

**SB-522**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:31:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB522 with amendments.

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Baker and Members of the Committees,

I want to thank the Senators who drafted, introduced and signed-onto this important bill. Thank you for putting the welfare of our planet above the discomfort of businesses, big and small. As someone who grew up working for a large family company and who runs my own business today, I have learned that businesses need to constantly keep up with changes in the market place.

And as consumers, we have all had to make changes to keep up with technology, culture and now climate. When the plastic bag ban first started, I always forgot my canvass bags in the car and I would have run back to get them - small kine humbug. But now, I know the drill.

Same goes for the changes outlined in SB 522: today, I carry my own container that I can refill at the water fountain, I carry my metal and bamboo straws, and I keep containers in my bag for left-overs when I dine out. But I also carry food scissors to cut my daughter's food and her special utensils that are just the right size for her. I also find myself buying bacon from the butcher who wraps it in paper, instead of the bacon that is pre-wrapped in plastic.

These are small behavioral modifications that I make as an individual 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 do not need 6 years to use up their current stock of single-use plastics, or find alternate vendors and solutions. **I urge this committee to amend the deadlines in the bill to reflect the urgency of the matter and ban all single-use plastics by July 1, 2021 - this will give business and consumers two years to get with the program.**