

**Hawaii
Legislative
Council
Members**

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country
Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family
Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Enlightened Energy
Honolulu

Chamber of
Sustainable
Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI
96823

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair
Comm. on Energy & Environmental Protection

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
9:00 am
Conference Room 325 or via Zoom

RE: HB2536 Relating to Single-Use Plastic - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State of Hawaii that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity – we know we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment. This is why we support HB2536.

Businesses large and small must constantly keep up with changes in the market place. Consumers also have to make changes to keep up with technology, culture and now climate – even when inconvenient. Obviously business owners are also consumers: we also need to remember to bring our own shopping bags to the farmers market or grocery store, we all carry around our own refillable water bottles and some of us have a stash of bamboo, glass or metal straws. A couple of us bring along our to go containers when we go out to eat and know we will be taking home left overs.

These are small behavioral modifications that we make as individuals and they may add up over a long period of time, but making statewide policy that speaks to our collective potential - that can have a substantial impact in a short amount of time.

With the Great Pacific Garbage Patch growing at the rate it is, businesses need clear guidance and a sustainable plan to move away from single use plastic. HB2536 provides this road map.

