

From: [Malama Aina](#)
To: [DEM \(COH\)](#)
Subject: Support Bill 83 - Kona Smith Testimony
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 10:47:20 AM

Aloha Environmental Management Committee,

My name is Kona Smith. I am a Zero Waste Youth Advocate for Malama Aina Compostables and a senior at Ka'u High School. We strive to divert waste from going into the landfill, and single use plastic is not only keeping us from our goal but it's affecting the land that we came from. It is full of history and knowledge that is key to my community. If we continue to use single-use plastic, communities will find that zero waste practices are not necessary. So we work together to create behavioral change campaigns not only with the students but with the community to warn them about the dangers of plastic and ways to eliminate its use.

I am writing to strongly urge you to support Bill 83, Draft 2, and its amendments, and to send a favorable recommendation to the County Council. Plastic pollution is one of the greatest threats to our island's health, ecosystems, and future generations.

Every year, more than 11 million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean, breaking down into microplastics that now contaminate our air, water, and even human blood and organs. Hawai'i's marine life—turtles, seabirds, and fish—are ingesting plastics at alarming rates, and these same toxins enter our food chain.

Mahalo,

Kona Smith
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