

Hawai'i Island Polystyrene To-Go Container Ban Bill 13: Testimony Call to Action



This document has been compiled by the members of the “Hold the Foam” Working Group and is intended to provide information for individuals to support the upcoming September 7th council hearing of Bill 13 in Hilo, Hawaii.

The purpose of the ‘Hold the Foam’ working group is to ask our representatives to “Hold the Foam” for our ‘āina, oceans, keiki, native wildlife, and health! **Please join us to support Bill 13 for Hawai'i County on Thursday, Sept. 7th (public testimony at 9AM).**

Background: Councilwoman Eileen O'hara has proposed a bill that would reduce the use of polystyrene foam (e.g., Styrofoam) in food service and food ware products on island after July 1st, 2019. PS foam is problematic to our environment, threatening our native wildlife and it is detrimental to our economy, and negatively impacting our island's waste management goals.

Join us to support Bill 13 for Hawai'i County on September 7th at 9am Let our County Council Members hear your voice:

- Share your testimony in person at the Hilo Council Chambers: [Room 1401, County Building: 25 Aupuni Street Hilo](#), or via video conference from the Kona, Ka'ū, Waimea and Pāhoa Council Chambers, more info here: <http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/lb-meeting-info/>
 - Note that the meeting starts at 9am, but we won't know when Bill 13 will be scheduled on the agenda, so please prepare for a long day, if possible.
- Email testimony to counciltestimony@hawaiicounty.gov before 12pm on September 6th
- Sign the petition: <https://tinyurl.com/y8hzfcy8> before 12pm on September 6th
- Take time to understand our opposition: <http://hawaii.gofoam.org/about/>
- Check out this video for inspiration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGmVTejbT3E>
- Follow on instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/foamfreehawaii/>
- Use hashtags: #holdthefoam #foamfreehawaii #plasticfreehawaii
- Contact foamfreehawaii@gmail.com for more information



FACTS ABOUT POLYSTYRENE FOAM

Environmental Impact

- ❖ An estimated 275 million metric tons of plastic waste was generated in 192 coastal countries in 2010, with **4.8 to 12.7 million tons entering the ocean** (Jambeck 2015).
- ❖ A 2014 study published in the Proceedings from the National Academy of Sciences estimated the **amount of plastic** in the *open-ocean surface* to be **between 7,000 and 35,000 tons**. (That is the equivalent weight of between 212 – 1,060 adult humpback whales in pure plastic floating at the ocean's surface.)
- ❖ Plastic tends to naturally accumulate in the global ocean gyres, or current zones. The North Pacific Gyre, of which Hawaii is at the center, contributes **importantly to the global plastic load (between 33 and 35%)** (Cozar 2014).
- ❖ In Hawaii, 72% of marine debris consists of plastic (Marine Pollution Bulletin, 2004).
- ❖ 660 species that have been scientifically documented to have encountered marine plastic debris (U.N. Environmental Programme Report 2012).
- ❖ More than 180 marine species are known to eat plastics, including endangered species like sea turtles and albatross. Scientists project that styrofoam and other plastics will be found in 99% of seabirds by 2050 (Proceedings from the National Academy of Sciences, 2015).

Economics and Solid Waste Management Impact:

- ❖ Expanded polystyrene (EPS), or “styrofoam”, is a rapidly growing class of these plastics, with estimates of more than 840,000 tons of EPS being used in the United States annually for food containers alone (EPA Municipal Solid Waste, 2011).
- ❖ A 2011 study examined consumers in Honolulu and concluded that the “majority of respondents (81%) are in favor of a ban on EPS takeout food containers” and that “local residents may be ready and willing to pay for alternative products that focus on long-term efforts to increase sustainability and reduce pollution.” (Journal of Environmental Protection, 2011).
- ❖ An EPS foam ban was implemented in San Francisco, and there was a 30% decrease in EPS litter within one year (San Francisco Street Litter Re-Audit, 2008).
- ❖ Over 100 cities and counties across the country have enacted EPS foam bans. For an extensive list see: <http://www.surfrider.org/pages/polystyrene-ordinances>

You can also support this “Hold the Foam” initiative by choosing to eat out at restaurants / vendors who have already volunteered to provide foam-free to-go ware containers:

- Foam-free restaurants / food vendors on Hawai'i Island: goo.gl/tia7Rd (or contact meg.HWF@gmail.com for more info)
- For a list of Ocean Friendly Restaurants, visit oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org and contact Sarah Rafferty to pledge for the health of our oceans: (808-333-4717)

Mahalo Piha “Hold the Foam” Working Group Members:



Follow this movement on social media:

#holdthefoam #riseaboveplastics #foamfreehawaii

Eco Friendly Alternatives

Compostable eco-friendly alternatives are available in all shapes and sizes and are made to hold all imaginable food products from boiling hot soup to nacho cheese fries. Check with your local retailer or with one of the links below to see what will work for you.



6 x 6 Inch Plant Fiber Clamshell

\$0.14- \$0.15 per unit

Single compartment

Plant fiber based container

Safe for hot and cold foods

Soak proof

Compostable at home



8 to 9 inch Plant Fiber Clamshell

\$0.27- \$0.32 per unit

Three compartments

Plant fiber based container

Safe for hot and cold foods

Soak proof

Compostable at home



Plant Fiber Bowl 12oz-16oz

\$0.13- \$0.16 per unit

Soup Bowl with lid

Plant fiber based container

Safe for up to 200 degrees F

Soak proof

Compostable at home



Paper Hot Cups 8-12oz
\$0.15- \$0.18 per unit

Hot Cup with Lid

Paper cup with plant based lining

Safe for up to 200 degrees F

Compostable in commercial facility