



SIERRA CLUB

HAWAI'I ISLAND GROUP

October 22, 2025

Environmental Management Commission
c/o County of Hawai'i
345 Kekūanāo'a St. Suite 41
Hilo HI 96720

Re: Testimony on Bill 83

Aloha Madame Chair and members of the Environmental Management Committee,

Mahalo for your volunteer service.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Island Group (HIG) is in strong support Bill 83. This support is based upon thorough research and input from knowledgeable environmental advocates.

It has been changed from similar bills on other islands where food providers avoided legislative intent by interpreting the use of thicker plastic as “reusable”.

Bill 83 builds on over a decade of County waste reduction initiatives: bans for plastic checkout bags and styrofoam; progress on developing the reusable foodware program; and provisions in the General Plan and other plans, such as Zero Waste, Solid Waste Management, and Integrated Climate Action.

The bill includes provisions for compostable products, which will move the county toward an islandwide composting system that is designed to reduce waste going into the landfill and to support food security.

As you know, last month, attempts to develop a treaty to end global plastic pollution collapsed¹, despite the fact that:

- a) by 2050, plastic production is expected to account for up to 15% of global carbon emissions and by 2060, global production is expected to triple²,
- b) nanoplastic particles are impacting the bio-functioning of blood³,
- c) plastic has now contaminated the deepest reaches of the ocean⁴, and
- d) and breached the blood-brain barrier.⁵

For these reasons and many others too numerous to detail, please support Bill 83.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

1--Plastic pollution talks fail as negotiators in Geneva reject draft treaties, *the Guardian*, August 15, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/aug/15/plastic-pollution-talks-geneva-treaty>

2--Impacts of Plastic Pollution, *Environmental Protection Agency*, <https://www.epa.gov/plastics/impacts-plastic-pollution>

3--The interactions of non-functionalized polystyrene nanoparticles with human albumin and erythrocyte proteins: implications and potential consequences, *Nature*, August 17, 2025, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-025-15422-w#:~:text=Effects%20on%20albumin%3A%20Non%2Dfunctionalized,45%2C%20and%2070%20nm>

4--Single-use plastic has reached the world's deepest ocean trench, April 2018, *United Nations Environmentl Program*, <https://www.unep-wcmc.org/en/news/single-use-plastic-has-reached-the-worlds-deepest-ocean-trench>

5--Micro- and Nanoplastics Breach the Blood–Brain Barrier (BBB): Biomolecular Corona's Role Revealed, *Nanomaterials (Basel)*, April 19, 2023, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10141840/>