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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO VOLUNTARILY UTILIZE  
BIODEGRADABLE OR RECYCLABLE NON-POLYSTYRENE FOAM FOOD  
SERVICE-WARE.

1           WHEREAS, expanded polystyrene foam (commonly known as  
2 Styrofoam) is a petroleum by-product, nonrenewable resource  
3 composed of the chemical styrene, a neurotoxin and a possible  
4 human carcinogen; and

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6           WHEREAS, due to the inherent nonbiodegradable,  
7 nonrecyclable nature and chemical composition of expanded  
8 polystyrene foam, the disposal of food service-ware and packing  
9 materials made from this product pose a significant threat not  
10 only to Hawaii's ecosystems and environment but also to the  
11 general health and welfare of the citizens of this State; and

12  
13           WHEREAS, improper or inadvertent disposal (littering) of  
14 food service-ware and packing materials made from expanded  
15 polystyrene foam is not only an aesthetic concern but also  
16 raises significant health and welfare concerns for the State's  
17 aquatic and other wildlife; and

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19           WHEREAS, when expanded polystyrene foam breaks down in the  
20 State's landfills, dangerous chemicals leach into the seepage of  
21 the landfills, adversely impacting the State's environment and  
22 ecosystems. Additionally, as this seepage is pumped out of the  
23 landfill and inadequately processed or treated before being  
24 discharged into the ocean, it also threatens marine ecosystems  
25 around the islands; and

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27           WHEREAS, when expanded polystyrene foam is disposed of by  
28 incineration, it produces a dense, black, irritating smoke  
29 containing acidic gases and over ninety different chemical  
30 compounds, including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and the  
31 known neurotoxin and possible carcinogen, styrene; and

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1 WHEREAS, when, contrary to the designed one-time use, food  
2 or beverages are reheated in expanded polystyrene foam  
3 containers, leaching of the chemical neurotoxin styrene occurs;  
4 and  
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6 WHEREAS, expanded polystyrene foam products take hundreds  
7 of years to breakdown, food service-ware and packing materials  
8 made from this product pose a significant long-term detrimental  
9 impact upon Hawaii's environment and ecosystems; and  
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11 WHEREAS, disposable cups, plates, packing supplies, and  
12 numerous other items made from expanded polystyrene foam pose a  
13 significant threat to the numerous, and oftentimes fragile,  
14 ecosystems that exist in Hawaii and to the health and welfare of  
15 the general public and environment; and  
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17 WHEREAS, it is currently economically feasible to replace  
18 disposable food service-ware products made from expanded  
19 polystyrene foam with environmentally friendly biodegradable,  
20 compostable, or recyclable alternative products; now, therefore,  
21

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
23 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
24 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that all state  
25 departments and agencies are requested to voluntarily promote  
26 the procurement and use of environmentally friendly,  
27 biodegradable, compostable, or recyclable food service-ware  
28 products, as an alternative to expanded polystyrene foam. This  
29 includes but is not limited to:  
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- 31 (1) Explicitly limiting contracting requirements in the  
32 bid process for disposable food service-ware to  
33 non-polystyrene foam, biodegradable, compostable, or  
34 recyclable expanded polystyrene foam alternative  
35 products; and  
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- 37 (2) Creating incentives for outside vendors to utilize  
38 environmentally friendly, biodegradable or recyclable  
39 food service-ware products in any endeavor connected  
40 with department or agency business; and  
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# H.C.R. NO. 193

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller; the  
3 Energy Resources Coordinator; the Administrator of the State  
4 Procurement Office; all chief procurement officers as defined in  
5 section 103D-203, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and the Governor.

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OFFERED BY: Lyla B. Berg

MAR 10 2008

