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To: CM Chair Villegas, CM Vice Chair Kagiwada, and Members
Committee on Environmental and Natural Resource Management
County of Hawaii

From: Victor Lim, legislative Lead
Hawaii Restaurant Association

Date: October 21, 2025

Subj: Bill 83 Draft 2 Relating to Food ware Packaging

The Hawaii Restaurant Association (HRA) represents over 4,000 Eating and Drinking Place locations throughout Hawaii and appreciates this opportunity to offer comments and express our suggestions on Bill 83.

We appreciate the amendments that have been made so far. To make sure that our local food businesses can effectively comply, we request that it be amended to allow BPI certified compostable items that do not bear the brands of compostable utensils, lids and BPI mark on the items itself. Many of the brands of these compostable utensils, lids, etc. have BPI certified marks on their cases but not on each individual item.

We also ask that Section 20-05-02 be amended to: (Any food provider, business, or county facility user, selling, distributing, or otherwise providing prepared food to the public shall do so using disposable service wares that is CMA-certified and is BPI certified, or food ware or service ware that is reusable.)

We also want to remind you that all of these food wares and service wares cost anywhere from two to three times more than the plastic equivalent they replace. We are also facing a big \$2 an hour increases in our state minimum wage that will greatly impact many smaller businesses. What we saw in Honolulu and Maui with the impact of their ordinances, costs of eating out increases significantly. Because business cannot absorb this big increase in costs and having to pass it to the consumer in higher prices. Some small businesses also went under because of cost increases and consumer resistance to higher prices.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.