

From: [Julia Murcia](#)
To: [DEM \(COH\)](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of Bill 83 (Draft 2) – Plastic and Polystyrene Waste Reduction
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 11:37:36 AM

Aloha Councilmembers,

I'm writing in support of Bill 83 (Draft 2), which would prohibit the use of disposable, non-compostable plastics and polystyrene at County facilities and events that use County funds.

I've been a school teacher on this island for 14 years and have spent much of that time educating children about sustainability and reducing plastic waste. I've seen firsthand how plastic ends up along our beaches and roadsides, and how deeply our keiki care about protecting the 'āina and the ocean. This bill represents an important step toward aligning our community values with our everyday practices.

According to the Ocean Conservancy, plastics make up more than 80% of marine debris collected worldwide — a clear reminder that local action truly matters. This measure provides a reasonable timeline for transition while helping move Hawai'i County closer to its Zero Waste and Aloha+ Challenge goals.

Mahalo for your leadership and for considering this important measure to protect our island home.

With respect,

Julia Murcia
Hilo, Hawai'i