

February 15, 2023

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Wednesday, February 15, 2023  
2:00 pm  
Via Videoconference



RE: **HB748 HD1** Relating to Environmental Protection (**Oppose or Amend**)

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce testifies in opposition to HB748 HD1 as it is currently drafted. As business owners who believe we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers or the environment, we urge this committee to vote against passing HB748 HD1 in its current form because it reverses environmental and consumer protections which are currently guaranteed in our state statutes.

Act 152 (2022) signified a win for consumers and the environment - and a win for businesses that rely on healthy workers, customers and communities. HB748 HD1 seeks to allow food suppliers to continue poisoning their customers and the environment beyond 2024. Given the state of our climate crises and degradation of our natural resources, it is absurd to apply scarcity economics to the promulgation of environmental protections. We must build on the gains we have achieved - not sell ourselves short or the wellbeing of Hawaii's people and environment.

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce hopes to support a version of this bill that actually protects consumers – and does not trade or dilute existing protections. Please make the **following amendments**: 1) delete the section that seeks to delay the 2024 implementation of Act 152 as it applies to food packaging; 2) delete the “propellent” exemption because every cosmetic and personal care companies can declare that the PFAS they added to their products are all “propellants”; and 3) delete the FDA exemption as it grandfathers an outdated process that did not take into account the current understanding of the toxicity of PFAS to consumers.

If we are incapable of operating our businesses without hurting our customers, then we should examine our motivations for staying in business.

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**Hawaii  
Legislative  
Council**

Maile Meyer  
Na Mea Hawaii  
Honolulu

Russel Rudderman  
Island Naturals  
Hilo / Kona

Tina Wildberger  
Kihei Ice  
Maui

Joell Edwards  
Wainiha Country Market  
Kauai

Kim Coco Iwamoto  
AQuA Rentals, LLC  
Honolulu

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