

EACP Committee

From: Shane M. Sinenci
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 1:54 PM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: FW: Support EACP-16 to Ban Single Use Plastic Food Ware
Attachments: EACP support ban s.u.p. utensils bill.pdf

From: Cloe Cadiz <cloecadiz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 1:37 PM
To: Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Fwd: Support EACP-16 to Ban Single Use Plastic Food Ware

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cloe Cadiz <cloecadiz@gmail.com>
Date: February 18, 2020 at 1:21:32 AM HST
To: eacp.committee@mauicounty.us
Subject: Support EACP-16 to Ban Single Use Plastic Food Ware

My written testimony is also included below as a PDF.

Aloha EACP Committee,
Cloe Cadiz writing in support of EACP-16 which would restrict the use and sale of plastic disposable food ware. I am a community member and small-business owner working in hospitality to provide sustainable travel options to visitors on the North Shore of Maui. I have been inspired to live low-waste and plastic-free for two years after growing up seeing more and more plastics on our beaches.

This bill is an important step to moving towards a low-waste community. Let's not let it be just a side step. Single-use plastics, in both parts of their design are irresponsible, wasteful, and misleading. Food ware should never be single use or disposable and our rampant use of it shows our failure to have a circular economy and low carbon footprint. Plastic in general comes with many risks to our environment and our health and is never something that should be put in our bodies.

It is important to first understand the difference between *plastic* in forms of polystyrene, polyethylene, polypropylene, and polycarbonate, etc., and *bioplastic*, the elusive "eco-friendly" option claimed to be made of corn and compostable. Plastic is made of petrochemicals that have polluted the earth irreversibly and have shown in studies to be endocrine disruptors, making us "sicker, fatter, and poorer" in the words of Dr. Leo Trasande of NYU School of

Medicine. Harvesting fossil fuels for a ridiculous first-world luxury of a flimsy fork to use for 15 minutes then throw “away” for thousands of years is not sustainable. However, neither is harvesting biomass to do the exact same thing. While bioplastics do take less time to break up (approx.. 100 years), they will not break down in any environment and they will pollute the soil – only slightly better than poly utensils. Industrial compost facilities are few and far between around the world and do not exist in Maui County. Although bioplastics are not the solution to the problem this bill would ideally solve, they are arguably slightly better than poly plastics and therefore this bill should be passed.

To support Hawaii’s goal of having a low carbon footprint, we need to be ready to make compromises and progressive changes. In the long run, making the switch from single use to reusable items like cutlery will save money. To protect the environment is to protect the economy – they do not work without each other especially in Hawaii – where people come to see unique natural beauty. Supporting the sale of petrochemical products does anything but support small business and funds the ever-destructive billionaire fossil fuel companies. Consider it a worthy compromise if a business cannot adapt for the health of our environment and local community. We will certainly benefit economically if our community is healthy, landscape is beautiful, and life is plastic-free. I have personally seen creativity, ingenuity, and great success from local business owners when given the challenge to sell a product or service that is kind the earth.

Banning single-use poly-plastic food ware in Maui County can be a beneficial move for the environment and economy. We hope and expect to see businesses change and decrease their use and sale of plastic food ware. It is also just as important to remember that this is not a permanent solution and we will either need infrastructure or reframing of how we design food ware – (the latter will be simpler and more sustainable).

Mahalo,
Cloe Cadiz