

Testimony Speaking Script

Good afternoon council members. My name is Sebastian Bautista and I am a 7th grade student at Iao school. It is a pleasure to be here in front of you. I am here today to support the bill to **restrict the use and sale of single use plastic disposable foodware**. We are surrounded by plastic but, it's the single use plastic we discard every day which has become a huge problem. As you may or may know, the world is 71% water and home to all marine life. That also means that there is a 71% chance that every single use plastic we throw away could get into our oceans and kill marine life. Scientists estimate that in 5 years, only 5 years, there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans. It's sad, because people think that they are safe from the plastic we throw away. However, like I said, there could be more plastic than fish in the oceans. What do you think the fish will do? They're going to mistake the plastic for food. Then what happens to that fish? It's served in a restaurant. We eat that fish and whatever it ate; in this case plastic. This "new food chain" is proven by scientists in Ghent University. They did a study in which they found that people who ate shellfish or oysters, were eating up to 11,000 pieces of plastic and, that's not healthy. Plastic is toxic. It is filled with poisonous chemicals that can harm you even if you touch it. Imagine what would happen if you ate it. Not only that, but plastic is also one of the main reasons for global warming. Plastic releases greenhouse gasses; which are gases that traps heat in the atmosphere. And of course, global warming is another big threat to the world. Not only does it kill us by flooding everything, but it also kills coral, home to many fish, algae and a lot more. The algae that supplies the coral with food leaves the coral when the ocean temperature changes sharply. Without food for the coral, it

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dies. This world is crumbling, and one of the largest contributors is plastic! With all due respect council members, it's the generations of people after us that suffer the consequences of plastic. I will admit, plastic is very convenient. However, it's not fair to those people who will be left to suffer the consequences of something WE did to ruin the world. Banning single use plastic *here*, is one step closer to saving the *world* from plastic. Thank You for your time.