

The Council embraces PWF revisions to a proposed bill Restricting use of Disposable Bodyboards

The Pacific Whale Foundation (PWF) Conservation Division provided testimony to the Maui County Council, Friday, July 23, 2021, on Committee Report 21-49, offering support for a proposed bill restricting the sale and rental of disposable bodyboards.

Disposable bodyboards are defined as a product containing polystyrene foam core.

Studies currently under way by our Research department, relating to the polystyrene ban, shows potential evidence that some polystyrene pieces found may be from foam bodyboards, therefore greater restrictions are appropriate.

The results of PWF's study will be published in 2022.

PWF requested to tighten language in the proposed bill by recommending minor revisions.

PWF recommended strengthening the restrictions of the proposed bill by adding language that would include prohibiting "distribution" of disposable bodyboards.

As initially written the proposed bill restricted the "sale and renting" of disposable bodyboard but did not regulate complimentary distribution of the boards by businesses.

PWF noted by adding the term "distribution", it would prevent businesses from providing the boards free of charge as an amenity by a hotels, resorts or tour operators.

Adding "distribution" will assist with addressing potential loopholes and prevent unintended consequences in the proposed bill.

PWF offered the recommendation primarily to strengthen this vitally important piece of legislation to eliminate the potential of polystyrene products entering the ocean, leading to further degradation of our ocean and ingestion by marine life.

We thank Councilmember Paltin introducing the legislation and the Council for considering this proposal.