

EACP Committee

From: Jason Higa <jhiga@zippys.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 6:19 PM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Plastic Foodware Ban

Dear Chair Sinenci,

I do not think this is the right choice for Maui County. I'm very concerned that this measure unnecessarily and unfairly targets local Maui restaurants, retailers, and food producers and gives outside food companies an advantage. I think that small local businesses will be hardest hit by this measure.

Because the bill only restricts the types of containers and packaging that local companies can use, and forces them to switch to more expensive alternatives, it makes it harder to produce and package food in Maui County. This basically incentivizes shipping in even more food. Our County was once a global leader in sugar production, I think that we could have a vibrant food manufacturing sector in Maui again, but that will never happen if measures like this are passed.

Certified compostable packaging can be much more expensive than regular packaging and for our small local businesses that already struggle with things like high costs of labor and high real estate prices, any additional cost can be too much.

This bill requires businesses to switch to compostable alternatives but we don't have a composting facility here in Maui, so these new more expensive packages and containers will end up in the same place that normal containers do.

I hope that instead of passing this bill our County decides to work with the others who are involved in the Plastic Working Group to find solutions for our whole state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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