

From: [Mary Jennings](#)
To: [DEM \(COH\)](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Bill 83: Agenda Item 5.1
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:25:40 AM

To: Commissioners of the Environmental Management Commission

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Tulsi Jennings, and I am a sophomore at the Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences. I have lived on the Big Island for most of my life. Recently, I attended a Zero Waste Youth Convergence in Ka'ū, where I learned that our landfill is only 15 years away from reaching capacity. The Hilo landfill is already closed, and we've been hauling our trash across the island for years.

I believe that Bill 83 can significantly reduce plastic waste and help delay the need for a new landfill. According to DBEDT Hawaii in 2024, Hawai'i Island received 1.7 million visitors—about 8.5 times our resident population of 200,000. On average, each person produces around 150 pounds of waste annually. Large county events like the Merrie Monarch Festival and the Ho'olaule'a attract even more tourism and should take responsibility for their environmental impact. Eliminating plastic use at these events would be a major step toward a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Mahalo nui loa,
Tulsi Jennings