

SB 2194



HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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**To: Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
Senator Ron Menor, Chair / Senator Gary L. Hooser, Vice Chair**

By: Richard C. Botti, President or Lauren Zirbel, Government Relations

Re: SB 2194 RELATING TO WASTE PLASTIC

Chairs & Committee Members:

First, we support this measure.

Second, the title relates to waste plastic, when in reality, it is only a waste if it is landfilled. Plastic is a source of energy that we are overlooking, unless it goes to HPOWER to generate electricity.

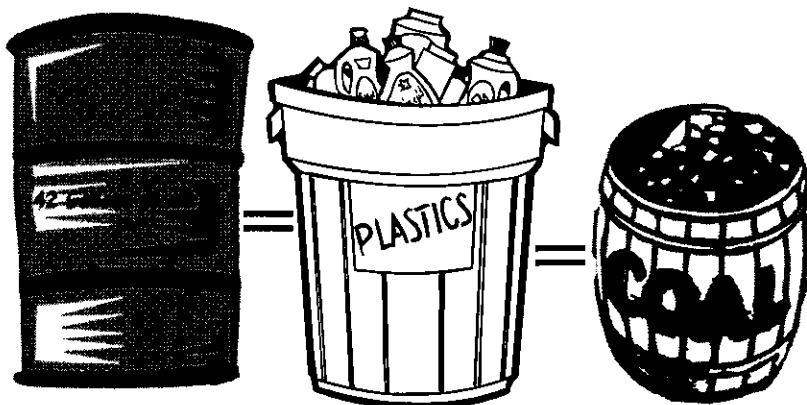
Please consider this: A ton of plastic would be equal to approximately 6 barrels of oil. This is based on the formula that oil is 8 pounds per gallon, as is PE resin that is used to make plastic bags.*

Polystyrene and shrink wrap generated by commercial establishments and warehouses can easily be separated and collected for shredding, bailing, and storing for future use as an energy supply. All that is needed is a small inducement, a collection point, the shredding and/or bailing equipment, and a storage location.

Commercial establishments now pay \$80 a ton tipping fee to dispose of waste plastics. Some larger firms bail the plastic, containerize it and backhaul it to the Mainland where it can be recycled. With oil at \$100 per barrel, every 336 pounds of plastic is worth its weight in oil. Plastic has a higher BTU than coal, further adding to the benefit of plastic as a fuel.

This can help solve two challenges: Landfill capacity, and energy reserves.

Let's think out of the box in our efforts for sustainability.



*Calculated by CMAI (Chemical Marketing Associates, Inc.—Howard Rappaport) for HFIA relative to plastic bags vs. oil.