



KAUA'I
 Chamber
 of
 Commerce

September 9, 2009

To: Fax 241-6349

To: Councilmember Tim Bynum, Chair, Public Works & Elderly Affairs Committee, Vice Chair, Daryl W. Kaneshiro, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee

Testimony for Council Meeting on Wednesday September 9, 2009

RE: Regarding Bill No. 2321, Relating to Plastic Bag Reduction, Council Chambers, Historic County Building

THE
 COUNTY
 OF
 KAUAI

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RECEIVED

My name is Randall Francisco. I am President of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce which represents 460 Kauai business members and consists of approximately 87% small businesses who reflect the island's business community. Of the chamber's membership, approximately, 8000 individuals are employees who are from the construction and tourism sectors to agriculture, retail and defense industries, to name a few.

On behalf of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our desire to support this bill, in spite of our opposition, as we clearly understand its legislative intent. We believe that our residents and visitors continue to demonstrate that they will do what is *pono*/right for our environment without additional government intervention. This continues to be clearly demonstrated through education efforts and alternatives already provided in our waste stream, from Keiki to Kupuna, from private sector to public sector. For example, at many events, the community is already using alternative/sustainable/recycleable/disposable products that are good for our island environment. In reviewing testimony from the Retail Merchants of Hawaii, Hawaii Food Industry and Maui Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber strongly believes that with continued education, research, patience, and a commitment to continuing to honor our Hawaiian/Kauai sense of place and community, in the very short term, and, what has already been demonstrated and accomplished such as the 'Bottle Bill Legislation', Kauai residents/visitors will continue to move in the direction of using/reusing/recycling Biodegradable Bag and Reusable Bags (based on your Sec. 22-19.1 Definitions.) without a need for further government intervention, in the marketplace. Unintended consequences of this legislation include the attached "Info Sheet" from the American Chemistry Council as well as the displacement of employees locally involved in the manufacture and distribution of these types of products.

As President of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce, in my 4 years in serving in this position, my lesson observed and learned from the residents and visitors alike of Kauai and the Silent Majority of everyday workers is that our community believes in doing what is *pono*. Our *kuleana* is always about having a better and more sustainable Kauai and island lifestyle for everyone, without having government's 'hand in every pocketbook'.

Should I be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 245-7363 or email at randall@kuaichamber.org. Aloha.

Sincerely yours,

Randall Francisco
 President

The mission of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce founded in 1913 is:
 "To promote, develop and improve commerce, quality growth, and economic stability in the County of Kauai"

Bags