HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE PHASE OUT OF PRODUCTION AND IMPORTATION OF
DECABROMODIPHENYL ETHER IN THE UNITED STATES.

1 WHEREAS, polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) have been
2 used extensively as fire retardants in many common household
3 products for the past 30 years; and
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5 WHEREAS, decaBDE is a PBDE which has been used as a fire
6 retardant in electronics, wire and cable insulation, textiles,
7 automobiles and airplanes, and other applications; and
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9 WHEREAS, major producers of fire retardants have committed
10 to producing effective life-saving fire retardants that have a
11 minimal impact on the environment; and
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13 WHEREAS, on December 17, 2009, as the result of
14 negotiations with the United States (U.S.) Environmental
15 Protection Agency (EPA), the two U.S. producers of the PBDE
16 decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE), Albemarle Corporation and
17 Chemtura Corporation, and the largest U.S. importer, ICL
18 Industrial Products, Inc., announced commitments to phase out
19 decaBDE in the United States; and
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21 WHEREAS, these companies have committed to end production,
22 importation, and sales of decaBDE for most uses in the U.S. by
23 December 31, 2012, and to end all uses by the end of 2013; and
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25 WHEREAS, EPA has also announced its intent to encourage the
26 other minor importers of decaBDE to join this initiative; now,
27 therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature supports
32 this phase out of production and importation of decaBDE in the
33 U.S.; and

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1   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages EPA
2   to continue its efforts to encourage the remaining minor
3   importers of decaBDE to end their importation of decaBDE into
4   the U.S.; and
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6   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7   Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the
8   United States Environmental Protection Agency, Hawaii's
9   Congressional delegation, and the International Association of
10   Fire Fighters.