



TESTIMONY OF DANIEL NĀHO'OPI'I
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO, HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Thursday, February 8, 2024 9:30 a.m.
In consideration of
HB 2562
RELATING TO PLASTIC BOTTLES

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers the following comments on HB2562 for your consideration. HTA supports the intent of this measure to reduce the volume of plastic waste in our precious environment by prohibiting the sale of single-use plastic water bottles.

We agree with the intent of this legislation as it is in alignment with our Strategic Plan priorities, action items articulated in our community-led Destination Management Action Plans, and HTA's commitment to the Mālama Mandate.

As an example of putting this commitment into action, in a public-private partnership with the Surfrider Foundation's Maui Chapter called Rise Above Plastics On Vacation, HTA funded the provision of reusable water bottles to participating lodging establishments that provided water refill opportunities as a way to educate visitors and reduce the use of single-use water bottles. The participating lodging establishments also committed to informing guests both pre and post arrival of the program, ensuring the visitor's awareness that they need not purchase single-use water bottles upon landing or during their stay.

Additionally, we are aware of and would like to take this opportunity to recognize establishments working to eliminate the use of single-use plastic water bottles, including lodging establishments providing reusable water bottles for guest use during their stay, visitor industry businesses offering water in packages other than plastic bottles, and establishments that have added water bottle filling stations.

HTA stands ready to assist in educating visitor industry stakeholders and visitors should this measure be enacted, and we defer to our colleagues at the Department of Health on matters related to the implementation of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.