

From: [Tanya Anne](#)
To: [DEM \(COH\)](#)
Subject: Bill 83 Draft 2 - Related to Plastic Waste
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025 5:20:24 PM

Aloha Chair Perez and Members of the Environmental Management Commission,

My name is Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian, a resident of Hilo, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Bill 83.

Bill 83 is a long overdue step toward protecting our communities, our 'āina, and future generations from the accelerating harms of plastic pollution. **O'ahu and Maui have already passed similar legislation** — and it is time for Hawai'i Island to stand in alignment with them and take more responsibility and care to reduce the unnecessary uses of plastic.

This bill advances the goals the County has already adopted from the Hawai'i County Zero Waste Plan, from [Resolution 356-07 "A Resolution to Embrace and Adopt the Principles of Zero Waste as a Long-Term Goal for Hawai'i County"](#), adopted December 19, 2007 - nearly 18 years ago, to our most recent Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan and Integrated Climate Action Plan. **Supporting Bill 83 is not a new direction — it is a long-promised implementation of what our County has already agreed to do.** Bill 83 is also in alignment with state commitments made under the Aloha+ Challenge Solid Waste Reduction Goals.

Hawai'i is not alone in addressing toxic plastic business-to-consumer solutions and pollution. Spain began taxing non-reusable plastic packaging in 2023 and has already banned products like plastic straws, cutlery, and cotton buds. Microsoft has pledged to go zero-waste by 2030. LEGO is eliminating fossil-fuel-based resins. Starbucks and McDonald's have already launched reusable cup pilot programs in San Francisco. The world — *including major governments and global corporations* — is already ahead of us.

By reducing harmful single-use plastic foodware and serviceware, Bill 83 will:

- Reduce toxic plastic pollution and protect environmental and human health outcomes
- Advance local composting and circular economy solutions that tied to food security

- Encourage responsible business innovation and reusable, non-plastic alternatives
- Demonstrate government leadership in protecting the public interest and public health
- Align us with the future we want our grandchildren's children to inherit

I also want to note that single-use plastic water and beverage bottles must be the next step forward. They remain one of the largest contributors to our waste stream and microplastic exposure. But that next bill deserves its own focused process — this one must move now.

I respectfully ask the EMC to **give Bill 83 a favorable recommendation to the County Council — without delay.** This is our opportunity to lead with care, integrity, and foresight.

Mahalo for your service and for your commitment to the 'āina and the people of Hawai'i Island.

Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian
Hilo, Hawai'i

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Freedom lies in being bold. Robert Frost