

**From:** [Malama Aina](#)  
**To:** [DEM \(COH\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Bill 83 - Ahlyna Flores Testimony  
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Aloha Environmental Management Committee,

My name is Ahlyna Flores and I'm a junior in Ka'u High & Pahala Elementary School. I'm also part of the zero waste youth advocate and the continuation of single use plastic is a big problem that we are facing right now. Not only in our community but also in ourselves, being a youth and seeing land experiencing a major crisis because of single use plastic makes my heart ache. Imagine growing up in a world that is surrounded by trash, and nobody wanna keep living like this. So in our program, we came up with a lot of solutions, an example is turning our cafeteria waste into compost to give to our community. Small gestures like this make a big impact in our world. If we want to see a change, it should start within us.

Plastic pollution is one of the greatest threats to our island's health, ecosystems, and future generations. Every year, more than 11 million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean, breaking down into microplastics that now contaminate our air, water, and even human blood and organs. Hawai'i's marine life—turtles, seabirds, and fish—are ingesting plastics at alarming rates, and these same toxins enter our food chain.

Mahalo,  
Ahlyna Flores  
Na`alehu 96772