
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO INVESTIGATE HAZARDS POSED
BY POLYSTYRENE FOOD CONTAINERS AND TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS
FOR BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC FOOD CONTAINERS AND GROCERY BAGS.

1 WHEREAS, many types of everyday household products and
2 materials are manufactured from various types of plastics; and
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4 WHEREAS, styrene is a clear colorless liquid that is
5 derived from petroleum and natural gas by-products, but which
6 also occurs naturally; and
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8 WHEREAS, styrene is used in the manufacture of many types
9 of plastic materials, including food containers and packaging,
10 computer parts, and automobile components; and
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12 WHEREAS, styrene can enter packaged foods by migration from
13 polystyrene food containers and packaging materials, and test
14 results are unclear as to whether the amount of styrene leaching
15 increases when foods are heated in polystyrene containers; and
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17 WHEREAS, human data from tests are insufficient to conclude
18 that styrene, when ingested, is toxic to normal human growth and
19 development; and
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21 WHEREAS, grocery bags manufactured from low density
22 polyethylene do not biodegrade naturally in landfills and when
23 improperly disposed may enter the environment as litter and pose
24 a hazard to marine wildlife; and
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26 WHEREAS, improperly disposed polystyrene that enters the
27 environment as litter can create health hazards for marine
28 wildlife, including entanglement and ingestion; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



H.C.R. NO. 43

1 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is
2 requested to adopt rules requiring polystyrene food containers
3 sold in the State to display a label that warns of the potential
4 dangers of heating food in the container; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
7 requested to conduct a study, based on available research and
8 data, that assesses the safety of polystyrene food containers;
9 and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
12 requested to form a task force to establish minimum statewide
13 standards for biodegradability for plastic grocery bags and food
14 containers; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
17 requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations
18 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
19 convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY:

