

## IEM Committee

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**From:** Jeff Stark <jstark@maui.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 7:08 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee; Elle Cochran; Michael Victorino  
**Subject:** Testimony -- Committee on Infrastructure and Environmental Management  
**Attachments:** resos1329&1333cochran72514 .doc

Aloha:

Attached is testimony on Items 13-29 and 13-33.

Aloha for now,  
Jeff Stark  
[www.ourenvironment.info](http://www.ourenvironment.info)  
[www.zerowastemaui.net](http://www.zerowastemaui.net)  
[www.bestofmaui.com](http://www.bestofmaui.com)  
808-283-8167  
[jstark@maui.net](mailto:jstark@maui.net)

# **ZERO WASTE CAMPAIGN MAUI**

**IF YOU'RE NOT FOR ZERO WASTE, HOW MUCH WASTE ARE YOU FOR?**

<http://www.zerowastemaui.net> ... (808) 283-8167 ... [info@zerowastemaui.net](mailto:info@zerowastemaui.net)

## TESTIMONY TO MAUI COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

July 28, 2014

Via email

Aloha Maui County Councilors:

I am writing on behalf of our Zero Waste Campaign Maui and Maui Recycling Group friends and supporters.

We support County Communication 13-29, POLYSTYRENE DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINERS and County Communication 13-33, PRINCIPLES OF ZERO WASTE AS A WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI.

We believe that both of these Resolutions will enable the continuing development of environmentally and economically positive solid waste resource management programs for our island community. We also support and endorse the testimony on these items submitted by our colleague, John Harder, of the County of Kauai and d Zero Waste Kauai.

For the last several months the Mauiana involved in Maui Recycling Group have been working to adopt the principles and practices of the zero waste movement. Our website, <http://www.zerowastemaui.net> has become a popular method of learning more and becoming involved. We encourage to explore our site.

Respectfully submitted:

JEFF STARK

## IEM Committee

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**From:** Jen Cox <mjencox@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 11:07 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** In Support of Polystyrene Ban, IEM-5

Aloha Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

I am writing to state my support to ban the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers.

As is widely known, polystyrene has several negative impacts on the environment, marine life, and human health. It takes up more of the increasingly valuable space left in our landfills, and for longer periods of time because it seemingly never breaks down. Polystyrene also more easily becomes litter because of its lightweight composition, which on the Valley Isle is a significant issue—the ever-present winds send lightweight litter straight onto our beaches and oceans, threatening the appearance of our environment, and the health of the sensitive marine life that we are blessed with in Hawai'i. Not to mention the concern for human health: when polystyrene comes into contact with hot foods and liquids, it can leach neurotoxins and supposed carcinogens into the foods we are about to consume.

Finding alternatives to polystyrene is a responsible mandate for Maui County businesses, one that many entities have already voluntarily taken on themselves because the environmental and health benefits of not using polystyrene significantly outweigh whatever economic burden exists.

As technology continues to develop more environmentally-friendly products to respond to our consumption practices, and as we humans learn what it really means to reduce, reuse, and recycle, let us welcome legislative changes like the proposed ban on polystyrene to lead us toward a more sustainable and resilient Maui Nui.

Mahalo for your time and attention,

Jen Cox

Makawao, HI

[mjencox@gmail.com](mailto:mjencox@gmail.com)

## IEM Committee

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**From:** shannon tilston <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 8:44 PM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** 5 new petition signatures: jenna dambrell, Lendy Leslie...

5 new people recently signed Pacific Whale Foundation's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers](#)" on Change.org.

There are now 55 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Pacific Whale Foundation by clicking here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

Please support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers. Polystyrene is a serious threat to both the environment as well as public health. Commonly used in cheap food ware (plates, cups, 'clamshells', etc), polystyrene does not biodegrade and is responsible for leaching carcinogenic chemicals into food and the surrounding environment. Polystyrene has long been known to be detrimental to the environment, and is often spotted as unwelcome litter both on land and in water, due to its lightweight nature and disposability. In fact, McDonald's stopped using polystyrene containers for their hamburgers as far back as 1990. More and more cities across the country are banning the material, including Miami Beach, which just passed a ban on all Styrofoam products on July 24th. Made from petroleum, polystyrene products are never fully biodegraded and are made from a nonrenewable, rapidly disappearing resource. Their manufacture consumes much energy, and it is difficult to recycle the material. When polystyrene products make it to the ocean, they become harmful marine debris that is dangerous to ocean animals. Polystyrene products are not only dangerous for marine life; they pose a health risk to humans as well. In 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services listed styrene as a substance "reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen". Polystyrene food containers, often received with take-out orders or hot beverages, can leach this toxin when in contact with hot foods or liquids. Compostable products are an economically viable and eco-friendly alternative to polystyrene. These products are non-toxic, plant-based and carried by every distributor in Hawai'i. Bills such as a ban on polystyrene food containers are important in reducing our dependency on single use plastics, while also improving environmental and public health.

Sincerely,

54. jenna dambrell Edgewater, Florida  
52. Lendy Leslie Kihei, Hawaii  
51. Catherine Woodley Dundas, On, Canada  
50. Miriam Ramírez Wagner Guatemala, Guatemala,  
49. Cindy Dumas Westminster, California



## IEM Committee

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**From:** Jennifer Meyers <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 7:16 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

I just signed Pacific Whale Foundation's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers](http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers)" on Change.org.

Please support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers. Polystyrene is a serious threat to both the environment as well as public health. Commonly used in cheap food ware (plates, cups, 'clamshells', etc), polystyrene does not biodegrade and is responsible for leaching carcinogenic chemicals into food and the surrounding environment. Polystyrene has long been known to be detrimental to the environment, and is often spotted as unwelcome litter both on land and in water, due to its lightweight nature and disposability. In fact, McDonald's stopped using polystyrene containers for their hamburgers as far back as 1990. More and more cities across the country are banning the material, including Miami Beach, which just passed a ban on all Styrofoam products on July 24th. Made from petroleum, polystyrene products are never fully biodegraded and are made from a nonrenewable, rapidly disappearing resource. Their manufacture consumes much energy, and it is difficult to recycle the material. When polystyrene products make it to the ocean, they become harmful marine debris that is dangerous to ocean animals. Polystyrene products are not only dangerous for marine life; they pose a health risk to humans as well. In 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services listed styrene as a substance "reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen". Polystyrene food containers, often received with take-out orders or hot beverages, can leach this toxin when in contact with hot foods or liquids. Compostable products are an economically viable and eco-friendly alternative to polystyrene. These products are non-toxic, plant-based and carried by every distributor in Hawai'i. Bills such as a ban on polystyrene food containers are important in reducing our dependency on single use plastics, while also improving environmental and public health.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Meyers Kihei, Hawaii

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There are now 34 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Pacific Whale Foundation by clicking here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>



## IEM Committee

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**From:** Joel Goldfarb <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 9:48 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on polystyrene food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

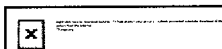
I just signed Surfrider Foundation: Maui Chapter's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on polystyrene food service containers](#)" on Change.org.

Please support a ban on polystyrene food service containers. Polystyrene foam products are bad for human health and the environment: \* Polystyrene does not biodegrade, but instead breaks down into micro-plastics that are often consumed by seabirds and other marine animals; \* Polystyrene products are more than 90% air, causing them to break apart easily and litter waterways or blow out to sea; \* Polystyrene products are made from styrene, a known carcinogen and neurotoxin that leaches into hot, greasy food; \* According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 100% of Americans have styrene in their bodies. \* Polystyrene foam products are the most toxic and least recycled (less than 1%) type of plastic; \* The resources and energy to make 1 polystyrene container could make 3 compostable containers; Compostable products are an economical and eco-friendly alternative to polystyrene. They are non-toxic, plant-based and carried by every distributor in Hawai'i. To date, there are have been no documented cases of restaurants or food providers going out of business because of these bans. Maui County's environment and community would greatly benefit from a ban on polystyrene food containers. Thank you for supporting this important initiative!

Sincerely,  
Joel Goldfarb Kihei, Hawaii

There are now 48 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Surfrider Foundation: Maui Chapter by clicking here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-polystyrene-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>



548 Market St #29993 · San Francisco, CA 94104-5401 · USA

[Contact us](#) · [Privacy policy](#)



## **IEM Committee**

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**From:** jns\_dejesus@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 11:17 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Polystyrene Ban

Good Morning,

Thanks you for this opportunity to express my total support of the Polystyrene Ban.

Let us keep this momentum moving forward.

Thank you for keeping Maui No Ka Oi!!!

John P. de Jesus  
Makawao

Sent from my HTC One on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network

## IEM Committee

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**From:** John Naylor <jdancer@kula.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 11:26 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** IEM 5

Aloha All,

I am writing in support on the ban on styrofoam containers. Alternative options exist! The ban will encourage there use while helping our Kai and aina and the taxpayer!

Mahalo,

Voter

John Naylor

PO Box 1749

Makawao, HI. 96768



## IEM Committee

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**From:** Judy Levy <judylotusheart@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 3:24 PM  
**To:** IEM Committee

Dear County Council

As a concerned citizen I implore you all to consider banning the use of Styrofoam on our island, just like we did plastic bags. As a retailer I receive some of my fragile items packaged in Styrofoam but I take them to Maui Pack and Ship where they are reused wisely. As island dwellers it is incumbent upon us to be fully conscious of any and all waste. WE MUST RECYCLE EVERYTHING and reduce our use. Please think progressively on this important topic. It may cause restaurants a few pennies more to use only biodegradable "to-go" packing but we must invest in our future, our landfill and our precious ocean. Thank you for your wisdom and firm action!

Mahalo for all your good work!  
Judy

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*Judy Levy*  
*Awakening in Paradise ~*  
*Books, Crystals, Metaphysical Gifts & Gallery*  
*1215 S. Kihei Rd (in Long's Center)*  
*[www.AwakeninginParadiseMaui.com](http://www.AwakeninginParadiseMaui.com)*  
*(808)-891-1114 store*  
*(808)- 269-7762 cell*  
*Celebrating Life.... Creating Precious Moments*

## IEM Committee

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**From:** Julian Kenning <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 11:28 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

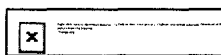
I just signed Pacific Whale Foundation's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers](#)" on Change.org.

Please support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers. Polystyrene is a serious threat to both the environment as well as public health. Commonly used in cheap food ware (plates, cups, 'clamshells', etc), polystyrene does not biodegrade and is responsible for leaching carcinogenic chemicals into food and the surrounding environment. Polystyrene has long been known to be detrimental to the environment, and is often spotted as unwelcome litter both on land and in water, due to its lightweight nature and disposability. In fact, McDonald's stopped using polystyrene containers for their hamburgers as far back as 1990. More and more cities across the country are banning the material, including Miami Beach, which just passed a ban on all Styrofoam products on July 24th. Made from petroleum, polystyrene products are never fully biodegraded and are made from a nonrenewable, rapidly disappearing resource. Their manufacture consumes much energy, and it is difficult to recycle the material. When polystyrene products make it to the ocean, they become harmful marine debris that is dangerous to ocean animals. Polystyrene products are not only dangerous for marine life; they pose a health risk to humans as well. In 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services listed styrene as a substance "reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen". Polystyrene food containers, often received with take-out orders or hot beverages, can leach this toxin when in contact with hot foods or liquids. Compostable products are an economically viable and eco-friendly alternative to polystyrene. These products are non-toxic, plant-based and carried by every distributor in Hawai'i. Bills such as a ban on polystyrene food containers are important in reducing our dependency on single use plastics, while also improving environmental and public health.

Sincerely,  
Julian Kenning Copenhagen K, Denmark

There are now 46 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Pacific Whale Foundation by clicking here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>



## **IEM Committee**

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**From:** Kilia Purdy-Avelino <kpurdyavelino@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 12:24 PM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** IEM-5

Aloha,

I support the ban of styrofoam containers in Maui County. I think it should be a Statewide effort and I applaud Maui County (especially County Council Elle Cochran and Mike Victorino) for taking the lead for a healthier and safer environment and not to mention a healthier people!

Mahalo,  
Justin & Kilia Purdy-Avelino  
PO Box 117  
Kualapuu, HI 96757

## **IEM Committee**

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**From:** Kaila, Kaila Nelson-Floto, Nelson-Floto <kailakani@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 12:01 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** IEM-5

Re: IEM-5 - in support of the bill for an ordinance to regulate use of styrofoam containers

As a resident of Maui County for the past 28 years I am deeply concerned about the preservation of our unique and precious environment. The use of styrofoam containers poses a serious threat to our birds and marine life which have already been negatively affected by environmental toxins. Non-biodegradable styrofoam containers are piling up in our landfills which are already overtaxed. I urge you, members of the county council, to help protect our environment by supporting this bill.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Kaila Nelson-Floto

## IEM Committee

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**From:** Karen Comcowich <eggearthgoddessgifts@live.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 1:02 PM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** 5 POLYSTYRENE DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINERS

Aloha,

I am writing in regards to the proposed ban on polystyrene disposable food service containers. Having participated in a number of beach and town cleanups I have seen the impact polystyrene has on the environment. In a mound of litter these containers will still be intact after months in the sun. One major problem with this is they are often used at parties on the beach, where both the wind and careless behavior cause them to become litter entering our ocean. This can be toxic to marine life. I could understand if there were no alternative but there are high quality paper plates and containers on the market now, available at a reasonable price from Costco.

Regarding the impact on businesses, I think the switch to biodegradable containers would actually have a positive impact on businesses that offer to go food. I would get to go food more often from places like Bale or Nagasaki if they had environmentally containers, but as an earth conscious customer I avoid these delicious places, and I know I am not the only one.

Mahalo for your time,  
Karen J. Comcowich

## IEM Committee

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**From:** Krista Ferguson <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 8:09 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

I just signed Pacific Whale Foundation's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers](http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers)" on Change.org.

Please support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers. Polystyrene is a serious threat to both the environment as well as public health. Commonly used in cheap food ware (plates, cups, 'clamshells', etc), polystyrene does not biodegrade and is responsible for leaching carcinogenic chemicals into food and the surrounding environment. Polystyrene has long been known to be detrimental to the environment, and is often spotted as unwelcome litter both on land and in water, due to its lightweight nature and disposability. In fact, McDonald's stopped using polystyrene containers for their hamburgers as far back as 1990. More and more cities across the country are banning the material, including Miami Beach, which just passed a ban on all Styrofoam products on July 24th. Made from petroleum, polystyrene products are never fully biodegraded and are made from a nonrenewable, rapidly disappearing resource. Their manufacture consumes much energy, and it is difficult to recycle the material. When polystyrene products make it to the ocean, they become harmful marine debris that is dangerous to ocean animals. Polystyrene products are not only dangerous for marine life; they pose a health risk to humans as well. In 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services listed styrene as a substance "reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen". Polystyrene food containers, often received with take-out orders or hot beverages, can leach this toxin when in contact with hot foods or liquids. Compostable products are an economically viable and eco-friendly alternative to polystyrene. These products are non-toxic, plant-based and carried by every distributor in Hawai'i. Bills such as a ban on polystyrene food containers are important in reducing our dependency on single use plastics, while also improving environmental and public health.

Sincerely,  
Krista Ferguson Ventura, California

There are now 35 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Pacific Whale Foundation by clicking here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>



## **IEM Committee**

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**From:** Lucrezia Oddie <lucreziacreation@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 10:07 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Styrofoam

To Whom It May Concern:

I am absolutely in favor of banning the use of styrofoam containers. There is no acceptable reason to allow use of material that is wasted in the landfills after only one use. Help this positive change that is now presented to be actualized! It's been a long time coming!

Thank You.

Lucrezia Oddie  
700 East Kuiaha Rd  
Haiku, HI  
96708

## IEM Committee

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**From:** marek nagpal <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 12:04 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on polystyrene food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

I just signed Surfrider Foundation: Maui Chapter's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on polystyrene food service containers](#)" on Change.org.

Please support a ban on polystyrene food service containers. Polystyrene foam products are bad for human health and the environment: \* Polystyrene does not biodegrade, but instead breaks down into micro-plastics that are often consumed by seabirds and other marine animals; \* Polystyrene products are more than 90% air, causing them to break apart easily and litter waterways or blow out to sea; \* Polystyrene products are made from styrene, a known carcinogen and neurotoxin that leaches into hot, greasy food; \* According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 100% of Americans have styrene in their bodies. \* Polystyrene foam products are the most toxic and least recycled (less than 1%) type of plastic; \* The resources and energy to make 1 polystyrene container could make 3 compostable containers; Compostable products are an economical and eco-friendly alternative to polystyrene. They are non-toxic, plant-based and carried by every distributor in Hawai'i. To date, there have been no documented cases of restaurants or food providers going out of business because of these bans. Maui County's environment and community would greatly benefit from a ban on polystyrene food containers. Thank you for supporting this important initiative!

Sincerely,  
marek nagpal Kihei, Hawaii

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There are now 42 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Surfrider Foundation: Maui Chapter by clicking here:  
<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-polystyrene-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>





## IEM Committee

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**From:** Maria Zimmermann <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 11:44 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

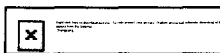
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Sincerely,  
Maria Zimmermann , Germany

There are now 47 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Pacific Whale Foundation by clicking here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>



## IEM Committee

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**From:** Mark Shaw <mpshaw10@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 12:41 PM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** IEM-5 POLYSTYRENE DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINERS

I support the passage of the bill to ban IEM-5 Polystyrene Disposable Food Service Containers. They will never break down in our landfills, are an eyesore on our land, and use our precious non renewable petroleum resources. There are many acceptable alternatives to use which are disposable and biodegradable. Thank you for your consideration.

Mark A. Shaw  
7 Heona Pl.  
Kihei, HI 96753  
419-6889

## IEM Committee

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**From:** Michael Reed Gach <mrgach@att.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 2:35 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** SUPPORT a BAN ON POLYSTYRENE FOOD CONTAINERS

Maui Council Members -

**I am writing to give you my formal testimony in writing in support of a ban on Polystyrene food containers.** Banning this lethal material is the right thing for the council to do. As you know, when ingested, polystyrene may become lethal to our marine animals and birds. It is not biodegradable and can exist in our landfills for hundreds of years. These widely recognized environmental impacts show good cause for consideration of a countywide ban as a measure to protect and preserve our natural resources.

I believe this ban is the right thing to do for Maui.  
Thus I urge you to vote for the ban.

- Michael Reed Gach, Ph.D.  
- Barbara Terrill Gach

2198 Auina Place  
Kihei, HI 96753

## IEM Committee

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**From:** Miriam Ramírez Wagner <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 2:11 PM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

I just signed Pacific Whale Foundation's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers](http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8)" on Change.org.

Please support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers. Polystyrene is a serious threat to both the environment as well as public health. Commonly used in cheap food ware (plates, cups, 'clamshells', etc), polystyrene does not biodegrade and is responsible for leaching carcinogenic chemicals into food and the surrounding environment. Polystyrene has long been known to be detrimental to the environment, and is often spotted as unwelcome litter both on land and in water, due to its lightweight nature and disposability. In fact, McDonald's stopped using polystyrene containers for their hamburgers as far back as 1990. More and more cities across the country are banning the material, including Miami Beach, which just passed a ban on all Styrofoam products on July 24th. Made from petroleum, polystyrene products are never fully biodegraded and are made from a nonrenewable, rapidly disappearing resource. Their manufacture consumes much energy, and it is difficult to recycle the material. When polystyrene products make it to the ocean, they become harmful marine debris that is dangerous to ocean animals. Polystyrene products are not only dangerous for marine life; they pose a health risk to humans as well. In 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services listed styrene as a substance "reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen". Polystyrene food containers, often received with take-out orders or hot beverages, can leach this toxin when in contact with hot foods or liquids. Compostable products are an economically viable and eco-friendly alternative to polystyrene. These products are non-toxic, plant-based and carried by every distributor in Hawai'i. Bills such as a ban on polystyrene food containers are important in reducing our dependency on single use plastics, while also improving environmental and public health.

Sincerely,  
Miriam Ramírez Wagner Guatemala, Guatemala,

There are now 50 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Pacific Whale Foundation by clicking here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>



548 Market St #29993 · San Francisco, CA 94104-5401 · USA

## IEM Committee

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**From:** Nani Kahinu <kuuleinanz@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 12:43 PM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** In support of the bill to ban styrofoam products

Hi  
I am emailing in support of the ban on polystyrene. I believe this ban will reduce the amount of rubbish in our landfill. I also hope to see a compostable site soon Molokai to help with composting biodegradable products.

Nani Kahinu  
♥iCandie Crew♥  
808-336-0387



TESTIMONY REGARDING ITEM IEM-5 –  
A BILL TO BAN THE USE AND SALE OF  
POLYSTYRENE DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINERS

Aloha Chair Cochran, Vice-Chair Crivello & Members of the  
Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to once again provide testimony on this bill which Councilmember  
Michael Victorino introduced back in 2009.

When first introduced, the bill was put forth without a real understanding on the impact on  
businesses and I have yet to hear that such a survey has occurred. Therefore, since the council  
is bringing the matter back, we are eager to learn what research has been done by the County  
since 2009 to explore this issue and the impacts of such a bill on businesses, the environment,  
the public and food safety. We would also like to hear what alternatives Council Members  
recommend to replace the tools currently in use.

We feel there is the potential for numerous unintended impacts in the currently bill, including:

- Composting issues. Currently, the definition of compostable stands as a service  
container that is able to undergo biological decomposition in an appropriate composting  
program or facility . Unfortunately, we have no such facility where products could break  
down in a timely manner. Neither compostable or polystyrene products will biodegrade  
in modern landfills. Without an investment in commercial composting facilities, it is not  
beneficial to switch to "biodegradable" composting alternatives because these  
alternatives will have nowhere to compost. The County should look to address this  
issue before creating such a ban.
- Many bio-degradable options are produced in China and shipping costs should be  
considered. We have economically viable product produced here, providing hundreds of  
jobs to our community. Study conducted by MB Public Affairs on behalf of American  
Chemistry Council found that replacing polystyrene food containers with lowest-costing  
replacement containers would cost approximately \$91.3 million a year, this is an

JUL 28 2014

RECEIVED AT JEM

increase of 94% and would have a huge negative impact on businesses that are already paying for the plastic bag ban.

- Less safe food (because it may not maintain heat). According to a study done by the Foodservice Packaging Institute and the Nevada Health Department, single use foodservice items had significantly lower microbial levels when compared to similar reusable foodservice items. Also, foamed polystyrene's excellent insulation characteristics keep foods at their optimum temperature longer, whether it is cold or hot, thereby reducing food spoilage.
- Biodegradable alternatives require more nitrogen fertilizer, more herbicides, and more insecticides. This contributes to soil erosion and water pollution when nitrogen runs off fields, streams and rivers. The point is there are environmental trade-offs associated with the use of any packaging material that should be well understood before mandating a particular solution.
- The Harvard Center for Risk Analysis conducted a review on potential health risks associated with exposure to styrene ("A Comprehensive Evaluation of the Potential Health Risks Associated with Occupational and Environmental Exposure to Styrene") . Scientists concluded that there is no cause for concern from exposure to styrene from food or from polystyrene used in packaging and foodservice containers.
- The ideal that this bill would promote environmental awareness and support responsible waste management, while true to some extent, is a real stretch in terms of justifying this bill. There are many other ways to promote environmental awareness and support responsible waste management. Litter is not caused by polystyrene. Litter is caused by a lack of initiative to do the right thing and unmanaged and overflowing trashcans. We need to focus on the real problems and identify the best possible solutions. A public education campaign might solve this issue without the need for this bill.

We support the tripple bottom-line view of sustainability – economy, environment and social well being – and ask that the Council do the same. We therefore urge that more research be done in committee before moving this bill forward and oppose this bill as written in the absence of research on the impacts in these three areas.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

## IEM Committee

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**From:** Paul Solomon <psolomonlcs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 2:42 PM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** IEM-5 POLYSTYRENE DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINERS

Aloha,

I am in favor IEM-5, which will prohibit food establishments and vendors from using or selling polystyrene food containers since these containers are not biodegradable and are a threat to our marine life.

Mahalo,  
Paul Solomon  
82 Uakoko Place, Haiku, HI 96708  
808-633-3009



## IEM Committee

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**From:** Paula Westphal <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 6:46 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on polystyrene food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

I just signed Surfrider Foundation: Maui Chapter's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on polystyrene food service containers](#)" on Change.org.

Please support a ban on polystyrene food service containers. Polystyrene foam products are bad for human health and the environment: \* Polystyrene does not biodegrade, but instead breaks down into micro-plastics that are often consumed by seabirds and other marine animals; \* Polystyrene products are more than 90% air, causing them to break apart easily and litter waterways or blow out to sea; \* Polystyrene products are made from styrene, a known carcinogen and neurotoxin that leaches into hot, greasy food; \* According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 100% of Americans have styrene in their bodies. \* Polystyrene foam products are the most toxic and least recycled (less than 1%) type of plastic; \* The resources and energy to make 1 polystyrene container could make 3 compostable containers; Compostable products are an economical and eco-friendly alternative to polystyrene. They are non-toxic, plant-based and carried by every distributor in Hawai'i. To date, there have been no documented cases of restaurants or food providers going out of business because of these bans. Maui County's environment and community would greatly benefit from a ban on polystyrene food containers. Thank you for supporting this important initiative!

Sincerely,  
Paula Westphal Kihei, Hawaii

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There are now 45 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Surfrider Foundation: Maui Chapter by clicking here:  
<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-polystyrene-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>



## IEM Committee

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**From:** Rachel Sanders <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 7:39 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on polystyrene food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

I just signed Surfrider Foundation: Maui Chapter's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on polystyrene food service containers](#)" on Change.org.

Please support a ban on polystyrene food service containers. Polystyrene foam products are bad for human health and the environment: \* Polystyrene does not biodegrade, but instead breaks down into micro-plastics that are often consumed by seabirds and other marine animals; \* Polystyrene products are more than 90% air, causing them to break apart easily and litter waterways or blow out to sea; \* Polystyrene products are made from styrene, a known carcinogen and neurotoxin that leaches into hot, greasy food; \* According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 100% of Americans have styrene in their bodies. \* Polystyrene foam products are the most toxic and least recycled (less than 1%) type of plastic; \* The resources and energy to make 1 polystyrene container could make 3 compostable containers; Compostable products are an economical and eco-friendly alternative to polystyrene. They are non-toxic, plant-based and carried by every distributor in Hawai'i. To date, there have been no documented cases of restaurants or food providers going out of business because of these bans. Maui County's environment and community would greatly benefit from a ban on polystyrene food containers. Thank you for supporting this important initiative!

Sincerely,  
Rachel Sanders Staten Island, New York

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There are now 46 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Surfrider Foundation: Maui Chapter by clicking here:  
<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-polystyrene-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>



<http://legacyprojectshawaii.com/2008/2008-05-01.php>

## Drastic Plastic

**Local company wants to move beyond Styrofoam and plastics.**

by Rob Parsons

May 01, 2008



Earth-unfriendly packaging

Styrofoam bento box take-out containers are as familiar to locals as surfing. Whether packed with noodles, sushi or loco moco, the Styrofoam bento is a local institution for the convenience of a grab-and-go meal. But one upstart local company wants to change all that.

Honolulu-based Styrophobia opened in January 2007, supplying biodegradable food service products. Beyond the catchy name and dazzling website, it's apparent that they're determined to make waves in Hawai'i and beyond as a green business advocating for sustainable local solutions to environmental problems.

Entrepreneurs Krista Ruchaber and Mike Elhoff, tired of seeing plastic containers and drink cups on beaches and around Oahu, created a company dedicated to earth-friendly packaging. They feature products made from cornstarch "bioplastics"-cutlery made of potato starch and plate lunch containers made of bagasse (sugar cane fiber). Unlike plastics, which may take eons to break down, these materials compost in just 30 to 180 days.

But more than providing a "green" renewable alternative to plastics and polystyrene-which are manufactured from petrochemicals-Styrophobia wants to educate the Hawai'i community. They want consumers to know about the toxicity of styrene and benzene, both contained in certain plastics, and ultimately help people make informed choices about what they purchase and consume.

RECEIVED AT IEM MEETING ON 7/28/14  
Rob Parsons



To that end, Styrophobia has engaged in community outreach through schools, community events, beach cleanups, their website ([www.styrophobia.com](http://www.styrophobia.com)) and by talking with legislators. They recently provided biodegradable materials for Oahu's Kokua Festival-the annual highlight of Jack Johnson's Kokua Foundation, a non-profit organization focusing on environmental education-making it a "zero-waste" event.

In short, they are "doing a lot of extra-curricular things, and being philanthropic with our time," according to Ari Patz of Styrophobia. I recently spoke with Patz while he was on Maui:

MAUI TIME WEEKLY: What can you tell me about Styrophobia's mission, and what you hope to accomplish?

ARI PATZ: It's about Aloha `Aina, or love of the land. We want to help spread social awareness, really a better way of living. No other companies selling similar products in Hawai`i are doing this kind of community outreach. It's not easy for a young company, but we believe in what we're doing.

MAUI TIME WEEKLY: You've also been involved in supporting legislation that would ban Styrofoam.

ARI PATZ: It's already happened in San Francisco and Portland, but has met with resistance here. But Styrofoam is not made from a renewable source, and leaches the chemicals it contains. Though the ban on Styrofoam didn't go through this year, they [the state Legislature] did adopt a resolution. If that leads to PSAs [Public Service Announcements], that would be sexy.

MAUI TIME WEEKLY: Where are your biodegradable products made?

ARI PATZ: We are using materials made in Indonesia, Taiwan and China. Ideally, we'd like to produce these products locally. We're interested in talking further with [sugar cane companies] Gay & Robinson and Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar to see about using their bagasse for local manufacturing. Sugar is also grown in the U.S. in Florida and Louisiana, but they aren't producing these products yet, either.

MAUI TIME WEEKLY: Are your products well received on Maui?

ARI PATZ: Our biggest customer is Pacific Whale Foundation. We just got a great response when we talked to Maui Community College [MCC]'s Culinary Department. Hopefully, we'll continue to find more interest and growth on Maui.

MAUI TIME WEEKLY: Part of your goal is to avoid throwaways, as we know that all the islands have landfill issues. How are you approaching this issue?

ARI PATZ: We would like to see composting make its way into the schools, at University of Hawai`i, Kauai Community College and MCC. It can also be linked with vermiculture, or worm composting. We've had a pilot-composting program with Hawaiian Earth Products [makers of Menehune Magic compost], but the Department of Health shut us down, mainly because there's



food [residue] involved. But these issues have been tackled all over the world in Seattle, Europe and other places.

MAUI TIME WEEKLY: You're aware that Maui has tried to implement a limited ban on plastic bags, and that there is a public awareness campaign in Paia called the "No Mo' Plastic Bag Paia Project?"

ARI PATZ: Yes. That's great. Haleiwa is doing something similar and Kailua is just getting started. Also Kauai. There's really a growing awareness and we want to do our part with all of that.

Polystyrene is one of numerous petrochemical plastics derived from petroleum, a non-renewable resource. Styrofoam is actually a brand name for a Dow Chemical polystyrene product patented in 1941, and has entered our vocabulary the way Kleenex and Xerox have done, as a generic term for the product or process.

In one form, polystyrene may be rigid, such as CD "jewel" cases and plastic cutlery. Foam "expanded" polystyrene, produced to trap up to 95 percent air within, was designed to provide insulation from heat and moisture, rendering it especially useful for food and beverage containers. Produce, fish, meats and prepared foods may all be commonly packaged in polystyrene foam trays, baskets, or containers, which then are dropped in the trash, destined for our landfills.

Maui County's proposed 2009 budget contains a \$12 million request from the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Environmental Management, to implement Phase V of the Central Maui Landfill. It seems that Phase IV-B is filling up far more quickly than was projected.

Perhaps as much as 35 percent of items thrown away could be composted or recycled, especially if our county government invested in regional green waste drop-off/composting sites. One such pilot program has been operating in Central Kihei, operated by Maui Earth Compost. But county funds provided through a recycling grant are due to run out on May 31.

Meanwhile, Solid Waste Division is spending more than \$150,000 each year to clean windblown debris at the landfill, much of it through contracts with Ka Lima O Maui. Maui's strong tradewinds regularly take plastic bags airborne and deposit them in nearby kiawe trees and cane fields.

You can also find plastic and Styrofoam on roadsides, in county parks and in the filters at wastewater treatment facilities.

Councilmember Michael Molina introduced draft legislation in June 2007 that would include a partial ban on plastic bags from large retail and commercial outlets throughout Maui County. After languishing in the council's Policy Committee for seven months without a hearing, it was moved to the Public Works and Facilities Committee.

Council members heard testimony in one meeting already this year, and invited a panel discussion in a second meeting in February. It's likely the proposal may come up for deliberation and possible action in June, according to Gary Saldana, Councilman Mike Molina's staff aide.

Had a bill at the state Legislature survived this year's session, Maui County wouldn't have had the ability to legally limit proliferation of plastic bags.

Senate Bill 651, draft legislation supported (some say introduced) by the plastics industry, would have effectively banned counties from imposing bans of this sort. Fortunately, it failed to pass out of committee last Friday and died.

Plastics have been vilified for years because of their harmful role in marine debris. Floating bits of plastic, large and small, fill our oceans and wash up on our shores. The North Pacific Gyre is a large area created by prevailing winds and currents, one of five large ocean gyres worldwide. Because of all the plastic flotsam and other debris, it's been nicknamed the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

Ranging over 500 miles in length, and studied since the mid 1980's, the gyre is estimated to hold 100 million tons of trash. Ocean researchers believe that 80 percent of the debris is land-based, while 20 percent comes from ships at sea.

Bits of plastic resemble ocean zooplanktons and are ingested by jellyfish, which are, in turn, consumed by sea turtles. Sea birds also scoop up colorful bits of plastic. Autopsies on birds in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands reveal that shearwaters, albatrosses and boobies sometimes have hundreds of pieces of plastic in their gullets, eventually leading to their death.

A certain amount of "gloom and doom" may be necessary to help motivate people to change their ways, "but it sells the least amount of plates," says Patz.

"Our every action impacts the whole of interconnected life on Earth," the Styrophobia website says in a section attributed to WorldCentric.org. "Our every day decisions of what we do, what we consume, where we buy, how we choose to live, what values we hold and promote creates the world and the communities we live in? Another world is possible and it is up to us to make it happen!"

Here in Hawai`i, we can choose to make that happen one bento box at a time.



## IEM Committee

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**From:** Ryan Coons <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 4:34 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on polystyrene food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

I just signed Surfrider Foundation: Maui Chapter's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on polystyrene food service containers](#)" on Change.org.

Please support a ban on polystyrene food service containers. Polystyrene foam products are bad for human health and the environment: \* Polystyrene does not biodegrade, but instead breaks down into micro-plastics that are often consumed by seabirds and other marine animals; \* Polystyrene products are more than 90% air, causing them to break apart easily and litter waterways or blow out to sea; \* Polystyrene products are made from styrene, a known carcinogen and neurotoxin that leaches into hot, greasy food; \* According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 100% of Americans have styrene in their bodies. \* Polystyrene foam products are the most toxic and least recycled (less than 1%) type of plastic; \* The resources and energy to make 1 polystyrene container could make 3 compostable containers; Compostable products are an economical and eco-friendly alternative to polystyrene. They are non-toxic, plant-based and carried by every distributor in Hawai'i. To date, there have been no documented cases of restaurants or food providers going out of business because of these bans. Maui County's environment and community would greatly benefit from a ban on polystyrene food containers. Thank you for supporting this important initiative!

Sincerely,  
Ryan Coons San Diego, California

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There are now 44 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Surfrider Foundation: Maui Chapter by clicking here:  
<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-polystyrene-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>



## IEM Committee

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**From:** sarah Khalil <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 10:46 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

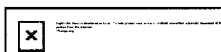
I just signed Pacific Whale Foundation's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers](#)" on Change.org.

Please support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers. Polystyrene is a serious threat to both the environment as well as public health. Commonly used in cheap food ware (plates, cups, 'clamshells', etc), polystyrene does not biodegrade and is responsible for leaching carcinogenic chemicals into food and the surrounding environment. Polystyrene has long been known to be detrimental to the environment, and is often spotted as unwelcome litter both on land and in water, due to its lightweight nature and disposability. In fact, McDonald's stopped using polystyrene containers for their hamburgers as far back as 1990. More and more cities across the country are banning the material, including Miami Beach, which just passed a ban on all Styrofoam products on July 24th. Made from petroleum, polystyrene products are never fully biodegraded and are made from a nonrenewable, rapidly disappearing resource. Their manufacture consumes much energy, and it is difficult to recycle the material. When polystyrene products make it to the ocean, they become harmful marine debris that is dangerous to ocean animals. Polystyrene products are not only dangerous for marine life; they pose a health risk to humans as well. In 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services listed styrene as a substance "reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen". Polystyrene food containers, often received with take-out orders or hot beverages, can leach this toxin when in contact with hot foods or liquids. Compostable products are an economically viable and eco-friendly alternative to polystyrene. These products are non-toxic, plant-based and carried by every distributor in Hawai'i. Bills such as a ban on polystyrene food containers are important in reducing our dependency on single use plastics, while also improving environmental and public health.

Sincerely,  
sarah Khalil , Italy

There are now 45 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Pacific Whale Foundation by clicking here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>





## IEM Committee

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**From:** Sondra Reinert <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 8:32 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

I just signed Pacific Whale Foundation's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers](http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers)" on Change.org.

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Sincerely,  
Sondra Reinert Littleton, Colorado

There are now 37 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Pacific Whale Foundation by clicking here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>



## IEM Committee

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**From:** Susan Rouse <mail@changemail.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 8:22 AM  
**To:** IEM Committee  
**Subject:** Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers

Dear Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

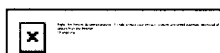
I just signed Pacific Whale Foundation's petition "[Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee: Support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers](http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers)" on Change.org.

Please support a ban on the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers. Polystyrene is a serious threat to both the environment as well as public health. Commonly used in cheap food ware (plates, cups, 'clamshells', etc), polystyrene does not biodegrade and is responsible for leaching carcinogenic chemicals into food and the surrounding environment. Polystyrene has long been known to be detrimental to the environment, and is often spotted as unwelcome litter both on land and in water, due to its lightweight nature and disposability. In fact, McDonald's stopped using polystyrene containers for their hamburgers as far back as 1990. More and more cities across the country are banning the material, including Miami Beach, which just passed a ban on all Styrofoam products on July 24th. Made from petroleum, polystyrene products are never fully biodegraded and are made from a nonrenewable, rapidly disappearing resource. Their manufacture consumes much energy, and it is difficult to recycle the material. When polystyrene products make it to the ocean, they become harmful marine debris that is dangerous to ocean animals. Polystyrene products are not only dangerous for marine life; they pose a health risk to humans as well. In 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services listed styrene as a substance "reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen". Polystyrene food containers, often received with take-out orders or hot beverages, can leach this toxin when in contact with hot foods or liquids. Compostable products are an economically viable and eco-friendly alternative to polystyrene. These products are non-toxic, plant-based and carried by every distributor in Hawai'i. Bills such as a ban on polystyrene food containers are important in reducing our dependency on single use plastics, while also improving environmental and public health.

Sincerely,  
Susan Rouse Oroville, California

There are now 36 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Pacific Whale Foundation by clicking here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/infrastructure-and-environmental-management-committee-support-a-ban-on-the-use-and-sale-of-polystyrene-disposable-food-service-containers/responses/new?response=8d4ea5a741d8>



# Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

P.O. Box 25284 · Honolulu · Hawai'i · 96825

(808) 393 2168 · [www.b-e-a-c-h.org](http://www.b-e-a-c-h.org)

DATE: 28th July, 2014.

TO: Chair Elle Cochran and Members of the Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee, Council of the County of Maui

FROM: Suzanne Frazer, Co-Founder, Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF IEM 5**  
Pertaining to polystyrene disposable food service containers.  
Committee meeting on Monday 28th July, 2014 at 1:30PM.

Aloha Chair Cochran and Members of the Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i (B.E.A.C.H.) in support of IEM5 which will ban all disposable polystyrene food and drink containers including plates, cups, bowls, trays and hinged or lidded containers from being used to serve or transport prepared food and beverages from restaurants and take-out food operations. The bill requires an update as the effective date has already passed. Also other suggestions for improvements include wording that makes it clear that the bill covers drink containers as well as food containers ie. "food and drink service containers" and in 20.26.040 Part C it would be better to prohibit all sales of polystyrene disposable food and drink service containers in the County of Maui by all businesses (not just food vendors and not just retail sales).

It is very good that this bill covers not just polystyrene foam but all polystyrene food and drink containers and that it addresses also the sale of polystyrene containers as polystyrene or number 6 plastic, is one of the three most harmful plastics in terms of chemicals. Number 6 plastic is rarely recycled and once it is contaminated with food and drinks it is not recyclable. Polystyrene is made from petroleum and contains benzene which is carcinogenic. Polystyrene leaches styrene, a chemical that is toxic to the brain and nervous system and has been found to adversely affect red blood cells, liver, kidney, stomach and cause cancer in animal studies.

Styrene is released especially when the container or cup is subjected to heat, so polystyrene foam containers and cups are a very bad choice for hot food and drinks. Oily and acidic foods and drinks also facilitate the migration of styrene from the container into the food/drink.

Polystyrene food containers have also been shown to have estrogenic activity (EA). Chemicals that cause EA are those that act like a synthetic form of estrogen or block the action of naturally occurring estrogen in the body and cause endocrine disruption. In humans, chemicals having EA can cause prostate and breast cancer and many reproductive health problems. Unborn children, babies and young children are especially sensitive to low doses of chemicals having EA.

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Member Guzman

In the polystyrene plastics industry, workers have been found to have higher incidences of cancer including leukemia and suffer from many adverse health effects from the inhalation of styrene. Styrene causes neurotoxicity and therefore affects people's nervous system and also impairs the immune system.

Polystyrene containers are also harmful to the environment. Plastic does not biodegrade. It does not have a timeline for disappearing. Plastic lasts forever. When plastic gets into the ocean it accumulates additional poisons such as dioxins, DDT, DDE and other persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Polystyrene foam has been found inside of sea birds and fish. The ingestion of plastic not only causes blockages and starvation, but the animals and birds are harmed through the uptake of toxic chemicals such as styrene which leaches from the ingested plastic and accumulates in the fatty tissues of the animal. These chemicals are then passed through the food chain. Styrene is also found in the fatty tissues of humans. In a 1982 study by the EPA (the National Human Adipose Tissue Survey), 100% of Americans studied had styrene in their fatty tissues. The EPA's Styrene Fact Sheet states that styrene does not occur naturally.

We need to do everything we can to reduce plastic on beaches and in the ocean in order to save marine life as polystyrene foam cups, containers and pieces of foam can and do wash into the ocean which is why these containers need to be banned. Polystyrene foam is lightweight, easily breaks into pieces and is wind blown. Picking up small, broken pieces of polystyrene foam in wind at the beach is difficult.

There are good alternatives to polystyrene food and drink containers available that are made from sugar cane and other vegetable fibres that do not contain benzene, styrene or petroleum. Our organization also recommends that people bring their own containers made of glass, stainless steel or ceramic for food and drinks.

Your leadership is needed to help protect the people of Maui County, visitors, marine life, the food chain and the environment from the harmful effects of polystyrene. Please lead the way for the rest of Hawai'i by passing this bill and being the first County in Hawai'i to take action to ban disposable polystyrene food and drink service containers. Thank you.

Please accept this as written testimony in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Frazer.



*Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i is an all volunteer, non-profit organization that brings awareness and solutions to marine debris through environmental education, plastic reduction/litter prevention campaigns, and marine debris removal and research in order to protect marine life, sea birds and the ocean/coastal environment.*