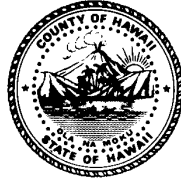


**Mitchell D. Roth**  
*Mayor*

**Lee Lord**  
*Managing Director*



**Ramzi I. Mansour**  
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# County of Hawai'i

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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February 14, 2022

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair, and  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Dear Chair Johanson,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management supports HB 2399 to implement an EPR program to address packaging waste through the counties. Each county is best suited to address its own solid waste issues. Creating a mechanism where producers work directly with each county can address longstanding issues due to population density and shipping logistics on all islands.

Hawai'i's market share is small, but its low resident population, remote location bounded by the Pacific Ocean, global image as a pristine environment, and steady influx of visitors makes it the perfect proving grounds for innovative reuse strategies.

The corporations that produce the greatest volume of consumer goods have the resources needed to address the environmental crises caused by excess packaging waste. Among these corporations, 16 of the top 20 are signatories to the Global Commitment for a New Plastics Economy. This means they have already pledged to reduce packaging waste and ensure that whatever remains is either reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

Further, and perhaps most important, our national collective failure to reduce waste stems from an overemphasis on recycling. The 2021 Global Commitment Report highlights that, although its signatories have made measurable progress on reducing their combined total of packaging waste, no progress has been made on their reuse goals. This legislation compels the top producers to take the lead on developing reuse strategies by effectively partnering them with the County of Hawai'i and its community-driven zero waste movement.

We support Department of Health's request for more staff to administer the EPR program, as well as their request to move the implementation date to a time that best suits them.

Sincerely

Ramzi Mansour, Director