

Plastic testimony

Good afternoon council members, thank you for this opportunity to speak before you. My name is Alyssa Ching, a 7th grader at Lao school. I am presenting to you my testimony to support the **bill to restrict the use and sale of single use plastic disposable food-wear in Maui County**. I am twelve years old and I don't know about you, but I don't want to grow up in a world where our earth is **deteriorating**, and that is what this planet is progressing toward. The effects of single use plastics are very harmful to the environment. Single use plastics are plastics used only once, then thrown away and can not be recycled. Plastics don't biodegrade, they break down to even smaller plastics called Microplastics. When plastic particles break down, they receive new chemical properties. This increases the possibility that smaller organisms will also acquire the toxic effect from plastics. As I said, plastics don't biodegrade, because of this, the plastic is traveling through the life cycle. We live on an island where ^{people eat} fish are eaten every day. When the fish get poisoned by consuming the plastic, we get poisoned when we eat fish or other sea creatures that consume plastic.

It's not just the sea that's polluted! Our air, the soil, even possibly the water we drink and so much more are affected. I understand that plastic may be convenient; I have to admit, I would use single use plastics all the time before. So, I understand why companies use plastics, plastic was designed to last a long time and can be easy and convenient. But, everything adds up. Did you know that over 300 million tons of plastic is

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made per year. The thing is, half of that is single use plastics. This problem of single use plastics is really hurting our ecosystem. This problem affects not only us, it affects all humankind, the animals, the plants, everyone and everything in nature. I hope you put this into consideration when making your decision regarding this bill. Thank you for your time.