

**From:** [Cory](#)  
**To:** [DEM \(COH\)](#)  
**Subject:** support Bill 83 Oct 22 agenda item V 1  
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testimony in support of Bill 83 re. plastic and polystyrene waste  
for Hawai'i County Environmental Management Commission  
9 AM Wednesday, October 22, 2025  
Puna Conference Room, Hawai'i County Building, 25 Aupuni Street, Hilo  
[cohdem@hawaiiicounty.gov](mailto:cohdem@hawaiiicounty.gov)

Aloha commissioners,

Thank you for your volunteer service.

I strongly support Bill 83. It was developed based on thorough research and input from knowledgeable environmental advocates.

It was revised to avoid what happened with similar bills on other islands, where food providers got around the law by simply using thicker plastic and calling it "reusable".

It 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: Zero Waste, Solid Waste Management, and Integrated Climate Action.

The bill includes provisions re. 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 collapsed (1) despite the facts that by 2050, plastic production is expected to account for up to 15% of global carbon emissions (2) and by 2060, global production is expected to triple. (3) Further, plastic has now contaminated the deepest reaches of the ocean (4) and breached the blood-brain barrier (5)

Mahalo for your consideration.

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 Environment 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/>