February 21, 2023

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Thursday, February 23, 2023
10:00 am
Via Videoconference

RE: **SB504** Relating to Environmental Protection (**Strong Support**)

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga & Members of the Committee,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC) testifies in strong support of SB7504, which prohibits the manufacture, sale, offer for sale, distribution for sale, and distribution for use of any food packaging, food service ware, cosmetic, or personal care product that contains perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs).

As business owners who believe we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers, or the environment, we urge this committee to pass SB504 because it protects consumers and the environment from substances that cause harm and forces those who profit from the commerce of PFAs containing products to use safer alternatives to PFAs. (See example below.)

Those who oppose this measure willfully ignore the alternatives to PFAs currently available in the supply chain. They also give the false impression that businesses are not prepared to adapt to change. Change is the only constant for most businesses: technology, consumer awareness, supply chain, labor shortages, competition, price of real estate, utilities, raw materials – so many things constantly changing at the same time.

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

Table 1. Safer alternatives identified for specific food packaging applications.

Application	Safer alternatives	Total number identified
Bags and sleeves	Densified paper and wax-coated options	2
Bowls	Clay-coated, polylactic acid-coated, polylactic acid foam, and reusable options	4
Flat serviceware	Clay-coated, polylactic acid-coated, polylactic acid foam, and reusable options	4
Open-top containers	Clay-coated, densified paper, wax-coated, polylactic acid-coated, polylactic acid foam, aluminum, and reusable options	7
Closed containers	Clay-coated, polylactic acid-coated, polylactic acid foam, and aluminum options	4