



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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March 23, 2021

To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Re: HR65/ HCR77: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION TO CONDUCT A STUDY  
ON THE BENEFITS AND COSTS TO IMPLEMENT EXTENDED  
PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY IN THE STATE

Meeting: Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 10:00 a.m., Room 325 via videoconference

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its Natural Resources Committee are in **strong support** of HR65 / HCR77 as these Resolutions request the Department of Health Environmental Management Division to conduct a study on the benefits and costs to implement extended producer responsibility in the State.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (Party) has adopted at its 2018 State Convention, clear safeguards to promote and protect our clean and healthy environment. At page 17 of the Party Platform, it specifically provides, to wit:

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative, and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.



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The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our *'āina* against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of coastal resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.

We strongly urge you to pass HR65 / HCR77 as these resolutions request the Department of Health Environmental Management Division to conduct a study on the benefits and costs to implement extended producer responsibility in the State which is consistent with the Democratic Party Platform in supporting programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative, and environmentally friendly recycling and waste reduction. These programs include the study of the best science available relating to extended producer responsibility and best packaging practices to avoid plastic bottles and other packaging material from polluting our oceans, being buried in landfills, and or just scattered throughout the land and coastline causing a threat to the marine life, wildlife, and the environment.



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Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Respectfully yours,

Alan B. Burdick  
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus  
Co-Chair, Natural Resources Committee  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
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Melodie R. Aduja  
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus  
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**HR-65**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 1:01:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole Chatterson	Zero Waste Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and EEP Committe Members,

A study can help us understand the best ways to implement extended producer responsibility measures for packaging in Hawai'i. We support a study and encourage our legislature to ensure that our efforts do not stop there.

Best,

Nicole Chatterson, Zero Waste O'ahu

**HR-65**

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 10:05:32 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

You might want to try the European system, which has been working well for years.

## **Regarding House Concurrent Resolution HCR 67**

### **Testimony in Support**

Aloha Energy and Environmental Protection Committee House members,

The House Concurrent Resolution “Declaring a climate emergency and requesting statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate” has my full support.

This Resolution takes the critical and necessary step to declare a climate emergency as well as demand an emergency mobilization effort in our state to address climate change and take necessary steps to restore a safe climate. We know we are in a climate change crisis right now and if we don’t do anything about resolving it, disaster is on the horizon. This resolution begins to outline areas to focus on, defines what actions should be taken, and more importantly emphasizes mobilization is required now to address this emergency.

The state has already taken important steps toward addressing the climate change crisis and working toward 100% renewables, but there is much more that needs to be done and this Resolution defines further actions that need to be taken. For these reasons, I think this is critical legislation that must be supported.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Anderson  
Kailua, Hawaii