MISC. COMM. 430

*ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY (EES)

PRESENTATION BY GENSHU PRICE FROM BOTTLES 4 COLLEGE ON RECYCLING IN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

Testimony

***ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY (EES) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Aug 19, 2025 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 9

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Cardenas (Cards) Pintor	pintorcards@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 18, 2025 @ 11:44 AM

Testimony:

Aloha,

I support this resolution.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas Pintor

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Miles Topping	milestopipng@gmail.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 18, 2025 @ 02:26 PM

Testimony:

Why this program needs to be created

Establishes awareness and a lifestyle that thinks to recycle and to be mindful of how we dispose of trash.

This program would create immediate action, not just the call for it, something that sets this apart from efforts of other environmental bills.

Allows the community and planet to thrive together and lets every individual in our community take part.

Environmental education is not actively taught, leaving students ill-equipped to be able to care for our planet.

There is an imminent need to take action for recycling especially with our rising landfill issues and poor recycling rates.

Students in schools are our next generation, so bringing sustainability lessons and environmental education into our classrooms is the key to ensure sustainability in Hawaii.

Hawaii’s recycling rates are very low, this would help raise those rates.

Hawai'i faces major landfill issues.

Hawai'i faces major plastic pollution issues.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Michael Price	mfoolg@gmail.com	96717
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 18, 2025 @ 02:27 PM

Testimony:

Aloha,

My name is Michael Price, I am in support of this Recycling Initiative for schools.

I believe that it is important to help protect the aina and it begins with educating our keiki. This is a great idea to put forth action to combat our evergrowing environmental issues in our State. I believe starting with recycling can encourage young people to take action towards other environmental problems, such as trash and illegal dumping. This can help bring awareness and teach ways to protect our planet one piece of trash at a time.

Creating this policy is important as a first step, and furthermore effective if schools can join collaborative efforts such as Bottles4College, which has proven records of increasing recycling along with giving back directly to the community and making higher education more accessible for Hawaii students.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Helen Walker	moonwalker1941@gmail.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Aug 18, 2025 @ 03:07 PM

Testimony:

Genshu Price has been supporting recycling for many years, starting as an Adolescent and soon to be an Adult.

Genshu Price is the Founder of Bottles 4 College.

Recycling plastics helps to save the Environment. Land, Sea and Air.

Humans, Animals,

Plants, all living Beings, are negatively affected by Plastic pollution.

Let us all join Genshu Price in “Saving the Environment.”

Imua!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Akiko White	white.akiko@gmail.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 18, 2025 @ 05:26 PM

Testimony:

I am supporting recycling initiatives in schools. We have worked with Bottles For College for several years. They are a wonderful nonprofit supporting students by recycling bottles and giving back to the community!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Roslyn Speidel	roslyn.speidel@gmail.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 18, 2025 @ 05:27 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Selena Vixayvong	selenalily99@gmail.com	96795

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 18, 2025 @ 05:55 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

My name is Selena Vixayvong, and I am a recent graduate of Kailua High School and a 2024 Bottles4College scholarship recipient. I am here in support of Genshu Price who will be presenting on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 about the importance of City and County supported recycling initiatives in Hawai'i schools.

As a student who has benefited from the Bottles4College program, I have seen firsthand how recycling initiatives in schools can make a difference. Recycling is a simple habit, yet it is one that is not always practiced or encouraged in our daily lives. The further I venture out into the community, the less I see recycling efforts being emphasized. That is why I believe this initiative is so important because it reminds us that recycling can make a difference and should not be overlooked.

This program is about more than just bottles and cans. It is about showing students and families that small everyday actions can create real impact for our environment. By placing recycling programs in schools, we not only teach students the value of stewardship, but also provide the larger community with an accessible way to contribute to environmental change while directly supporting scholarships for students.

I continue to recycle today and share this message with others because I believe when young people learn the value of caring for the environment, they carry it with them for life. I strongly believe this initiative has the power to inspire not only students, but entire communities across Hawai'i to do their part for a better future.

Mahalo for your time and for considering the importance of bringing this program into our schools.

Respectfully,

Selena Vixayvong

2024 Bottles4College Scholarship Recipient.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
William Chen	wkschen1@gmail.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 04:48 AM

Testimony:

To all councilmembers who are concerned,

My name is William Chen. I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa as well as a Bottles4College scholarship recipient, and just two days ago, I turned nineteen years old. Nineteen is not a long time to be alive, but it is long enough to see how much has been wasted and how much worse things have gotten since the day I was born.

In 2006, the year of my birth, the United States recycled about 32% of its municipal solid waste. Today, that number has dropped to about 21%. That means that instead of progress, we have chosen regression. Plastic production has nearly doubled in the same period, from about 250 million tons per year to more than 460 million tons. And aluminum cans? We throw away enough in this country each year to rebuild the entire commercial airline fleet four times over.

Here in Hawai'i, the consequences of that ignorance are unavoidable. Microplastics wash up on our beaches, they run through our streams, and they choke our coral reefs. For a state that depends on clean water and healthy oceans, this is not just an environmental problem; it is an existential one.

The best way to fight these problems is by fighting ignorance. Ignorance is killing us. Ignorance is the knife at our throats, and we are the ones who hold it there. George Orwell once wrote that "ignorance is strength." He was right, but not in the way his dystopia imagined. Ignorance is the strength to look away from the problem. The strength to pretend convenience matters more than survival. The strength to push responsibility onto someone else. It is a false type of strength.

That's why recycling initiatives in schools are not just useful, they are necessary. They don't just make recycling accessible, they make it normal. They teach children that every can, every bottle, and every choice matters. And if we can build these habits early, we don't just clean up our waste, we build a culture of responsibility strong enough to carry Hawai'i into the future. If the City and County has the ability to support schools in building these initiatives, then it has the responsibility to act.

I am nineteen years old. By the time children born this year turn nineteen, they will inherit either an environment that we worked to protect, or one we abandoned to ruin. That choice is not theirs. It is ours. I hope you will consider these things when making your judgement on this matter.

With utmost respect,

William Chen

Name:	Email:	Zip:
ROBERTALEE SCHANZ	hello.chiicky@gmail.com	96819
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 06:48 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

My name is Robertalee Schanz, and I am writing in strong support of the Recycling in Schools Initiative. This program is an important step forward in building sustainability within our communities and creating lifelong habits of environmental stewardship among Hawai'i's keiki.

Schools are not just places of learning; they are foundations where values are shaped. By making recycling accessible and convenient in public schools, we encourage students to actively care for their environment. These daily habits build responsibility, awareness, and leadership that will ripple into families, neighborhoods, and future generations.

I have personally supported and volunteered at Bottles4College events since the very beginning, and I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact this initiative has on both students and the wider community. It is inspiring to see a young leader like Genshu Price creating opportunities that combine environmental action with educational support. His vision is truly genius, and this Council has the chance to help that vision grow.

While starting with schools is the right first step, I also encourage the Council to consider how this initiative could expand in the future to include private schools, local businesses, and even our city and public parks. Together, we can build a consistent culture of recycling across Hawai'i that ensures our islands remain clean, healthy, and sustainable for generations to come.

Mahalo for your time and for considering this important initiative.

With gratitude,

Robertalee Schanz

Name:	Email:	Zip:
angela young	alohadivinedesign@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
CARES	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 12:10 PM
Testimony:		
Support. Fabulous nonprofit for youth's education!		

I am in support of bringing the recycling initiative to all public schools on the island from kindergarten to high school. It is important for students to learn to take care of the environment and the communities they live in from a young age. Teaching recycling practices and stewardship for earth in school is a great educational opportunity, therefore I’m in support of recycling programs throughout all public schools on the island. Recycling initiatives are standard in most public schools in Europe, therefore it should not be any excuse for the Hawaiian Islands to not start this up as well. Thank you for reading!