

October 20, 2025

From: Shannon Dillard  
19 Parker Street  
Holyoke, Massachusetts, 01040

To: The Council of the County of Hawai'i

To Whom It May Concern:

I have recently been made aware of Hawai'i County's Zero Waste Plan, Aloha+ Challenge Solid Waste Reduction Goals. I have read Bill # 83, which intends to amend Chapter 20, article 1, section 20-01-03, of County Code 1983.

I am writing in complete support of this bill as a citizen of the United States and one who has wanted this kind of legislation in my own state of Massachusetts. You see, I am a Registered Nurse and as such, I have spent my career using lots and lots of disposable plastic/polystyrene to care for patients. I have worked on efforts to reduce these disposable products within my hospital but as I am sure you understand, this is difficult in an industry that must always be thinking about the spread of infection, which is mitigated with disposables.

My understanding of Bill 83 is that it is an early step toward reducing plastic/polystyrene use in an industry that is primarily designed for recreation, fun, and convenience. This should be an easy one, although I imagine will initially be a bit of a burden for the fast-food industry. Our world now has much better options for packaging food – rigid paper, paper, compostables, and glass. I understand that the biodegradable and recyclable products are more costly than plastic and Styrofoam. But, as the environmentally friendly products are used more, prices will come down as always happens in our supply and demand marketplace.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) published an article, "Exploring the impact of polystyrene micro plastics on human health: unraveling the health implications of polystyrene micro plastics: and comprehensive study on cytotoxicity, reproductive health, human exposure and exposure assessment" at <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11033556/> . This article describes the grave impact that plastics has on air, water, plants, animals and humans. It is scary.

I am proud of the people of Hawai'i County for working to improve lives. I would so love for you to be a role model to other counties and states, leading the way toward saving our planet and lives.

Thank You

Shannon Dillard

(413)535-9163

Sddillard63@gmail.com