be enforced too. Go to any convenience store in Hawaii and you can see plenty of environmentally damaging sunblock being sold. Enforcement needs to happen too!

Sincerely,



Sirena Pendragon
2623 Halelena Place, Honolulu, HI 96822 - 808-989-9721