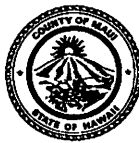


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February 11, 2019

Kelly King

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military
Affairs
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019; TESTIMONY PROVIDING
COMMENTS ON SB 521, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify providing comments on this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to require counties to collect and dispose plastic marine debris and report to the Legislature.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I am providing comments on this measure for the following reasons:

1. While the intent of the bill is laudable, and I of course support keeping our beaches clean of debris and harmful substances, maintenance of our beaches and coastal waters is the State's responsibility, as those areas are under State jurisdiction.
2. The counties should only take on this responsibility if all State authority over beaches and the ocean is assigned to the county governments and adequate funding is allocated.

Thank you for considering my comments.