

MAR 13 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO EXAMINE THE
EXISTING WASTE TO ENERGY PROGRAM ON OAHU AS IT RELATES TO
THE COLLECTION OF A DEDICATED RECYCLING STREAM OF PLASTICS
FOR CONVERSION TO ENERGY.

1 WHEREAS, recycling is considered a key component of a waste
2 management system; and

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4 WHEREAS, all fossil fuels consumed in Hawaii are imported
5 and are subject to the worldwide escalation in energy prices,
6 which are eventually passed on to consumers; and

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8 WHEREAS, this body believes that Hawaii can be a leader in
9 waste-to-energy recycling; and

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11 WHEREAS, other than proposed bans, Hawaii has not focused
12 on recycling of plastic, specifically converting plastic
13 material to energy; and

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15 WHEREAS, plastics are made from petroleum derivatives and
16 release high levels of energy when burned, for example, burning
17 one pound of the polyethylene in plastic grocery bags produces
18 18,500 BTU (British thermal unit--the amount of energy needed to
19 heat one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit) as opposed to
20 8,500 to 14,000 Btu for coal; and

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22 WHEREAS, polyethylene burns cleanly, giving off no toxic
23 fumes and releases only carbon dioxide and water; and

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25 WHEREAS, Oahu already operates a waste to energy facility
26 at H-Power in Campbell Industrial Park and it is estimated that
27 the island of Oahu uses 300,000,000 plastic bags annually; now,
28 therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008 that
32 the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to examine the
33 existing waste to energy program on Oahu as it relates to the
34 collection of a dedicated recycling stream of plastics for
35 conversion to energy; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
 2 Bureau is requested to submit a written report of findings and
 3 recommendations, including any necessary proposed legislation,
 4 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
 5 convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Environmental
 8 Services and the recycling coordinator of the City and County of
 9 Honolulu and the Facility Manager of H-Power are requested to
 10 fully cooperate with the Legislative Reference Bureau in this
 11 study; and

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 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Resolution be transmitted to the Acting Director of the
 15 Legislative Reference Bureau, the Director of Health, the Mayor
 16 and the Director of Environmental Services of the City and
 17 County of Honolulu, and the Facility Manager of H-Power.

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