Bill 40 (2019)
Additional Testimony
TO: Council Committee on Public Safety and Welfare

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

MEETING: Thursday, August 29, 2019

SUBJECT: Bill 40 (2019), CD1, Banning Plastics - Opposed

Aloha Chair Waters and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Bill 40, which would ban plastic bags that are currently used for prepared foods, beverages or bakery goods as well as plastic utensils. I oppose this bill.

Plastics work because they are cheap and convenient.

In recognition of the added cost, you are considering the inclusion of a partial real property tax exemption, with the amount to be determined at a later date. We already have too many exemptions. Adding one more exemption increases the cost of government for all of us. We should be simplifying our real property tax system, not making it more complex.

In addition, it’s likely that not all “Complaint food service ware restaurants” will be treated equally. For example, if a restaurant owner rents from a landlord who pays real property tax, there is no guarantee that the credit would flow directly to that restaurant.

Please vote “no.”
Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tsuneyoshi, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") has concerns with Council Bill 40, Proposed CD1, which would address and amend the current Honolulu City Ordinance relating to single-use plastic goods and plastic bags.

The Chamber is Hawaii’s leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber is concerned that the changes proposed in this bill to the existing bag ban and the provision regarding a ban of certain utensils would create unintended consequences for local businesses. While we support efforts to help create a more sustainable future, we must ensure that any transition to alternative materials allow local businesses the time and resources to transition in a way that does not create unnecessary hardships. Our members have expressed an interest in looking into alternative materials, but have found that materials available on the current market are insufficient or prohibitively expensive.

Additionally, Governor David Ige recently signed into law Act 254, which would create the plastic source reduction working group with the intent to make recommendations to reuse, reduce, recycle, and recover plastic waste. This working group will be made up of several representatives from state and local governments, business, and environmental organizations.

The Chamber appreciates that the proposed CD 1 draft does include language recognizing the financial burden put upon restaurants that would have to transfer from single-use plastic goods and plastic bags. However, we need to acknowledge that we need to continue to approach this issue with a realistic outlook as implementation of such a ban would not just affect the restaurant industry, but also affect the supply chain including those businesses that are supplying these products.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to City Council Bill 40, Proposed CD1.
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Steven Slater  
Phone: 808-572-7131  
Email: steve@vcasa.net  
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019  
Council/PH Committee: Council  
Agenda Item: Bill 40  
Your position on the matter: Support  
Representing Organization: Self  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?: No

I wholeheartedly support bill 40, a long overdue attempt to curb are in Normas plastic disposal waste. Being an island, we absolutely need to start paying attention to the damage plastics are doing.

This bill will benefit our children and grandchildren more than most of the decisions we make this year. Please, for our future. Pass Bill 40.

IP: 192.168.200.67
**Speaker Registration/Testimony**

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I support Bill 40 because I believe that single-use plastics endanger the public safety of the citizens of my county. With plastic bags clogging our storm drains and micro plastics polluting our water, these materials are clearly dangerous to both the short-term and the long-term health of Honolulu citizens.

But, the council members are aware of this as Hawaii has long been a leader in environmentally and people-friendly solutions to the problems we are currently facing. I ask that today the council pass this bill through this hearing so that Honolulu can continue to be proactive in its fight towards a healthier society. Thank you for your time and your consideration.
Aloha Council members, I ask that you please pass Bill 40 out of committee. Climate change is not only a national security concern but also a public safety concern and so we should really consider the adverse impact on the environment and the climate given the plastics industry's direct link to fossil fuel consumption. If the growth in plastic continues at its current rate, then by 2050, the plastics industry will likely account for 20% of the world's oil consumption. We can't afford to address a problem with the mindset that facilitated the problem in the first place, we must be bold in our decision making for our children and for the next generations of people in Hawai‘i to come.
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Elizabeth Jordan
Phone: 808-222-2930
Email: eljordan@yahoo.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing Organization: Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?: No
Written Testimony:
Testimony Attachment:
Accept Terms and Agreement: I

We can do this. It's not all that difficult when we really commit to making our environment better with regard to plastic use.
Thinking about the earth and environment, it is our responsibility to reduce the use of plastics for the future generation. Now, we cannot deny that plastic have been making our life easier. However, it seems plastics have made us, human being rather being lazy. Recycling is one way of utilize the plastic, but knowing that those recycles ship to other countries and the people there are suffering with environment, we cannot continue to ship the plastics for recycle to other countries forever. We must come up with some solutions. And Ban Single-Use Plastic surely is the easiest and fastest way to reduce the use of plastics. It is not difficult to do that when we think of the earth, environment and future generation.
Single use plastics add unnecessary pollution to our environment. They are a short-sighted solution to a problem of convenience that generations after us will have to reckon with. I urge you to please pass Bill 40 to cut down on single-use plastics. There are other materials and solutions to use in place of plastic that have less harmful environmental impacts. Mahalo!
I am in full support of Bill #40 which would end single-use plastic straws, utensils, bags, and foam in Hawai'i. As humans, we must consider the mess we will leave behind for the next seven generations of humans. We must consider the well-being of albatross that starve from too much plastic in their bellies. We must consider the effect of marine debris in spreading invasive plant and algae species. We must find more sustainable ways of living so that we can scuba dive in the ocean, and not just a sea of plastic. Mahalo.
Single use plastics are overtaking our island. Once made, they never go away. When we burn them, we pollute the air, they litter our beaches and cause irreparable harm to our landscape. PLEASE help us to save our state by eliminating single use plastics that pollute our air, water and land, hurting both us and the sea life we depend on.
Aloha Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the council,

On behalf of my family, and our company Skyline Eco-Adventures - I would like to strongly SUPPORT the passage of Bill 40, which aims to address the issue of single use plastics.

Plastic has become ubiquitous in our society today, it is a material which scientists tell us can take more than 500 years to breakdown - yet daily people throughout the city of Honolulu purchase and dispose of "single-use" plastic items and polystyrene containers. These items, used once for only a few seconds will remain in our environment longer than we will be alive, longer than our children will be alive, or our grandchildren. These single use plastics often inadvertently end up in our streams or the ocean - walk along the shoreline and you will find plastic, every single time if you look close enough.

This is unacceptable, we are burdening our kids for the sake of convenience, we are polluting our waters in order to save a few cents on packaging. These are not good trade-offs to make.

On behalf of the 150 employees our company has throughout Hawaii, and on behalf of my family - I urge you to please pass Bill 40 which will be a very positive step forward in addressing single-use plastic and foam pollution.
Aloha Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the council,

I am testifying in SUPPORT of Bill 40, which seeks to address the provision of certain single-use plastic and polystyrene foam goods.

This is an obvious first step on a long walk towards sustainability and community resilience.

The extremely long lifespan and potentially toxic nature of these products warrant immediate action.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Bill 40!

Derek Ford, Waipahu, HI
Graduate student, UH Manoa Dept. of Geography
Member of Sierra Club of Hawai‘i
I would like to see single-use plastics banned, because I have witnessed far too often the dangerous impact they can have on our environment. Our coastlines are littered with plastics that are only used once for drinking a beverage (straws), holding groceries (bags), eating food (utensils), and much more. It is high time that Hawaii take a stand against the environmental health problem of single-use plastics. It's simply irresponsible, and LAZY, to continue the use of these wasteful products. Please pass Bill 40 for the sake of Hawaii's future.
### Speaker Registration/Testimony

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Ella wilmot</th>
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IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Gio Hingle
Phone: 8609178130
Email: Padulagio@yahoo.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Public Safety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing Organization: Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?: No

Written Testimony:
I feel that it's absolutely necessary to reduce the amount of plastic pollution in our environment. Very simply put Bill 40 will help do that.

Testimony Attachment: 1
**Speaker Registration/Testimony**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lauren Healey</th>
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<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Lauren.healey91@gmail.com">Lauren.healey91@gmail.com</a></td>
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**Written Testimony**

Encourage Hawaii to phase out single use plastic as it has been proven to be a detriment to our environment. Bill 40 should be amended to make sure it includes plastic bags, styrofoam food packaging, plastic silverware, straws, t-shirt style plastic bags, and any other single-use plastic that could harm our lands and oceans.

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Donna Sullivan
Phone: 808 235-2702
Email: donascot67@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Public Safety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization: 
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?: No
Written Testimony: This is for the wellbeing of Hawaii's residents and for the preservation of Hawaii's future generations.
Testimony Attachment: 
Accept Terms and Agreement: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Natalie Kane
Phone: 706-601-8978
Email: natkane@pdx.edu
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing Organization: Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?: No

I support Bill 40. It is beyond necessary to make steps like this towards creating a community and a world without plastic so that all living things can be healthy and thrive.

Written Testimony

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Kelli Bullock Hergert
Phone: 8083875224
Email: kellibullock808@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization:
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Ann Strong  
Phone: 8089825954  
Email: kaloli.pt@gmail.com  
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019  
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety  
Agenda Item: Bill 40  
Your position on the matter: Support  
Representing: Self  
Organization:  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No  
Written Testimony:  
Testimony Attachment:  
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I believe that single-use plastics are not only costing us valuable resources and filling our landfills, but they are also littering the beautiful `aina that so many people, animals, and plants call their home. Single-use plastics that are thrown away threaten public safety and well-being in that harmful chemicals from these plastics are leaking into our depleting resources. Although recycling is a great option, is should be a last resort if we cannot cut down on production of materials or reuse them in other ways. I strongly believe that banning single-use plastics would improve the safety and well-being of all forms of life on Oahu, but it would also help Oahu be a leader among other states and countries that aim to be more environmentally conscious in a very positive way.
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Jacqueline Chico
Phone: 9084519982
Email: jnun35@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Public Safety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing Organization: Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?: No

While I may not be able to attend in person, I hope this written testimony is sufficient. I urge to please pass bill 40 that will stop anymore single use plastics from being tossed on sides of parks streams and beach parks. I volunteer my time to help clean beaches and parks and find so many single use plastics, styrofoam and so many plastic straws around the island of Oahu, just creating more trash. There are alternatives and some businesses have already made those changes. I support this bill. Please ban all single use plastics and styrofoam. Thank you.
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Anne Zellinger
Phone: 8087838775
Email: azmole@yahoo.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Public Safety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization: 
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?: No

Written Testimony

Studies are finding micro plastic not only in the oceans, but in soil and plant tissue. This is an unstudied health concern for us all. Let's lead the way and not allow short term greed to obstruct the vision of a plastic free, pristine and viable environment here in Hawaii and worldwide.

Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement

IP: 192.168.200.67
Aloha, I am writing to express my extreme support to ban single-use plastics. As a SCUBA instructor I see the impacts of pollution daily in our oceans. While not all rubbish in our seas are plastic, the most resilient trash is. I understand that plastics have made our lives arguably better; more convenient, cheaper, preservable. However, as time has past, we’ve been able to see the long-term negative impacts of it. I doubt that we will ever be entirely plastic-free, especially in the medical field or other industries that have been significantly improved by its durability. However, we can reduce the impact in areas where it isn’t essential to have. Not only would local businesses save money by re-using silverware via washing, but they would also be making a massive local impact with endless possibility and momentum to positively impact the planet on a global scale. This global impact is multifaceted. Not only will powerful tools like social media spark momentum in other ocean-centric and conservation focused areas, but so will political pressures for change. I think we have a huge advantage as an American leading force to influence others through a trickle down effect. Additionally, as we all know, all of our world is truly connected. Our oceans are simply divided by arbitrary regional markers, our lands by boarders. The currents and winds don’t subscribe to our boundaries, trash flows from here to every other water way that exists. Climate change sweeps across the planet. This isn’t a dramatised explanation. I’ve conducted research dives in the Bahamas and Indonesia, the impacts of our conveniences spread. We may not solve the global problem today on Oahu, but we can start here and influence the lands and lives of everyone on our planet Earth.
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Kelvin Chico
Phone: 908-451-9983
Email: klvnchico@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Public Safety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization:
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Written Testimony: Single use plastics litter the beaches of Hawaii and there are many viable alternatives.
Testimony Attachment: 1
Accept Terms and Agreement: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Andrew Oliver
Phone: 8082226551
Email: andrewtoliv@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Public Safety
Agenda Item: Bill - 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing Organization: Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

As a working professional in the tourism industry I have been able to see the impacts of single-use plastics daily. While they enhance the ease of vacationers, their conveniences are short-sighted. A lot of people don't consider the process from production to use. It isn't really their job to consider this process. They accept what is offered to them. It is hard to imagine that people would refuse the opportunities and experiences Hawaii has to offer due to a lack of availability in plastic products. If they weren't offered, people would simply do without them. Immediate gratification for throw-away simplicities isn't sustainable and we all know that... we've known that. If we simply just restrict access, the public will have to comply. This is a local change that will ideally positively impact and motivate the lives of not just those living here, but also those visiting our Aina. This is a take away point that can literally be spread to every corner of the Earth. It will become harder to market the islands as a paradise when their natural beauty is wrapped in plastic.

Written Testimony

Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement

IP: 192.168.200.67
**Speaker Registration/Testimony**

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<tr>
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<th>Valerie Moore</th>
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<td>Email</td>
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IP: 192.168.200.67
Dear Honolulu City Council,

I live in Honolulu and I am wanting to support Bill 40 because I believe plastic bags for take-out foods, plastic straw, stirrers and utensils need to be banned and amend the bill to ban polystyrene foam food containers on O'ahu.

Sincerely,
JoAnna Bragg
403 Ohana Nui Cir
Honolulu, HI 96818
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Chris Sabine
Phone: 8082864816
Email: chrislsabine@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Public Safety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization: 
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Written Testimony:
As an oceanographer I feel it is important to reduce the plastics polluting our waters.
Testimony Attachment: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Aloha!

If we all think back, plastic single-use materials didn't become ubiquitous until about 40 years ago. Since that time, plastic waste has found its way into our oceans and beaches so that now, we have a massive problem that won't go away until we finally stand together and stop the plastics.

Would it be so hard to go back to paper straws, cups, plates and wooden spoons, forks, and knives? The extra cost will save the future for our children, their children, our islands and the world's oceans.

Bill 40 is a start. Without taking the first step no journey can begin.

Mahalo for your time and hopefully your Kokua!
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Karin Brown
Phone: 808 235-2744
Email: brownd040@hawaii.rr.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety
Agenda Item: Ban on Single Use Plastics
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization: 
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? Yes
Written Testimony: Please consider banning single use plastics for the health of our populace and future generations.
Testimony Attachment: 1
Accept Terms and Agreement: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
I would like to see single-use plastics banned because of the impact they are causing on the environment. Plastics take hundreds of years to biodegrade and lots of it has ended up in our oceans. Imagine the plastic bag you used to hold your takeout lunch, now imagine one day drinking little pieces of it (without even knowing), because it had broken down into microplastics. Yes, it will take money and effort to convert into reusable materials. No one wants to wash a metal straw every time they use one when they can use a disposable plastic one. No one wants to because it is easier, and naturally as humans we want to take the fastest and most efficient route. Except this time, we shouldn't. If it means taking a couple more minutes out of our day or spending a little bit more money to stop using these plastics, we should. The repercussions of plastic use has already been shown, and if we continue, it will one day bite us back. And if not us, then our children and grandchildren. For the sake of future citizens of Hawaii, the health of the planet, and the health of ourselves, we should take the first step by banning single-use plastics.

I am guilty of using single-use plastics, but if I couldn't I would adapt. Take the pacifier away and force people to learn how to adapt with not using single-use plastics. Set the example for other places around the world and show them that it is possible. Reversing your mistakes are never easy, nonetheless decades of us being reliant on plastic. It takes effort and commitment and time to get used to, but it's not rocket science. It is a very doable first step into bettering our planet. As people who are aware of this problem, it is our duty to help the planet and the future. We should not be selfish by saying it is not our problem, but rather take this opportunity to solve it. Please put an end to single-use plastics and help the world.
Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Public Safety & Welfare Committee,

My name is Rafael Baez, and as owner/manager of Island Brew Coffeehouse, I am testifying in strong support of Bill 40.

We stopped using plastic bags, foam, utensils, and straws in 2013 and have found that it has been an easy and painless transition. Our customers are happy we are doing our part to help the environment and protect them from the chemicals in plastic.

Our customers often take photos of the paper and metal straws which are the most obvious items. We use cups from corn which compost in the proper facility which the state should consider establishing. The state should also consider requiring restaurants serve food in reusable containers or plates when intended for on premise consumption.

Living on an island that relies on its natural beauty and resources as a main source of income Hawaii should be a leader in sustainable living and conscious consumption.

Cost of these items are higher in most cases but perhaps with more economies of scale the cost can be more in line with their plastic alternatives.

Rafael
Aloha Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the council,

I am testifying in SUPPORT of Bill 40, which seeks to address the provision of certain single-use plastic and polystyrene foam goods.

As a kanaka maoli and resident of O'ahu, I am seriously concerned about our current plastic pollution epidemic. Single-use plastics pollute our lands and streams, harm ecosystems, and ultimately end up in our ocean. Our home beaches and public areas here on O’ahu are now littered with ‘ōpala, and with the influx of residents and visitors here in Hawai‘i, a major solution to this problem is to restrict consumer single-use plastics and polystyrene foam.

I urge you folks to help us mālama ‘āina and PASS THIS BILL. This bill will help in doing our part as kama‘āina to take care of this place we benefit from. Give us this solution so we can make pono options for the ‘āina!

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Brittney Spivak
Phone: 9545625178
Email: Bhm625@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety
Agenda Item: Bill40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Alexander Spivak
Phone: 3055057422
Email: Spivak22@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety
Agenda Item: Bill40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization: 
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Written Testimony: 
Testimony Attachment: 
Accept Terms and Agreement: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Dear Council Members,

I am so happy to see Bill 40 being considered as it is an important step to reducing the use of plastic. As a local I love the ocean and appreciate being able to see the ocean every day and spend time in it regularly. It saddens me to know that my grandchildren may not have the same opportunities because of the changes in our environment. Hawai'i has been such a leader in many important issues, even though we are very small geographically. I am proud of the actions we have taken and the leadership we provide. Please support Bill 40!

Mahalo, Jill Guillermo-Togawa

Written Testimony

Testimony

Accept Terms and Agreement

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Katie Speed
Phone: 8083757240
Email: katiejspeed@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2018
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing Organization: Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony:
I am on the beach daily, tons of trash washes up, many items single use. We need to set an example for our country. Recycling is not the best option anymore. We are resilient and will find a better solution!! When plastic bags were banned on Oahu, people adjusted. People would likewise adjust to new laws

Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Joshua Thomas
Phone: 8087997042
Email: bradythomas@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization: 
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Written Testimony: I strongly support this bill! We need to stop the flow of single use plastics!!
Testimony Attachment: 
Accept Terms and Agreement: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Stephanie Summers  
Phone: 7046344015  
Email: Sgcsummer1020@gmail.com  
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019  
Council/PH Committee: Public Safety  
Agenda Item: Bill 40  
Your position on the matter: Support  
Representing Organization: Self  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?: No  
Written Testimony: Beaches littered with discarded single use plastic are treacherous for bare feet and small children. Please keep Hawai’i safe and clean by banning single use plastic.

Testimony Attachment: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Steven Slater
Phone: 808-572-7131
Email: steve@vcasa.net
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Council
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

I wholeheartedly support bill 40 a long overdue attempt to curb are in Normas plastic disposal waste. Being an island we absolutely need to start paying attention to the damage plastics are doing.

This bill will benefit our children and grandchildren more than most of the decisions we make this year. Please, for our future. Pass Bill 40

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Shelbie Rosa
Phone: 808-364-8752
Email: Rosashelbie@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Public Safety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization: 
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?: No

Written Testimony:
I support this bill 40 because we as a people need to do everything we can to keep our oceans clean and protect all ecosystems. On land and in the ocean. It is our responsibility to preserve our natural resources.

Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Katherine L Mezger  
Phone: 8082255524  
Email: katiemetzger10@icloud.com  
Meeting Date: 08-28-2019  
Council/PH Committee: Public Safety  
Agenda Item: 40  
Your position on the matter: Support  
Representing Organization: Self  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No  

Written Testimony:  
I urge the committee to please pass Bill. This is our opportunity to change the tide and put an end to single-use plastic straws, utensils, bags, and foam. We know that the use of single use plastics and foam has caused degradation to our land and ocean. We need leadership to take a strong stance and protect our environment for future generations. We owe it to our children and grandchildren as well as the animal and plant life that depend on our respectful treatment of our land and water. The time is now! Please do not hesitate, pass Bill 40!
# Speaker Registration/Testimony

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Ryan Sugamoto</th>
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<td>Phone</td>
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<td>Email</td>
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I believe the time is now for us to take a proactive approach to reducing the amount of waste we generate in addition to focusing on how to responsibly deal with waste after it is generated. If we do not change the way we consume and think about how to reduce waste, future generations will inherit problems that are more difficult to solve. Perhaps Hawaii can learn from other countries and communities (e.g. Japan) that have an established culture of reducing and managing waste. Recycling is great, but not generating waste to begin with is even better. Thank you for listening.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sarah Way</th>
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<td>Phone</td>
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**Written Testimony**

It's important for the county government to step up and ban single use plastics in Honolulu. Single use plastics are unnecessary and harming the aina and environment on Oahu. They are polluting the ocean and terrestrial ecosystems and public spaces in Honolulu. Please take action to reduce our harmful impact on the environment by passing this bill and removing single use plastics from the equation.
I came here to express my fervent support for Bill 40.

It is not breaking news that plastic has unfortunately become a pervasive part of our world. Single-use plastic bags, utensils and to-go containers are things that we see as small conveniences, but have a weighted impact on our environment and even our own bodies. To think that, collectively, these small conveniences have caused 200-ton whales to become internally choked to death is just one instance where small, thought-less habits create problems that reach beyond anything you fathom would happen as a result of your small daily habits.

More appropriately for this council, plastic’s impact has seeped into our own human-food chain. Microplastics have found their way into the mouths of marine life and thus into our own.

CNN reported last week that the US Department of the Interior has found micro plastics in rain water. If our food and water sources are at risk, then it is the responsibility for the government to step in and remedy the situation, even if it’s too late.

With Hawai‘i only being able to recycle two out of the 7 major types of plastics there are, hundreds and hundreds of pounds of plastic waste are being incinerated deep in Waimanalo every day. This emitting of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases every day not only poses a significant threat to the surrounding communities, but contributes to global climate change.
In response to business owners who claim this ban will harm their business, realize that a 50 cent charge to offset the cost of compostable materials will not deter anyone from supporting an environmentally responsible business. Having a business that is built on environmental integrity is not only an increasingly attractive selling point, but creating an honest legacy that will create ripples in a community.

This bill can no longer be considered a preemptive bill, but one that should be dealt with urgency to combat the impact that plastic has on our world. These are the steps that needed to be made to not only protect the Hawaiian land and those who currently live and visit here, but to also ensure that future generations will have the chance to love and cherish this land like we all do.
Aloha Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the council,

I am testifying in SUPPORT of Bill 40, which seeks to address the provision of certain single-use plastic and polystyrene foam goods. As a resident of this beautiful island community, I am seriously concerned about our current plastic pollution epidemic. Single-use plastics pollute our lands and freshwater bodies, clog up drainage systems, harm wildlife and ultimately end up in our ocean waters. These products don't fully degrade and break down into tiny particles that are not only toxic because of the chemicals from manufacturing, but also because they absorb pollutants from the surrounding water. And not only do single-use products harm our health, they hurt our pocketbooks too. The Hawaii Department of Transit (HIDOT) reported that single plastics and foam are blocking our storm drains and waste water infrastructure. HIDOT even suggests eliminating these products so we don't have this danger to our infrastructure or public safety. Bonus: getting rid of single-use and styrofoam will save millions to the city. Also, as we are facing a climate crisis - plastics contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately play a role in climate change. Greenhouse gases are generated and emitted throughout the life cycle of plastic and polystyrene foam, from extracting oil and natural gas, to manufacturing, and to end of life processes such as dumping in landfills, recycling or incineration. We cannot have a clean energy future if these products are allowed to be manufactured and pose a serious threat to public safety.

With all of this information coming to light, many places are taking actionable steps to transition away from single-use plastics. Please urge all to pass this measure so we can keep Hawaii's land, freshwater bodies and ocean free of plastic pollution as well as protect the health of our people. This affects you, me and everyone.
Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Bill 40.
Charlotte K. Beall
1641 Makanui Road
Koloa, HI 96756
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Renee Confair
Phone: 8082161470
Email: confair1@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Council
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization:
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Written Testimony: Please help the world be a better place, and save our oceans.
Testimony Attachment:
Accept Terms and Agreement: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
It's a known fact that plastic of any kind is choking our oceans and killing our sea creatures, birds, as well as polluting our shorelines. Not to mention the danger of plastic particles that are now in our drinking water, and food. Which is highly toxic and carcinogenic that leads to health issues and diseases. Do away with plastic. We were fine without it back in the 60’s. Humans can be trained to use alternatives.
Aloha, thank you for taking the time to read & consider my testimony. As a community member I am concerned about the public safety hazards that plastics have on our health and the health of our environment. A recent study published by Dr. Thava Palanisami at the University of South Australia found that globally, humans consume roughly a credit cards worth of plastic every week from water and food sources. This statistic is very frightening, as chemicals such as BPA which is used in plastic production is a proven carcinogen. On top of the fact that plastics are contaminating our food, single-use plastics are also contaminating both the local and global environment. From rubbish scattered along the edge of the freeway and clogging storm drains to our beaches and oceans. We as tax payers should not bear the burden of rubbish clean up when there are much more pressing issues that deserve our attention and need the money. I drive from Waialua to Honolulu during the week for work and I constantly witness single use plastics flying off the back of garbage trucks and on the side of our roadways. I see bill 40 as a simple solution to a problem that will save the city money and remediate a public health concern. Thank you.

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Testimony

Written Testimony

Accept Terms and Agreement

IP: 192.168.200.67
# Speaker Registration/Testimony

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IP: 192.168.200.67
Aloha Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the council,

As one who often picks up rubbish off the sides of our highways, I find that it is most often styrofoam food and beverage containers and myriad other types of plastics in the forms of rigid plastic food containers (bento and sushi style plates), straws, disposable lighters, etc., as well as of course, paper and cardboard types of rubbish. I find it disheartening and troublesome the amount of, specifically, single use styrofoam and plastic food containers and I find it of growing concern not only the amount, but the increasing amount in between the time I finish and return to a stretch of highway. I urge you to pass Bill 40 for all the many right reasons. Mahalo
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Joy Silver
Phone: 8082940605
Email: joyofpilates@mac.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Public Safety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing Organization: Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony:
I believe this is a crucial bill for the well being of all that live in Hawaii as well as the planet. We are all connected and we must be stewards for the aina. There are many alternatives to single use plastics that do not create such a lasting impact. Please support this bill.
**Speaker Registration/Testimony**

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IP: 192.168.200.67
Aloha,

I am Harvy. I am an avid environmentalist that has lived in Hawaii for 5 years, currently in Manoa Valley. I am originally from Guatemala, raised in Michigan, and a veteran of the US Navy. I speak today as a young person stepping into the fold of the unknown that is the next chapter of our psycho-social world. I support Bill 40. Please help us create the reality we wish to see. We understand that the economics around the plastic issue must be solved. We want to help local communities, business, and government agencies adapt to change. This truly a pivotal point in human history, as if the sound of a pin-drop just might pierce the pocket-book, I express my deepest gratitude for sharing this experience with us all. I am sharing with you, in civil duty, the International Congress for Conservation Biology, 2019 KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION: THE SPECIES EXTINCTION CRISIS IS A CRISIS OF HUMANITY. I respectfully end my comment.
THE 2019 KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION:  
THE SPECIES EXTINCTION CRISIS IS A CRISIS OF HUMANITY

INTRODUCTION

This Declaration reflects the science and conservation practice presented and discussed by the 1,361 participants from 87 countries attending the 29th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) held during 21-25 July 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It draws on presentations made at the Congress that provided practical advice on how the global species extinction crisis can be averted and halted. We prepared this Declaration to share our findings with the wider public and remind ourselves of the major broad conclusions reached.

The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services\(^1\) issued by the International Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in May 2019 should worry all concerned people. It concluded that 75% of the land surface is significantly altered, 66% of the ocean area is experiencing increasing cumulative impacts, and over 85% of wetland areas have been lost. The seminal report also highlighted the substantial conservation value of indigenous and local knowledge systems coupled with modern scientific knowledge, showing that indigenous peoples and local communities make major contributions to nature and conservation both inside and beyond formally protected areas.

Species extinction has been widely discussed\(^2,3\) and governments have agreed on ways to address the problem, including through Targets 11 and 12 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020\(^6\) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and Goals 14 and 15 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals\(^5\). Yet progress remains modest and additional action is imperative if species are to continue supporting the world’s ecosystems upon which all human development depends.

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\(^1\)https://www.ipbes.net/global-assessment-report-biodiversity-ecosystem-services
\(^2\)https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/67/12/1026/4605229
\(^3\)https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/114/30/E6089.full.pdf
The alarmingly high rate of largely human induced species loss in recent decades, balanced by the development of new conservation approaches, partnerships, and technologies, formed a major backdrop to the ICCB. In particular, we were inspired by the Indonesian efforts to bring the Critically Endangered Sumatran Rhinoceros back from the brink of extinction, and by the many examples presented on effective ways to respond responsibly to the wider extinction crisis on land, sea, coastal zone and wetland. We also heard many examples of successful ways to respond to its ecological and the socio-political dimensions. We hope that this work can provide new perspectives to the CBD Conference of Parties to be held in 2020 in Kunming, China. It will focus on developing a new 10-year Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and offers SCB a once-in-a-decade opportunity to feed conservation science into the intergovernmental process.

CALL TO ACTION

We call on the public as well as governments at all levels, private companies, civil society organisations, faith communities, scientists from all disciplines, and indigenous peoples and local communities to:

1. **Recognise that we are united by the threats posed by species loss and habitat degradation.** Solutions need to transcend national borders, and nations will benefit from working together to support regional conservation efforts, considering that all peoples, societies, and future generations will face the consequences of failing to act as one body - the human species.

2. **Work together to reduce or halt species extinctions.** Presentations at ICCB showed that this would depend on actions such as protecting wildlife habitats, enhancing habitat connectivity, halting the spread of invasive alien species, limiting the negative impacts of major infrastructure developments, restoring degraded land, protecting coral reefs, promoting sustainable fisheries, and promoting sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing. We encourage the use of appropriate technologies that SCB members presented to support the implementation of such measures. We also note that a new CBD Strategic Plan 2021-2030 will offer governments an opportunity to update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and these could benefit from considering the messages from this Declaration. Governments might also wish to benefit from the wide range of biodiversity-relevant international conventions, including some that need more signatories if they are to become more
effective in areas like transboundary conservation, such as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). And a major effort to deal with the global threat of pollution by plastics is especially urgent, given its pervasive negative impact on marine species and ecosystems, human health, and climate.

3. Recognise that the wave of species extinctions presents an urgent global crisis that requires immediate and sustained attention, and geopolitical tools should not be used to delay action or hinder progress in conservation but rather to support these aims. Among other measures, this calls for developing a comprehensive research agenda drawing from IPBES and SCB that helps to inform Parties at the 2020 CBD CoP in Kunming.

More specifically, the ICCB participants call on SCB members to urge their organisations, including government agencies, research institutions, non-governmental conservation organisations, and the private sector to contribute to the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030 and support conservation in the following main ways:

4. **Build on sound science.** A solid evidence base for conservation decisions will promote open communication with government agencies, local communities, and the private sector. This calls for transparent, accountable, and adaptive governance and management of natural resources, and empowering local communities to be more deeply engaged and enabled in appropriate development and conservation actions. We found that evidence-based information that is freely shared can minimise bias and avoid misinterpretation, leading to empowerment and effective conservation action. But further attention needs to be given to identifying which data are required and how they should be synthesised to ensure effective communication.

5. **Link biodiversity conservation efforts to address climate change impacts.** Maintaining healthy ecosystems will enhance climate change resiliency of nations. An important issue that needs further attention is how terrestrial and marine species and protected areas are affected by climate change over time, perhaps leading to changes in boundaries and management approaches. Other useful actions to enable adaptation to changing climate include expanding the protected area estate, connecting ecosystems that may now be separated, and encouraging private protected areas and species conservation in exploited forests and waters.
6. Develop policies and incentives to produce and consume food sustainably, fairly, and with minimum waste, supported by agriculture sectors that adopt a ‘no deforestation’ policy and promote good practices to conserve endangered species and their habitats. Similarly, adopt sustainable fisheries by eliminating by-catch negative impacts of fishing. Such policies should de-link food production systems from globalisation processes centred on specialisation and the search for efficiency of scale but fail to recognise the non-monetary values of livelihoods and the many arguments in favour of food sovereignty. Further research is needed to identify suitable lands for sustainable agriculture and ways to avoid clearing forest in Key Biodiversity Areas and other lands important for conservation.

7. Identify appropriate social and economic incentives for biodiversity conservation. This could involve integrating sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing by prioritising environmentally based approaches for mainstreaming environmental, social and governance considerations in financial systems. We noted that funding local conservation groups (including local communities) to restore habitat connections is a very cost-effective conservation investment. We also showed that the social incentive of participatory management of terrestrial, marine, and coastal protected areas is effective in building public support and greater compliance with regulations, especially when these deliver benefits such as tourism income and addressing human-wildlife conflict. Investments in conservation need to be increased by at least two orders of magnitude in order to compete with economic pressures for unsustainable exploitation.

8. Develop procedures to conduct environmental impact assessments (EIA) focussing on biodiversity risks of new infrastructure investments. This will require transparency in assessment procedures, baseline data collection, identification of costs and benefits, and implementing mitigation measures. To ensure that these assessments lead to action, conservation scientists also need to develop effective ways to approach political leaders, starting with sound science but also mobilising social media and effective design in presenting data and developing convincing narratives that will build public support.

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9. Explore ways to promote co-existence between wildlife and humans including by reducing and eventually eliminating the illegal wildlife trade while encouraging the sustainable use of wildlife by the local communities that conserve and care for their habitats. Such co-existence also needs to involve the people affected by human-wildlife conflict in solving problems arising. This calls on efforts to document, respect, preserve, and build upon local conservation knowledge, capacity, institutions and leaders; and promote equity, participation and inclusiveness in decision making related to nature and natural resources.

10. Study the variety of social actors that govern and manage protected and conserved areas at landscape and seascape level, including transboundary conservation, with a view to presenting solid science that shows how to support effective systems, for example in both terrestrial and marine Key Biodiversity Areas. Such research should build on long-standing knowledge and institutions of indigenous peoples that sustain healthy ecosystems and human wellbeing. It should also inspire programmes that include social safeguards and sustainable financing for the governance and management of protected and conserved areas that demonstrate the maintenance of biodiversity in situ, with an emphasis on the ‘territories of life’ of indigenous peoples.

Overall, the congress participants recommend that the relevant agencies and organisations give serious conservation attention and efforts, first, to the maintenance of existing natural habitats and ecosystems along with functioning agro-ecological systems, with no conversion to other land uses or changes to effective governance systems; second, to the protection of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species; and third, to the restoration of fragmented marine and terrestrial habitats including through transboundary connectivity. Such measures will contribute to the inspiring vision of SCB co-founder E.O. Wilson\(^8\) that half of the planet should be devoted to conservation, but we also believe that the whole Planet Earth, our only home, needs to adopt appropriate measures to fight the extinction crisis.

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Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Cybil Stewart  
Phone: 18087980469  
Email: Cybil@blondiesfoodtruck.com  
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019  
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety  
Agenda Item: Bill 40  
Your position on the matter: Support  
Representing Organization: Blondie’s Plant Based Food Truck  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony

As a partial owner of the family-owned and operated food truck, Blondie’s Plant Based Food Truck, I am in full support of Bill 40. I believe that banning plastic foam, straws, utensils & bags from O‘ahu would have an immensely positive impact on the environment and the people of O‘ahu. We have always used compostable and eco-friendly products. We have never had issues with finding these products as there are plenty of eco-friendly suppliers here on O‘ahu, most locally owned and operated. The eco-friendly products are very reliable and there are many options when it comes to the various kinds of to-go utensils and food containers. These eco-friendly products are not only cost effective but allow us to advertise as an eco-friendly restaurant, increasing our customer base. We have found that all of our customers strongly support this movement and are happy to be a part of further protecting the ‘āina. We believe that doing our part in protecting Hawaiian land, waters, beaches, waves, and creatures is the first step in protecting the earth from dangerous and toxic chemicals found in plastics. By supporting Bill 40 and choosing to protect the environment, we as the people of the earth and the Hawaiian islands are providing a better future for our keiki and the taking action of mālama ‘āina.
**Speaker Registration/Testimony**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Elizabeth Porter</th>
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IP: 192.168.200.67
August 28, 2019

Committee on Public Safety & Welfare
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Bill 40, Relating to Plastic
Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Tsuneyoshi & Members,

UNITE HERE Local 5, a local labor organization representing approximately 11,500 hotel, health care and food service workers employed throughout our State would like to offer comments in support of Bill 40 as offered by Councilmember Manahan. We would make just one suggestion at this time and that would be to more clearly define the types of single use plastics covered in the Bill so as to limit the number and type of exemptions possible under the current proposed language.

As a Union, we believe One Job Should be Enough - to have a roof over our heads, to keep up with the cost of living, to raise our families, and enough to retire with dignity. But our Union also has a strong tradition of standing-up on issues that directly impact our livelihoods and quality of life.

We stand here today alongside many other community organizations and leaders to ask that you step-up with us. To help lead our community on a path that acknowledges in serious ways the negative impact climate change has and will continue to have on our island communities – our way of life, our livelihoods and local economy that depend so heavily on our beautiful beaches, coastlines and pristine green spaces.

Single use plastics are a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in every stage of its lifecycle - from production to disposal - resulting in damaging consequences for our natural environment. Climate change is real and the potential impact on our #1 industry is real. What happens to our beaches when our seas continue to rise? What then happens to our tourism industry and our jobs?

While it should be our collective responsibility to ensure our Island community is not jeopardized by single use plastic ware, we are here looking to our City for leadership. There already exist alternatives to plastics that are affordable, readily available and biodegradable. And so the time has come for our City to adopt a common sense approach and policy that eliminates our dependence on single use plastics.

Thank you, and we ask for your Committee’s full support of Bill 40.
August 26, 2019

RE: support with comments for Bill 40, hearing August 29th, 2019 at 9:00AM

Aloha Chair Waters and Public Safety & Welfare Committee Members:

My name is Nicole Chatterson, I am Mānoa resident and Director of Zero Waste O’ahu. I am writing in support with comments to Bill 40, a phase-out of single-use plastics in Honolulu County.

This type of single-use plastic phase-out policy is being seen around the world. From island nations like New Zealand and the United Kingdom to places in the global south like Costa Rica and Ethiopia, communities are saying no single-use plastics on the basis of climate change mitigation and pollution prevention. Bill 40 is a great step in the right direction for Honolulu County. ZWO would like to see the bill strengthened by removing exceptions to the plastic bag phase-out and using updated language for the definition of polystyrene foam.

If single-use plastic consumption maintains on the current trajectory, plastic use will account of 20% of our fossil fuel use by 2050. While recycling and waste-to-energy are often cited as ways to deal with this plastic waste—we have recently seen that the recycling markets are too unstable to offer a consistent, sustainable solution to our waste. Compounding this, roughly 80% of the Global North’s ‘recyclable’ plastics (exported from places like Hawai’i) are not recycled and instead escape into the marine environment.

While we have the option to incinerate plastic for energy locally via H-POWER, this is also a flawed approach. Per megawatt, H-POWER produces 3 times more greenhouse gas emissions than Kahe—O’ahu’s largest oil-based energy plant. Further, H-POWER requires 800,000 tons of waste annually to maintain operations and profit margins. This means that waste production is incentivized, driving more upstream impacts through the extraction, production, and transportation of products-turned-trash. According to the U.S. EPA, about 42% of the U.S. greenhouse gas footprint results from this production-disposal chain.

A recent report from Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) reveals that at every stage of its lifecycle, plastic poses distinct risks to human health, arising from both exposure to plastic particles themselves and associated chemicals. This exposure ranges from extraction and transportation to the persistent accumulation of plastics in soil, water, and air. Humans and animals are being exposed to a suite of toxic chemicals that make up plastics, as well as the pathogens that attach to plastics in the marine environment.

In addition to public safety, plastics are causing escalating Cleanup Costs while the economic benefits of decreasing plastic production and use are rising.

- Plastic is costing cities, counties, states, & countries millions of dollars and our global economy billions. Costs are passed to the taxpayers by burdening our storm water management systems with the need for expensive best management practices and the costs of cleanups.
- Hawaii State Department of Transportation has produced a trash plan that shows styrofoam and plastic bags as the top two contributors to the waste stream.
- The Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) created a plastic cleanup valuation study for 90+ counties in California:
CA taxpayers are paying $428 million per year to clean up plastic through storm drain management, street sweeping, and cleanups.

San Diego County (with population of 1.3 equivalent to Hawaii) spends $14 million alone on plastic cleanup.

- United Nations Environmental Program Global Estimates are in the billions for the global cost to cleanup plastics, $14 billion for marine plastic alone.
  - This cost is closer to $78 billion annually if all costs are considered, including the cost lost in fossil fuel production and loss of resources.

- Burden on the public
  - According to cleanup hours recorded across Hawaii’s beach cleaning organizations and volunteer hour base rates, we spent $750,000 - $1 million on beach cleanups in 2016 alone.

Mahalo for your time in considering and moving forward Bill 40,

Nicole Chatterson

Director, Zero Waste O’ahu
Aloha Chair Waters and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Sierra Club O‘ahu Group and our 8,000 members and supporters, we are in SUPPORT of Bill 40, which seeks to address the provision of certain single-use plastic goods and polystyrene food ware. However, because we are currently experiencing a plastic pollution epidemic here in Hawai‘i that threatens our environment, wildlife, and people, we humbly ask you to seek amendments that strengthen the bill to be inclusive of all types of single-use plastics and expanded polystyrene foam. Many small businesses and individuals are making the change to end our dependence on these harmful items. But we need policy change to meet the urgent need to radically shift away from fossil fuel derived goods and protect the health and welfare by phasing out these products. But as a collective island community, we need everyone to be a part of this movement to create a more sustainable future. Policy change can do that.

Single-use plastics pollute our lands and freshwater bodies, clog up drainage systems, harm wildlife and ultimately end up in our ocean waters where they break down into tiny particles called microplastics. Microplastics are not only toxic because of the chemicals from manufacturing, but also because of the persistent organic pollutants they absorb from the surrounding water. The toxins and heavy chemicals found in plastics are not compostable or biodegradable and can take 500 years or more to decompose.

Microplastics have been found in 114 aquatic species (many of which end up on our dinner plates), at all trophic levels, and recent studies have even found microplastics in human excrement. A new study in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology* says it’s possible that humans may be consuming anywhere from 39,000 to 52,000 microplastic particles a year.
Aside from toxic effects on human health, plastics contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately play a role in climate change. Greenhouse gases are generated and emitted throughout the life cycle of plastic, from extracting oil and natural gas, to manufacturing, to end of life processes such as dumping in landfills, recycling, or incineration.

Notably, this epidemic is a major cost to the city and ultimately, tax payers. The Hawai'i Department of Transit (HIDOT) reported that single-use plastics and foam containers were amongst the top items clogging our storm drains and waste water system. With the threat of major storms and sea level rise as a result of climate change, we need to do something about this problem. HIDOT is recommending that we reduce these items to prevent hazardous flooding to public safety of our island. It is also costing the city millions of dollars to fix these problems. Bill 40 is a policy change we need to reduce the proliferation of these items and save the city and taxpayers millions of dollars in avoided clean up costs.

With all of this information coming to light, we urge the committee to pass this measure with stronger definitions and close any loopholes so we can keep Hawai'i's land, freshwater bodies, and oceans free of plastic pollution as well as protect the health of our people.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Bill 40.

Sincerely,

Lauren Watanabe
Sierra Club of Hawai'i
O'ahu Group Program Manager
Chair Tommy Waters, and the members of the Committee on Public Safety and Welfare,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am writing in strong support of Bill 40.

The continued proliferation of single use plastics is increasing costs to our city and state taxpayers, harming our tourism driven economy, marring local beaches and waterways, and contributing to the loss of Hawaii’s critically endangered habitats and species. But for those of you who have not been to our beaches lately, most troubling is watching Hawaii’s keiki, including my own niece, forced to play in sand laced with millions of pieces of plastic debris, because there are no beaches left on the island which are not endlessly strewn with it.

Fortunately, cities, states, and countries around the world have already implemented measures similar to and often more aggressive than Bill 40, proving that action can be taken to successfully begin to address this growing problem. Businesses and industries in these and other regions have proven they can take responsibility and successfully adapt - and thrive - by meeting the intent of measures such as Bill 40. New jobs and entire industries have been created producing and selling innovative compostable and sustainable products to replace plastics. Here in Hawaii hundreds of food and retail establishments that have taken responsibility for their plastic waste in our community by switching to more sustainable options have already proven that cost did not prevent them from making the right changes. It is unfair to these businesses making efforts to operate responsibly to let other businesses cut corners, pollute our environment, and pass the cost to cleanup their mess on to others.

Like you, I have an obligation as an elected official to be a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. Unfortunately, single use plastics in Hawaii are costing our local taxpayers millions of dollars to clean up. The plastics frequently ending up on our streets, in our streams, and on our beaches are polystyrene containers, plastic bags, and similar disposable products which should be covered by this bill. In discussions at the state it has become apparent that this sort of litter is one of the most common contributors to blockage of our storm drains and must be regularly cleaned out at tremendous cost.

While we don’t yet have data specific only to the City and County of Honolulu, we do know similar jurisdictions with the same plastic litter patterns typically spend between $12 million to $16 million annually in cleanup and labor costs. And this doesn’t cover the countless hours volunteers in the community spend cleaning up plastics. These dollars and time could be much
better used addressing homelessness, offering caregiving, or any number of other pressing needs rather than cleaning up this completely avoidable plastics pollution.

While many other jurisdictions are either phasing out single use plastics or charging those industries that profit from their proliferation for their cleanup, in Hawaii we simply let those businesses profit and pass the costs for clean on to taxpayers. That adds to our cost of living, especially for those who can least afford it and have chosen to avoid using single use plastics to begin with.

However, this is about more than millions of dollars in costs being passed on to taxpayers by polluters. This is also an issue of fairness. The counties of Maui and Hawaii islands have already adopted ordinances beginning to phase out single use plastics to reduce cleanup costs to taxpayers.

However, because the State of Hawaii spends millions to cleanup the pollution from single use plastics still allowed in the City and County of Honolulu, state taxpayers from Maui and Hawaii islands are being forced to pay for the state’s cleanup of plastics on Oahu. To right this wrong, it seems appropriate that if the City and County of Honolulu is unable to meaningfully address its plastic pollution issue and the costs it is passing on to taxpayers, then the State of Hawaii should recover any plastics-related cleanup costs it incurs from the City to prevent cleanup costs in Honolulu from being unfairly passed on to neighbor island taxpayers.

Finally, it is a sad statistic that people in Hawaii generate more average daily waste per capita than nearly anyone else on Earth. We have been singled out as a bad example by countries such as Japan, China, Australia, and many others whose cities and provinces are far more responsible with their waste. We live on a finite island yet produce more waste than anyone else in the world. We can do better. Single use plastic waste is the best place to start.

As stewards of taxpayer dollars, as leaders in our communities, as parents to children and grandchildren to whom we leave these islands, let us work together to leave our next generation a Hawaii that is cleaner than the plastic-riddled streams and beaches we are collectively responsible for polluting today. They should remember our legacy as one of doing right rather than one of turning a blind eye toward wrong. It is time to address this escalating issue and pass Bill 40.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Chris Lee
State Representative
Chair, Committee on Judiciary

Representative Chris Lee
51st House District
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 302 / Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-9450 / Fax: (808) 586-9456 / E-mail: repcles@capitol.hawaii.gov
Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tsuneyoshi, Members of the Honolulu City Council Committee on Public Safety and Welfare,

My name is Jun Shin. I am the Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair for the Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA), an organization whose members work toward building a Hawai‘i that is just, equitable, and sustainable through community organizing and issue advocacy. The bulk of our membership, which includes more than 1,000 residents, statewide, is comprised of millennials. YPDA is in support of Bill 40, Relating to Plastics.

Although it may seem insignificant, it is important that we take on positive policy changes like Bill 40. A more visible reason to do so can be seen in the form of Hawai‘i’s marine life. Marine life is a precious part of Hawai‘i, something that is enjoyed by both tourists and local residents alike. Not only to watch and study for its beauty and to swim alongside in our waters, but to consume. However, not only are marine lives being harmed by plastic particles being included in their daily lives and diet, but there is a public health concern for humans who also consume some of these marine animals for food.

To those concerned about the feasibility of implementing this measure, there is work that has already taken place and continues to take place to lay the groundwork for legislation like Bill 40. Maui County’s polystyrene foam food containers ban went into effect on December 31, 2018. A fellow County has already taken similar steps, steps that the City and County of Honolulu can look to for reference. The Surfrider Foundation has also been running a successful Ocean Friendly Restaurants program that highlights restaurants showing its customers and the broader public that you can both be environmentally conscious and do your part to reduce plastic waste, while doing well as a business. YPDA asks for the Council to vote in support of Bill 40 and in turn, vote for a sustainable future.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair
Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA)
Honolulu, HI 96814
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com
CC: action@ypdahawaii.org
Representative Tommy Waters, Chair

Ray Aivazian III
53-908A Kamehameha Hwy
Hauula, HI 96734
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Thursday August 29, 2019.

In support of Bill 40

To whom it may concern:

My name is Ray Aivazian III and I am submitting written testimony in support of Bill 40. I am a prior United States Marine Corps, Combat Engineer, who served on active duty from 2009-2017. I came to Oahu in 2013 and was stationed at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe. In 2017, I resigned and was honorably discharged as a Sergeant of Marines. Upon release I immediately immersed myself in furthering my education at Windward Community College in pursuit of a degree in Global Environmental Science. It was here that I found a passion in education and giving back to others and the land.

Becoming more involved within the community and its people, I started to learn and realize certain negative changes that were happening not only on our island but globally. Being an avid free-diver and spearfisherman since 2013, I witnessed in the short time I had been here a rapid decline in the life of our coral reefs and the absence of certain aquatic species in some of my most cherished places. Diving deeper into the issue I learned of the damaging affects plastic pollution was having on our environment, ecosystem and future. It was then that I began to fully take notice on the increasing amount of synthetic marine debris that persisted in washing upon our shores.

I noticed that after conducting a beach cleanup there was still a significant amount of microplastics that were being left behind. This was due to the fact that the screens or sieves being used were only capable of capturing the particles that were larger than the mesh size. A smaller mesh cannot be used as it would then be capturing the sand, coral and rocks. We needed to find a way to remove these microplastic particles due to the fact that the smaller they become the more detrimental they became to virtually everything.

A lengthy and comprehensive research project was conduct by Dr. Sarah Jean Royer at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and several others at Hawaii Pacific University’s, Center for Marine Debris Research. Through her project she discovered that plastic particles when exposed to ultraviolet rays were photodegrading and emitting methane gas. Methane gas is roughly thirty times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. As plastic breaks apart into smaller particles its surface area increases in turn increasing the amount of methane gas released.

With the increase of greenhouse gas emissions and the warming of our ocean, a decrease in the oceans PH levels occurs causing rise to ocean acidification. As the ocean becomes more acidic it causes a decrease in the production of carbonate ions. The oceans carbonate ions play a vital role in the
production of coral skeletons and seashells. Everything from sea urchins, clams, oysters, deep and shallow coral, plankton and pteropod to name a few are being affected. When a species on the micro level is negatively impacted it ripples and causes unforeseen damages up the food chain. Now also add into the fact that these and many other organisms have been found with microplastic particles in their gastrointestinal systems and the damage is only amplified.

A separate report conducted by Dr. Pete Myers showed that buoyant synthetic polymers were absorbing and adsorbing different persistent organic pollutants (POPs) at a rate of nearly one-million times that of ambient sea water with polystyrene foam being the worst. POPs are highly toxic to humans and wildlife due to their ability to bio-accumulate in the food chain. POPs specific health effects include but are not limited to disruption of the immune system, reproductive disorders, central and peripheral nervous system damages, hypersensitivity, allergies and cancer. Currently there are 26 regulated POPs that come from a large variety of pesticides/insecticides, industrial chemical production and other unintentional biproducts. Some of these chemicals continue to be produced and leached into our waterways polluting everything in its path. Again, as plastic particles break apart into smaller pieces their surface area increases thus increasing the amount of POPs that are capable of accumulating on a single piece. Those pieces are then ingested by different aquatic or avian species or is brought upon an unsuspecting shoreline.

As this marine debris washes upon our shores it brings with it these toxic chemicals. It then breaks apart into smaller pieces from the friction caused by the ocean, reefs, beaches and people walking across it. The POPs can then be dermally absorbed, inhaled or ingested by us and a magnitude of other life forms. If it is in an area where it is not being removed or can't be removed due to its size, it then continues to release methane gas which has been directly correlated to increasing atmospheric and oceanic temperatures.

Record-high temperatures have been increasing in the US for the past decade and have been occurring twice as much as record lows. These irrefutable facts reflect the current climate crisis we are all experiencing. As temperatures continue to increase, the warmth of our oceans continues as well. As our oceans temperature continually increases, the water thermally expands. As the water expands, it rises in sea level elevation. As our sea levels rise, our beaches and shores shrink and erode away. Here in Hawaii coastal erosion is something we cannot ignore or deny as we are seeing the direct effects impacting our homes in Pupukea, Lanikai and several other locations.

There are countless other scientific reports that have been conducted showing the damages synthetic polymers are causing to our world and its life forms but I hope this paints a clear enough picture. I state this information not only to enlighten you and others, but to terrify and mortify you into doing something about it. Actions need to be taken now. Not just for the impact it will have on our environment and ecosystem but for the future we hope to give to ourselves and our decedents. Our health and safety have been and are in jeopardy and we need your help. It is your responsibility to be the voice of the people, not the corporations, and to ensure that actions are taken to move Bill 40 forward so we may phase out single use plastic products here on Oahu. While this Bill will not solve these problems it will help bring us one step closer in remediating the damages that have been caused by setting the example for others.

As tax paying citizens it is not our responsibility to pick up the waste that is polluting this land or to inform the people on the harms that it is causing but we will continue to do so. We will continue to sacrifice our time, our energy and our own money until our voices are heard loud enough and real changes are made. Clean ups are not the answer to this problem as it will only continue to persevere, so something has to be done. The time for talking needs to be over and actions need to be taken. Like the
countless other inspirational individuals before me, I was tired of seeing the problem and hearing
people talk about it. So I too chose to take action.

I have created a device that is capable of removing microplastic particles less than 63 microns
from our beaches. That's smaller than the cross section of a human hair and comparably the human eye
can only see down to 40 microns. The device is extremely simplistic in design and can be replicated by
anyone in the world. It is made out of parts that can be purchased from any hardware store or online
and is effective and efficient and removing synthetic marine debris from any beach. I did not wish to
give it a name and make people feel as though they were restricted from replicating it so I gave it a
nomenclature. It is called a Buoyancy Separation Device or a BSD.

This pollution that continues to wash upon our shores came from different parts of the world
due to our neglect but also because it is buoyant. We can therefore float out this marine debris and
remove these microplastic particles from our shores. I made this simple connection and created the BSD
so it circulates ocean water through it and separates the dense coral, rocks and sand from the buoyant
marine debris.

When we use buoyancy to remove this material we are also capturing the sticks, wood, leaves
and other buoyant natural debris. Not wanting to take this material away from the land and have it end
up in the waste stream I pondered on a method that could be utilized to separate the natural and
synthetic debris. After further contemplating a few things I discovered a completely new method that
had never been utilized before. If you take this mixture of natural and synthetic debris and submerge it
in water, in a vacuum chamber, in relatively no time an extremely effective separation can be achieved.

As the material is submerged underwater and a full vacuum applied, the air is removed from the
chamber and also from within the pockets and cells of natural debris. Since the material is submerged
under water, as the air is removed from this debris, water is then forced into its place. When the
vacuum is released the natural material is now waterlogged and sinks to the bottom while the synthetic
plastic debris remains floating on the top. I like to refer to it as a trash time machine as what is
happening in this chamber is we are speeding up the process of what would happen over a much longer
period of time in nature. I instead have chosen to call it a Debris Separation Chamber or DSC and it is
also a method anyone can replicate.

Realizing the potential of my invention and discovery, in Spring 2019 I created two separate
independent studies. One study looking at the accumulation of shoreline marine debris at James
Campbell National Wildlife Refuge in Kahuku and Marine Corps Base Kaneohe. The other study was on
the separation of natural and synthetic debris. Through these two independent studies I created a single
project proposal and was recognized in Maui by being given the University of Hawaii’s, Maynard
Sherwood award. This award is given to the Marine Option Program (MOP) student whose project has
the largest oceanic impact.

From there I continued my research over the summer at James Campbell and was asked to
become a part of the Center for Marine Debris Researches team. Here we are looking towards further
legitimizing the effectiveness of these methods by using different forms of technology to quantify the
type of debris that is being captured. Through my methods we are able to observe and quantify
microplastic particles that were never thought possible to be removed or observed. I am still conducting
my research but preliminary results are showing that Kahuku’s is receiving several magnitudes more in
microplastic debris than any other studied location in the world.

The BSD and DSC are extremely comprehensive by all age groups. I have done countless
cleanups with this device and have given several educational talks with different schools and clubs on
Island. What these methods do is they make the unseen visible and give you something tangible you can relate to. I am further working towards implementing this in a larger shoreline accumulation study that includes different schools, clubs and organizations in Hawaii. In this way we can further help our land while also adding to the growing data base of shoreline marine debris trends.

I do not express this information with the intent of bragging but to hopefully validate to you and others the information that I have expressed in this testimony. As we continue to educate the public and these methods spread, so will the awareness on the reality of Hawaii’s marine debris problem. We can either be at the forefront and show others the way, or we can choose to continue using this negative synthetic material because it is convenient.

With Hawaii being one of the worlds largest tourist destinations we can set the example for others to follow. We can show people from all over the world the damages that are being caused to our land, waters and its life. We can also show them that we can change the things we have done by reducing and removing it from the source. Behavioral change is what’s required and we can assist in helping others understand the negative impacts their actions are having not only to their land but to the entire world. While us alone removing single use plastic products is not going to solve the problem, it is the start of something very monumentous that is already in motion.

Please, do not allow the people to suffer. Please, do not allow the people and future generations to pay. Do not allow this beautiful and sacred land to continue to decline when can start taking actions now. The time for talk for talk is over. We need to act now.

Respectfully

-Ray Aivazian III
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Carla Lewis
Phone: 8082204965
Email: Maliadonlin@yahoo.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization:
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Written Testimony:
I support in phasing out single use plastics. We must be aware of the foot print we leave behind. Malama Aina

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Catherine Gewecke
Phone (503) 805-5438
Email gewecke23@gmail.com
Meeting Date 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee Public Safety
Agenda Item Bill 40
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20190829001429_Testimony_for_Bill_40.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Aloha City Council Members,

I am writing this testimony in support of Bill 40. I am a biologist that works in the freshwater and marine biology field in Honolulu and urge the council that the longer we continue producing and consuming single use plastic (for which there now exist viable alternatives), the more plastic fragments we will contribute our ecosystem. If Honolulu was to start phasing out single use plastics we would serve as a model for the rest of the country, showing that it is possible to function in an economy while still grabbing food and products on the go and only using bring-your-own containers or using home-compostable packaging.

Imagine living in a world where if by mistake your disposable cup or plate blows out of the trash you can be assured that it will compost or breakdown naturally in the soil, stream or nearshore waters, without causing harm to any organisms if ingested. There are some organizations and companies in Hawaii that have held events or sell products, that used to serve drinks and food in plastic containers, but have now switched over to these sustainable products. Examples include Kokua Fest (a plastic-free) concert at the Waikiki Shell, Down to Earth (with home-compostable hot-bar to-go boxes) and Manoa Chocolates (with home-compostable cellulose cellophane wrapping). If these relatively small companies can make the switch, it must be possible and feasible. The last Kokua Fest served food on compostable plates and had compost containers to dispose them in after. They served drinks in aluminum cans and had a recycling bin for the aluminum. All festival-going needs were met with no trash left over at the end to blow into our waterways. If you have a composter in your own yard, you can take these products home and create your own compost.

In 2019 there is ample research that shows that plastic has become increasingly ubiquitous in all areas of the freshwater and marine environment in Hawaii. From the infamous beach on windward shoreline of Oahu (Kahuku/James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge) which accretes exponentially growing plastic ocean debris each month (even after weekly/monthly debris cleanups), to the south shore which receives the daily accumulation of plastic trash blowing out trash cans and trash trucks, plastic is everywhere on this island. If you walk Waimanalo beach you would be hard pressed to find a patch of sand that does not have plastic fragments mixed in, as if it is another type of natural substrate.

This is a public health and welfare concern. We have all seen the photos of albatross, turtles, whales and fish that have ingested plastic mistaking it for food stuff. But we are almost past the point of no return. There is so much plastic in the environment already, the most proactive and effective thing we can do is to curtail our plastic input the best we can, until we can find a solution to extract what was generated and disposed of from the 1950’s until now. To keep utilizing plastic for products that have really reasonable alternatives at this point is kind of like turning down an incredible opportunity to restore a beautiful ecosystem. If we continue utilizing plastic we continue adding a chemical product that does not break down, but only breaks into a million pieces to be eaten by every organism in the ecosystem, including humans.

We have all seen the way an old plastic bag that’s been sitting in the sun in nature begins to break into a million pieces after many years; we have seen plastic-based shade cloth and camping chairs in our garden disintegrate into a million pieces in the sun. But these pieces don’t degrade, they just get smaller and smaller, past the point of ever being picked up by someone at a beach cleanup ever again. They become our new sand, our new plankton.
But they are not edible, unfortunately they are toxic. They release greenhouse gasses and carcinogenic chemicals into the environment while being heated up by the sun, and they are not healthy to have in your own digestive system. If digestive blocks can occur in animals then it can occur in humans. If the compounds found in plastics can leach into the tissues of animals then they can impose the same harm on humans. We eat some of these animals being affected by plastics. And more importantly, we rely on the food chain as a whole, which may be affected at the very base levels all the way up to the top because of the sheer volume of microplastics available to ingest.

There is some really incredible research being done in Hawaii right now by researchers at NOAA, UH, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, HPU and many others showing the incidence of microplastics in the Hawaiian ecosystem, and the ways in which animals interact which these plastics. This research includes studies which show that coral polyps ingest microplastic mistaking them for plankton, that show the rich sources of larval fish and crustaceans on the West Side of Hawaii, which are the base food for many organisms and make their way up through all the trophic levels of organisms, are ingesting microplastic in their first stages of life, and that the ingestion of plastic by sea birds causes their digestive system to dysfunction. A great study to look at conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Honolulu, which really articulates and depicts the reality of the density of plastic in Hawaii’s nearshore waters currently is outlined in this National Geographic Article: https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2019/05/microplastics-impact-on-fish-shown-in-pictures/#close

The main point is that we have the opportunity as city to reduce some of this load into our environment by using alternatives and phasing out unnecessary single use plastics, and in doing so would show other cities that it is possible to still function and thrive as an economy when using single use plastic alternatives and providing the chance for each person to consider whether it’s necessary to use a product, that will persevere indefinitely in the ecosystem, for a single daily action.

Thank you very much for accepting my testimony, - Cathy Gewecke
My name is Rylee Brooke Kamahele, I am the founder of an organization called The Love is a Verb Foundation and The Plastics Project is a program I run under that. I am here to speak on behalf of my generation and generations after ours in support of Bill 40. I am aware of both sides of this situation where adults are torn between convenience, money, business, jobs, and what we're use to - versus - health, environment, animal welfare, and sustainability. I just want to focus on irreversible damage and what that means for me, the future family that I hope to have someday, and every other child from my generation and after.

Last year, at one of the youth managed beach clean ups that we did, there was a Japanese scientist taking water samples. He was doing all kinds of weird stuff with these glass beakers and I had to ask. He explained to me that what he was studying is the effect the chemicals that all the plastic in the ocean will have once they finally break down into their chemical components. This freaked me out! You see, every piece of plastic that ever was created still exists today. Here’s a fun fact: even when animals die from plastic, their bodies decompose and the plastic does not! I’ve learned and I teach about microplastics all the time, but I never thought about those microplastics breaking down even further, and apparently, research is only being done on it now. Why does this freak me out? Well, first, its already pretty bad that we are basically eating plastic all the time. I’m sure most people know that we are now eating plastic every time we eat seafood, but did you know that we drink plastic in our water too? It’s in our rain and snow. It’s everywhere!

There is more than 8 million tons of plastic being dumped into our oceans every year, that’s an estimated one garbage truck filled with plastic being dumped into our ocean every minute and, there is currently over 150 million tons of plastic already in the ocean. What is going to...
happen when all that plastic starts breaking down into chemicals? The ocean is our main source of water and our main source of oxygen, so what does it mean for my generation when the choices of our elders is causing irreversible damage to our main life source?

300 million tons of plastic are produced every year, 50% of that is single use plastic which is used for just a few moments. Did you know that an average working life of a plastic bag is just 15 minutes and more than 1 million plastic bags are used every minute? Again, I am going to use the word irreversible because once all this plastic is made, we’re stuck with it. WE! My generation and our future! It can never be undone and the damage and destruction from the plastic, then microplastic, then whatever chemicals are left behind are irreversible.

I once captioned one of my Instagram posts of a beach clean up my team did as “It’s not our mess, but it’s our world” and the truth is, while we spend hundreds of hours doing beach and neighborhood clean ups, while we remove thousands of pounds of plastic from our beaches every year, the cycle is never going to stop unless we stop the source. Doing a statewide phase-out of single-use plastics is a start because businesses work on supply and demand. I run a business and I understand supply and demand. If there is no demand for single-use plastics, businesses will have no reason to supply. Manufacturers would be forced to create something else, and that’s what we need.

Our generation is literally watching our planet be destroyed and we are so limited on what we can do without the help of our leaders. I can do clean ups, I can educate, I can speak to all of you, but the big changes that we need, like this bill, are in your hands. So here I am, asking you, our leaders, to look at the impact that past generations might not have seen but my generation needs to live with. Plastic is irreversible damage and our main source of oxygen and water is at risk. I am here asking you to please support bill 40.
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Kelsey Amos
Phone: 8082225247
Email: kmtamos@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Public Safety
Agenda Item: bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing Self: Yes
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

As a taxpayer and a consumer born and raised on O‘ahu, I support bill 40 and its important work keeping our environment and our bodies safe from plastic.

These plastics clog our waterways and storm water system. I participated in a Pālolo stream cleanup organized by area schools and local nonprofits and have seen first hand how many plastics end up in our streams. They also end up clogging the storm water system, which costs money for regular maintenance to remove clogs and buildup. As a taxpayer I feel my money could be better spent elsewhere if we could lower costs by preventing plastic waste in our waterways.

Furthermore I‘m alarmed from a health standpoint about micro plastics that get into our food chain, drinking water, and ultimately into our bodies--I trust that others will testify about the details of these issues so you are aware of them.

Phasing out plastics is often portrayed as a burden to businesses, but I know of many restaurants that do the responsible thing for our communities, choosing to reduce their plastic usage. There are over 90 Ocean Friendly Restaurants in the state who have signed on to reduce single use plastics. Many of them are locally owned and vibrant parts of our community whose businesses have not suffered from choosing to prioritize addressing the health and environmental concerns around plastic. They range from mom and pop shops frequented by locals to high end hotel restaurants mostly serving tourists, which shows that reducing plastic is possible for a range of business models. It’s not easy running a food establishment so I really applaud these restaurants for creating business practices that others can follow to phase out single use plastics without going out of business.
We just moved back to Oahu after two years living on the mainland. The micro and plastic waste on the beaches is far worse than in 2017. Small actions like reusable shopping bags, water bottles and bamboo toothbrushes matter. But policy is needed to encourage all our citizens to make these actions "the new normal" so we preserve the 'aina for our children. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Sharlene Chun-Lum
Phone: 8083542434
Email: Sharstocks@yahoo.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization: 
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Written Testimony: 
Testimony Attachment: 
Accept Terms and Agreement: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67
Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Public Safety & Welfare Committee,

My name is Nainoa, and I live in Makaha and Hawaii Kai, I am testifying in strong support of Bill 40.

We want our island to stop using foam, utensils, and straws because these are not renewable nor sustainable resources and will further contribute to more pollution and damage to our Aina, oceans, and waterways.

Mahalo Nui
From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:46 AM
Subject: Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Sara Armstrong
Phone: 808-227-7274
Email: sarasoesbeearmstrong@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: PublicSafety
Agenda Item: Bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing Organization: Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?: No

Please vote to support this bill. We need to ban single use plastic in Hawaii. We have the weather, great tasting water and island beauty. Please help us make less trash. More trash means more public money is spent. Do the right thing for the aina and the people, please.

Written Testimony: [Attachment]

Agreement

IP: 192.168.200.67
Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name: Sara And Kevin Armstrong
Phone: 808-227-7274
Email: sarasoesbeearmstrong@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-28-2019
Council/PH Committee: Council
Agenda Item: No Single Use Plastics
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing: Self
Organization: 
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony:
Please get rid of single use plastics in Hawaii. We have such great weather, water and island beauty. Let's keep that going with less trash. We can do this. Let's do the right thing for the aina and our future.

IP: 192.168.200.67
Aloha Chair Anderson and Vice Chair Kobiashi, and members of the Council-

I support Bill 40 and I support phasing out single use plastics and EPS food ware. Single use plastics have no place in Honolulu and are an irresponsible burden that we are putting onto our children in the form of plastic pollution. The City and County of Honolulu has a duty to protect human safety and welfare and to improve the environmental quality for all life throughout our state. These products threaten our health and our future, and it is time for them to go.
**Speaker Registration/Testimony**

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<th>Natalie Wohner</th>
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<td>Phone</td>
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<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Natalie.wohner@gmail.com">Natalie.wohner@gmail.com</a></td>
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IP: 192.168.200.67
Name: Gary S. Harrold
Phone: 8082385031
Email: garysgab@gmail.com
Meeting Date: 08-29-2019
Council/PH Committee: Council
Agenda Item: bill 40
Your position on the matter: Support
Representing Organization: Sierra Club

Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Too much plastic.
It's not fantastic.
There's plastic in fish.

Written Testimony
Forgot that take-out clamshell.
Refill water bottles - that's swell!
Single-use plastics - what stupid jokes.
They're used by unconscious blokes.

Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement: 1

IP: 192.168.200.67