
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND A POLICY
TO REDUCE THE USE OF PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS.

1 WHEREAS, plastic grocery bags provided to customers by
2 grocery stores and other retailers are a hazard to the natural
3 environment; and
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5 WHEREAS, plastic grocery bags require fossil fuel to
6 manufacture, contribute to litter, crowd landfills with non-
7 biodegradable waste, and are dangerous to wildlife; and
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9 WHEREAS, there are efforts to discourage or ban altogether
10 the use of plastic grocery bags in cities and countries around
11 the world, including Paris, South Africa, Ireland, Taiwan,
12 Zanzibar, and Rwanda; and
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14 WHEREAS, the City of San Francisco is considering a
15 proposed ordinance to ban the use of non-recyclable plastic
16 grocery bags by large stores. The measure would further require
17 those stores to provide paper bags, recyclable plastic bags, or
18 cloth sacks to their customers; and
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20 WHEREAS, Hawaii has an interest in protecting its natural
21 environment and decreasing the amount of waste flowing into its
22 landfills; now, therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
26 Session of 2007, that the Department of Health is urged to
27 review and consider recommending a statewide policy to reduce
28 the use of plastic grocery bags by:
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- 30 (1) Prohibiting stores that have over \$2,000,000 in annual
31 sales from offering non-recyclable plastic grocery
32 bags, and instead requiring those stores to use bags
33 made of paper, recyclable plastic, or a reusable
34 material; and
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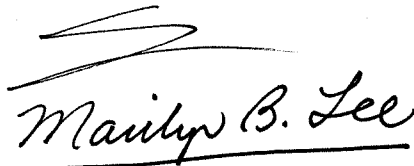


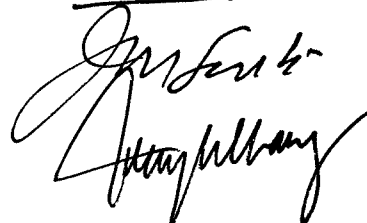
(2) Imposing fines on stores that violate the ban; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

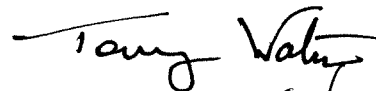
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Director of Health.

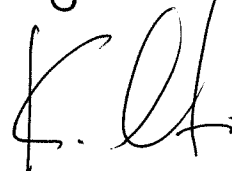
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