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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND KAUAI COUNTY TO ADOPT  
PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION ORDINANCES TO REDUCE THE SALE, USE,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION CAUSED BY THE PROLIFERATION  
OF NONCOMPOSTABLE PLASTIC BAGS.

1           WHEREAS, noncompostable plastic bags are made from plastic  
2 that does not biodegrade, are not specifically designed and  
3 manufactured for multiple re-use, and are provided by a store to  
4 a customer at the point of sale; and

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6           WHEREAS, millions of barrels of crude oil are required to  
7 manufacture noncompostable plastic bags; and

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9           WHEREAS, noncompostable plastic bags that are not recycled  
10 have deleterious effects on the environment, such as crowding  
11 landfills with non-biodegradable waste; and

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13           WHEREAS, due to their light weight and aerodynamic design,  
14 noncompostable plastic bags tend to blow away from trash  
15 depositories and thus contribute unsightly litter to both land  
16 and ocean; and

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18           WHEREAS, the movement of noncompostable plastic bags in the  
19 ocean is subject to ocean currents that perpetuate their  
20 movement rather than push them to shore for cleanup, and  
21 contribute to floating islands of trash like that of the Great  
22 Pacific Gyre; and

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24           WHEREAS, noncompostable plastic bags endanger marine life  
25 by resembling food sources, such as jellyfish, and when ingested  
26 can prevent migration and reproduction in birds and block the  
27 intestines of turtles, making it difficult for them to dive for  
28 food; and

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1 WHEREAS, the State has a compelling interest in protecting  
2 and preserving the natural environment and in decreasing the  
3 amount of noncompostable plastic bags that occupy capacity-  
4 stretched landfills; and

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6 WHEREAS, mechanisms in place to divert noncompostable  
7 plastic bags from landfills to recycling centers have not been  
8 well-advertised to the public and are underused; and

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10 WHEREAS, Maui county officials indicate that taxpayers  
11 incur costs of over \$180,000 each year to clean up stray plastic  
12 bags in areas of public use, and therefore passed an ordinance  
13 in 2008 to reduce the use of noncompostable plastic bags; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii also passed an ordinance in  
16 2008 to reduce the use of noncompostable plastic bags and at the  
17 same time encourage citizens to use alternatives, such as paper  
18 bags and reusable tote bags; now, therefore,

19  
20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
21 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
22 of 2009, that the City and County of Honolulu and County of  
23 Kauai are urged to adopt ordinances similar to those of Maui and  
24 Hawaii counties to reduce the sale, use, and environmental  
25 degradation caused by the proliferation of noncompostable  
26 plastic bags; and

27  
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the mayors of the City and County  
30 of Honolulu and County of Kauai.

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OFFERED BY:

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*2009*

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