
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that non-recyclable non-
2 compostable plastic bags present a hazard to the natural
3 environment. Plastic bags significantly impact the environment,
4 including contributing to unsightly litter, crowding landfills
5 with nonbiodegradable waste, endangering marine animals, and
6 requiring the use of millions of barrels of crude oil for their
7 manufacture. The legislature further finds that the State has
8 an interest in protecting its natural environment and decreasing
9 the amount of waste in landfills.

10 The purpose of this Act is to encourage the use of
11 environmentally preferable alternatives to nonbiodegradable
12 plastic bags.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 342H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
15 to read as follows:

16 **"PART . USE OF RECYCLABLE PLASTIC BAGS**

17 **§342H- Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the
18 context otherwise requires:



1 "ASTM standard" means the American Society for Testing and
2 Materials International standard 06400 for compostable plastic,
3 as amended.

4 "Business" means any commercial enterprise or
5 establishment, including sole proprietorships, joint ventures,
6 partnerships, and corporations, or any other legally cognizable
7 entity, whether for profit or not for profit, and includes all
8 employees of the business or any independent contractors
9 associated with the business.

10 "Checkout bag" means a carryout bag that is provided by a
11 store to a customer.

12 "Compostable" means that the product or package meets
13 American Society for Testing and Materials International
14 standards for compostability.

15 "Compostable plastic bag" means a plastic bag that will
16 break down into, or otherwise become part of, usable compost,
17 including soil-conditioning material and mulch, in a safe and
18 timely manner.

19 "Department" means the department of the health.

20 "Director" means the director of health.



1 "Person" means an individual, trust, firm, joint stock
2 company, corporation, cooperative, partnership, limited
3 liability company, or association.

4 "Post-consumer recycled material" means materials that is
5 an end product that has completed its life cycle as a consumer
6 item such as office paper, cardboard, and aluminum cans.

7 "Recyclable" means material that can be sorted, cleansed,
8 and reconstituted using available recycling collection programs
9 for the purpose of using the altered form in the manufacture of
10 a new product. Recycling does not include burning,
11 incinerating, converting, or otherwise thermally destroying
12 solid waste.

13 "Recyclable paper bag" means a paper bag that:

- 14 (1) Contains no old growth fiber;
15 (2) Is one hundred per cent recyclable and contains a
16 minimum of forty per cent post-consumer recycled
17 material; and
18 (3) Displays the words "Recyclable" in a highly visible
19 manner on the outside of the bag.

20 "Reusable bag" means a bag with handles that is
21 specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and
22 is:



- 1 (1) Made of cloth or other machine washable fabric; or
- 2 (2) Made of other durable material suitable for re-use,
- 3 including plastic that is at least 2.25 millimeters
- 4 thick.

5 **§342H- Mandatory use of recyclable, compostable, and**
6 **reusable checkout bags.** (a) Beginning January 1, 2012,
7 businesses with annual gross sales of over \$250,000:

- 8 (1) Are prohibited from providing nonbiodegradable plastic
- 9 checkout bags to their customers; and
- 10 (2) Shall provide only the following as checkout bags to
- 11 customers: recyclable paper bags, compostable plastic
- 12 bags, or reusable bags.

13 (b) Nothing in this part shall preclude businesses from
14 making reusable bags available for sale to customers.

15 **§342H- Rules.** The director shall adopt rules under
16 chapter 91 to effectuate the purpose of this part.

17 **§342H- Administrative penalties.** The director is
18 authorized to impose by order the following administrative
19 penalties for violations of this part:

- 20 (1) For a first violation, a fine of not more than \$200;
- 21 (2) For a second violation within one year, a fine of not
- 22 more than \$400; and



1 (3) For a third or subsequent violation within one year, a
2 fine of not more than \$600.

3 **§342H- Injunctive and other relief.** The director may
4 institute a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction
5 for injunctive and other relief to prevent any violation of this
6 part, any rule adopted pursuant to this part, to collect
7 administrative penalties, or to obtain other relief. The court
8 shall have the power to grant relief."

9 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
10 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
11 begun, before its effective date.

12 SECTION 4. Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted or
13 applied so as to create any requirement, power, or duty in
14 conflict with any federal law.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

16

INTRODUCED BY:  _____

JAN 26 2011



Report Title:

Recyclable Plastic Bags

Description:

Makes the use of recyclable, compostable, and reusable checkout bags mandatory for businesses with gross annual sales of \$250,00 or more.

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