
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII AND HAWAII FOOD
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
ON THEIR PUBLIC-EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ABOUT "REDUCING,
REUSING, AND RECYCLING" PLASTIC BAGS.

1 WHEREAS, non-biodegradable, plastic bags have significant
2 adverse effects on the natural environment; and

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4 WHEREAS, in every stage, from production to disposal, non-
5 biodegradable plastic bags create pollution and environmental
6 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 animals; and

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13 WHEREAS, for 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
22 alternatives, such as compostable plastic bags and reusable
23 bags; and

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25 WHEREAS, compostable plastic bags are made of material that
26 will decompose by natural processes in a safe and timely manner;
27 and



1 WHEREAS, reusable bags have handles, are made of cloth or
2 other durable material, and have been specifically designed and
3 manufactured for multiple reuse; and
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5 WHEREAS, encouraging the use of these environmentally
6 preferable alternatives to non-biodegradable plastic bags will
7 help to protect the natural environment and decrease the amount
8 of waste flowing into our landfills; and
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10 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has a significant interest in
11 protecting its natural environment by reducing the number of
12 plastic bags imported into the islands, thereby reducing the
13 number of plastic bags entering its landfills and diminishing
14 the litter caused by these bags; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) and Hawaii
17 Food Industry Association (HFIA) have embraced the concept of
18 "reduce, reuse, and recycle" and have embarked on a public-
19 education campaign to encourage the use of reusable tote bags
20 and in-store recycling of plastic bags to effect change in
21 public behavior; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that RMH and HFIA are
26 requested to submit to the Legislature, no later than twenty
27 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009, a
28 report on the progress and effectiveness of their public-
29 education campaign in:
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- 31 (1) Reducing the import of plastic bags into the state;
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- 33 (2) Promoting the use of reusable tote bags by consumers;
- 34 and
- 35
- 36 (3) Increasing the recycling of used plastic bags;
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38 and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall also include
41 information about the effectiveness of in-store recycling; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Department of
3 Health, RHM, and HFIA.
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OFFERED BY: Yunus Dsouza

J. Nik. Karayon

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MAR 12 2008

