

MAR 10 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE PHASE OUT OF PRODUCTION AND IMPORTATION OF
DECABROMODIPHENYL ETHER (DECA-BDE) AND ALL OTHER
POLYBROMINATED DIPHENYL ETHERS (PBDES) IN THE UNITED
STATES.

1 WHEREAS, polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) have been
2 used extensively as fire retardants in many common household
3 products for the past thirty years; and
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5 WHEREAS, studies on animals show that PBDEs can affect
6 behavior and learning after birth and into adulthood, making
7 exposure to fetuses and children a particular concern; and
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9 WHEREAS, PBDEs have the potential to disrupt thyroid
10 hormone balance and contribute to a variety of developmental
11 learning disabilities, and may also have the potential to cause
12 cancer; and
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14 WHEREAS, substantial efforts to eliminate PBDEs from
15 consumer products have been made throughout the world in both
16 the private and public sectors, and these efforts have produced
17 numerous safe alternatives that meet stringent fire code
18 standards; and
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20 WHEREAS, on December 17, 2009, as the result of
21 negotiations with the United States Environmental Protection
22 Agency, the two U.S. producers of the PBDE decabromodiphenyl
23 ether (decaBDE), Albemarle Corporation and Chemtura Corporation,
24 and the largest U.S. importer, ICL Industrial Products, Inc.,
25 announced commitments to phase out decaBDE in the United States;
26 and
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28 WHEREAS, decaBDE is a flame retardant which has been used
29 in electronics, wire and cable insulation, textiles, automobiles
30 and airplanes, and other applications; and
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32 WHEREAS, these companies have committed to end production,
33 importation, and sales of decaBDE for most uses in the United



1 States by December 31, 2012, and to end all uses by the end of
2 2013; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has also
5 announced its intent to encourage the other minor importers of
6 decaBDE to join this initiative; now, therefore,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,
10 that the Legislature supports this phase out of production and
11 importation of decaBDE and all other PBDEs in the United States;
12 and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages the
15 Environmental Protection Agency to continue its efforts to
16 encourage the remaining minor importers of decaBDE to end their
17 importation of decaBDE into the United States; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the United
21 States Environmental Protection Agency and to Hawaii's
22 congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY: _____

