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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING COUNTIES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO  
ENCOURAGE RETAILERS TO INCREASE THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY  
PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVES TO NON-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC BAGS.

1           WHEREAS, non- biodegradable, plastic bags have significant  
2 negative effects on the natural environment; and  
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4           WHEREAS, in every stage of their life, from production to  
5 disposal, non-biodegradable plastic bags create pollution and  
6 environmental hazards; and  
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8           WHEREAS, non-biodegradable plastic bags require millions of  
9 barrels of crude oil, an increasingly scarce resource, to  
10 manufacture, contribute to unsightly litter, crowd landfills  
11 with non-biodegradable waste, and endanger marine mammals; and  
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13           WHEREAS, in every square mile of ocean, it is estimated  
14 that there are over 46,000 pieces of plastic, including plastic  
15 bags; and  
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17           WHEREAS, over 100,000 marine animals die every year after  
18 becoming entangled with this plastic waste; and  
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20           WHEREAS, numerous governments worldwide have placed fees or  
21 bans on plastic bags and have encouraged the use of alternatives  
22 such as compostable plastic bags and reusable bags; and  
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24           WHEREAS, compostable plastic bags are made of material that  
25 will decompose by natural processes in a safe and timely manner;  
26 and  
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28           WHEREAS, reusable bags are bags with handles that are made  
29 of cloth or other durable material and that have been  
30 specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse; and



1 WHEREAS, encouraging the use of these environmentally  
 2 preferable alternatives to non-biodegradable plastic bags will  
 3 help to protect the natural environment and decrease the amount  
 4 of waste flowing into the landfills; now, therefore,  
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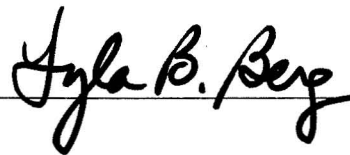
6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 7 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 8 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the counties are  
 9 requested to develop and implement programs encouraging  
 10 retailers to increase the use of environmentally preferable  
 11 alternatives to non-biodegradable plastic bags; and  
 12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the county programs should  
 14 encourage retailers to provide only compostable or reusable bags  
 15 to customers; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the county programs should  
 18 encourage recycling of non-biodegradable plastic bags and  
 19 community participation in reducing environmental, social, and  
 20 economic impacts; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors of the  
 24 counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii, Mayor of the City and  
 25 County of Honolulu, and Director of Health.  
 26  
 27  
 28

OFFERED BY:



MAR 10 2008

