

**From:** [Maki Morinoue](#)  
**To:** [DEM \(COH\)](#)  
**Subject:** Item V. New Business - Bill 83, Draft 2  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:55:35 AM

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Aloha Environmental Management Commission,

I strongly urge you to support Bill 83, Draft 2 (the single-use plastic foodware ban) 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.

Continuing business as usual only deepens this crisis. The plastic industry profits from unlimited expansion while communities like ours bear the long-term costs—polluted coastlines, dying reefs, and mounting waste with no safe place to go. By supporting this bill, we take a bold step toward changing that narrative and investing in sustainable, regenerative alternatives that align with Hawai'i's values of mālama 'āina.

Bill 83, Draft 2 is not just a ban—it's a commitment to innovation, responsibility, and a cleaner future. Please choose to protect the health of our people and planet over convenience and profit. Bill 83 seeks to reduce disposable plastic or polystyrene foodware and serveware in alignment with the County of Hawai'i's Zero Waste Plan and the State of Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge Solid Waste Reduction Goals.

Please Support Bill 83, Draft 2 – Protect Hawai'i from Plastic Pollution

Mahalo for your time, leadership, and care for our island home.

With gratitude,  
Maki Morinoue Hōlualoa

Here are several credible data sources I found supporting the claim that **approximately 11 million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean each year**:

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The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reports that “every year, an estimated \*\*11 million tonnes of plastic enter the world's oceans.”” [UNEP - UN Environment Programme+2United Nations+2](#)

- The Ocean Conservancy identifies that annually, “11 million metric tons of plastics enter our ocean.” [Ocean Conservancy+1](#)
- The California Ocean Protection Council states that “roughly **11 million metric tons of plastics** are estimated to enter the global ocean each year.” [California Ocean Protection Council](#)