

HB-2439

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:19:29 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Kahn	Surfrider Oahu	Support	No

Comments:



February 5, 2020

To: The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair,
The Honorable Mark Hashem, Vice Chair, and Members of the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER and HIGHER EDUCATION
and
The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair,
The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair, and Members of the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Re: HB 2439– relating to plastic marine debris
Hearing: Thursday, February 7, 2020, 2:10 p.m. Room 329
Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha, Chairs Woodson and Lowen, Vice Chairs Hashem and Wildberger, and Members of the Committees,

The HAWAII REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawaii environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii’s coral reefs and ocean – namely, the pollution of our near-shore environment by sunscreens that are literally killing our marine life. We are currently asking the Legislature to pass a handful of very important bills to save our coral reefs – they are bills relating to sunscreens, plus bills on cesspools, plastic marine debris, the climate crisis and sea level rise.

HIROC strongly supports this bill, which would protect coral reefs from the plastic marine debris harming them. As the bill states, plastic marine debris is fouling our beaches, harming recreation and tourism. Plastic marine debris also harms marine life, specifically the corals that protect Hawaii’s shorelines. Studies indicate that plastic entangled on reefs increases coral disease risk. As the plastics break down into microplastics, they can cause corals to suffer

tissue inflammation, decreased feeding and growth, impaired reproduction, and increased mortality. HIROC can produce studies upon request.

The coral reefs that protect Hawaii's shorelines, beaches, and recreation and tourism-based economy are in crisis! In addition to plastic damage, corals face assaults from rising ocean temperatures, increasingly acidic oceans, sewage and polluted runoff, sunscreens and depleted fish stocks. Coral bleaching and death are widespread.

One way Hawaii can help the reefs be more healthy is to develop equipment to remove plastic marine debris from beaches, as proposed in this bill. This bill is thus a critical step toward protecting the coral reefs that protect our beaches, recreational economy and shorefront (including homes).

The need for this bill is critical. Our reefs are already showing great damage. We must begin major efforts to stop the damage and help them recover. Thank you for the opportunity to testify!

Alan B. Burdick, on behalf of HIROC, 486-1018
Burdick808@gmail.com

HB-2439

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:37:15 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative Mark Hashem, Vice Chair, and Members of the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER and HIGHER EDUCATION and

Nicole E. Lowen, Chair, Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair, and Members of the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Re:â€ˆâ€ˆHB 2439, Plastic Marine Debris

Hearing: â€ˆThursday, February 7, 2020, 2:10 pm Room 329

Position:â€ˆStrong Support!

Aloha, Chairs Woodson and Lowen and Vice Chairs Hashem and Wildberger and Members of the Committees.

The Climate Protectors Coalition strongly supports this bill! We are a new group inspired by the Mauna Kea Protectors but focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible, including by eliminating plastics from our environment.

Corals are in crisis! In addition to plastic damage, corals face assaults from rising ocean temperatures, increasingly acidic oceans, sewage and polluted runoff, sunscreens and depleted fish stocks. Coral bleaching and death are widespread.

As the bill indicates, plastic marine debris is fouling our beaches, harming our recreation and tourism and even endangering human health with persistent

toxins. Plastic marine debris also harms marine life, sea birds, turtles and particularly the coral reefs that protect Hawaii's shorelines, beaches, and recreation and tourism-based economy.

Petroleum-based plastics need to be eliminated from our environment, along with other fossil fuel use that contributes to the climate crisis.

One way Hawaii can help the reefs be more healthy is to research and develop specialized equipment to remove plastic marine debris from beaches. This bill takes a step in that direction.

This bill is thus a critical step toward protecting the coral reefs that protect our beaches, recreational economy and shorefront (including homes). Please pass this bill!
Mahalo!

HB-2439

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 1:36:00 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:

From: Friends of Hanauma Bay

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER and HIGHER EDUCATION

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Mark Hashem, Vice Chair

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

Re: HB2439 Relating to Plastic Marine Debris

Hearing: Thursday, February 7, 2020, 2:10 pm Room 329

Position: Strong Support

Aloha, Chairs Woodson and Lowen, Vice Chairs Hashem and Wildberger, and Members of the Committees,

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly supports this bill, which would help protect coral reefs from the plastic marine debris harming them.

Plastic marine debris is fouling our beaches, harming recreation and tourism. Plastic marine debris also harms marine life and specifically the corals that protect Hawaii's shorelines. Studies indicate that plastic entangled on reefs increases coral disease risk. As the plastics breakdown into microplastics, they can cause corals to suffer tissue inflammation, decreased feeding and growth, impaired reproduction, and increased mortality.

The coral reefs that protect Hawaii's shorelines, beaches, and recreation and tourism-based economy are in crisis! In addition to plastic damage, corals face assaults from rising ocean temperatures, increasingly acidic oceans, sewage and polluted runoff, sunscreens and depleted fish stocks. Coral bleaching and death are widespread.

One way Hawaii can help the reefs be more healthy is to develop equipment to remove plastic marine debris from beaches.

This bill is thus a critical step toward protecting the coral reefs that protect our beaches, recreational economy and shorefront (including homes).

Our reefs already show great damage. We must begin major efforts to stop the damage and help them recover.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify!

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay

Testimony in Support of HB 2439

DATE: Friday, February 7, 2020

TIME: 2:10 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 30

Aloha,

I am an aquarium fisherman I have spent much time and effort to give back to our seas to keep them healthy and maintain sustainability of our fisheries.

After seeing the plastics on the beach, we have done much research and thought to help this situation. I would like to share that information here.

If plastics remain on the beach High tides and shifting winds will send them back into the ocean. It is such a large job to remove plastics that many agencies and groups need to coordinate efforts to solve this issue. The HTFA Hawaii Tropical Fish Association will help too.

Two simple methods are being tested by us and please contact me for the results.

1. leaf blower vacuums gas or battery driven can lift lighter plastics into a bag to be emptied into a larger trash bag for pick up. This way can also be done on rocky shores. Cost is from \$100 to \$200 a very reasonable amount for many to individually buy and participate. Battery charged will have less noise pollution.

2. Wet dry vacuums, also come in battery operated versions and batteries can easily be recharged on site with solar battery chargers.

I would like to mention we spend up to 10 hours a day fishing and over 40 years we have seen little if any floating debris as it seems to collect in specific areas and float together. That is a good thing. High winds and storms blow it to our beaches.

Thanks for tackling this issue,

Ron Tubbs B.S.N.D.

HB-2439

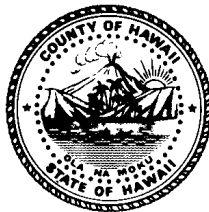
Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:44:55 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/7/2020 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



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LATE

HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL

*West Hawai‘i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i 96740*

LATE

February 6, 2020

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB 2439, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT
Committee on Lower & Higher Education
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Friday, February 7, 2020
2:10 p.m.
Conference Room 309


Aloha Chair Woodson, Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2439, relating to the environment. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai‘i County Council and Chair of the Hawai‘i County Council Public Safety Committee.

The purpose of this measure is to enhance Hawai‘i’s environment and protect its economy by making an appropriation to the UH Water Resources Research Center for the research and development of specialized equipment for removing plastic marine debris from shores and beaches. Plastic marine debris is fouling Hawai‘i’s beaches and ocean. Microplastic doesn’t break down, and we are finding it in our fish, birds, whales, turtles, seals, and corals. It is estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish by weight in the world’s ocean. It is important to remove plastic marine debris before it can break down into microplastic as this is a risk to not only our marine environment but to humans as well. Having specialized equipment to assist with removal of these plastics is needed to remove the debris effectively and efficiently from our beaches and shorelines.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee Lower & Higher Education, the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.


Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai‘i County Council

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