

'Aha O Nā Mokupuni 'O Maui, Moloka'i A Me Lāna'i

February 8, 2020

RE: Reduce Plastic Use

To: Council Members of Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i

Dear Council Members:

2020 FEB 21 AM 9:47
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL

RECEIVED

We, the Youth of the Tri-Isle Association – Maui, Hawai'i Conference, United Church of Christ would like you to ask yourselves these questions: What makes our Islands so special? What do we love most about living here? There's so much to love. We love our family-centered cultures and that we have a community with beautiful parks and beaches that facilitate families spending quality time together. We love our freedoms, in particular our access to the land and ocean, which connects us to our ancestors and is a means for us to feed our families.

The encompassing element that makes all of these things possible is a clean environment. We inherited this land from our ancestors, who passed into our care a healthy and fruitful island. We all want to be able to live in that same pristine environment and to pass on the same to our children and grandchildren.

Most everyone will agree that we have a responsibility to our ancestors and to our future generations to be good stewards of our land and water, that we should be guardians of the most crucial factor in our quality of life. If we truly believe this, we need to mobilize.

Do we want to wait until we are forced to deal with trash and environmental contamination such as plastics and styrofoam as an emergency, as we're seeing happening now with the pollution we find on our beaches and oceans? Or do we want to be a model for environmental stewardship and seize a huge opportunity honor our ancestors by offering a rare destination that is still clean and beautiful?

We are asking that the County pass laws to that prohibit the use of single use plastics and styrofoam that are hurting our environment. If you don't take action now, what kind of Island will you leave for us, the next generation. Will you be the ancestors that left pollution for us to clean up – surely that's not the kind of honor you would want to be remembered by? Or will you be the ancestors that give to us a clean Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i Island.

The Youth of 'Aha O Nā Mokupuni 'O Maui, Moloka'i A Me Lāna'i
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