



Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Kyle T. Yamashita
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, March 1, 2022
12:30pm
Written Testimony Only

RE: **Strong Support of HB2399 HD1 - Extended Producer Responsibility**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita & Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce in strong support of HB2399 HD1. As business owners who believe in strengthening our economy without hurting employees, communities and the environment, we urge this committee to vote in favor of HB2399 HD1.

If passed into law, HB2399 HD1 will establish a model for extended producer responsibility (EPR) which is well suited to Hawaii's unique environmental, social and economic conditions. By engaging those producers with the means to distribute the cost of pilot reuse programs over a market share of at least \$500 million, this legislation puts the responsibility for underwriting these programs where it rightfully lies: on businesses that set global trends for design and marketing.

By directing those funds to cover the costs of reuse programs that include producers, county agencies and community groups (as project partners), this legislation gives rise to collaborations that can effectively reduce the volume of waste Hawaii sends to incinerators and/or landfills.

While other EPR programs in the U.S. aim to create a layer of bureaucracy and vested interests that will permanently increase costs to consumers, the transitional nature of this proposed program places an appropriate degree of responsibility on the producers that can afford to invest in sweeping systemic change.

As the larger community awakens to the environmental racism embedded in siting incinerators and landfills, opposition to these practices are growing. With that added attention, governments are looking for alternatives; reuse strategies are the most effective means for reducing packaging waste, which represents about 40% of the state's waste stream.

Hawaii Legislative Council	Kim Coco Iwamoto AQuA Rentals, LLC Honolulu	Elle Cochran Maui Surfboards Maui	Russel Ruderman Island Naturals Hilo / Kona	Joell Edwards Wainiha Country Market Kauai	Maile Meyer Na Mea Hawaii Honolulu
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