

Dr. C. Kimo Alameda  
*Mayor*

Wesley R. Segawa  
*Director, Department of  
Environmental Management*



Erica Perez  
*Chair*

Justin Canelas  
*Vice Chair*

# County of Hawai'i

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

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November 5, 2025

Honorable Holeka Inaba, Chair  
and Members of the Hawai'i County Council  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

**SUBJECT: The Environmental Management Commission's Comments and Recommendations Regarding Bill 83, Relating to Plastic and Polystyrene Waste**

Dear Honorable Council Chair Inaba and Esteemed Members of the Hawai'i County Council,

Pursuant to Hawaii County Code, Section 2-207(c), the Environmental Management Commission ("EMC") reviewed Bill 83 at its meeting on October 22, 2025. The EMC agreed to issue the following comments and recommendations regarding Bill 83:

Solid waste is the third largest emissions contributor in Hawaii County, compared to the second of Commercial Energy, and the top contributor of Transportation (HI-ICAP). As an island community, it's important to reduce the use of plastic to protect our shorelines, oceans, and watersheds.

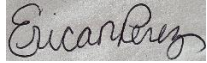
The EMC Supports Bill 83 Relating to Plastic and Polystyrene Waste and urges the Hawai'i County Council ("Council") to support the passage of Bill 83. The EMC would like to share the following recommendations:

1. Consider increasing the fines: the EMC urges Council to re-evaluate the fine structure to increase the likelihood of compliance by adjusting the fine to an amount that equals more than the potential revenue of future sales from the event. For example: bottled water cost \$5 x 175 ppl = \$875.00 by paying the fee Vendor would still accrue \$475.00 in revenue.
2. Consider how Bill 83 will be enforced.

Benefits to eliminating plastic production are reduced waste, the promotion of healthier soils, and a decrease of long-term pollution associated with traditional plastics.

Honorable Chair Inaba and Hawai'i County Council  
November 5, 2025  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Erica Perez", is displayed within a rectangular grey box.

Erica Perez  
Chair

cc: Environmental Management Commission