

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

756

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 6, 2015

RE: H.B. No. 620
H.D. 2

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred H.B. No. 620, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to protect the environment by:

- (1) Prohibiting the labeling of a plastic product as "compostable", unless it meets ASTM D6400 specifications;
- (2) Prohibiting labeling that implies that a plastic product will biodegrade, decompose, break down, or fragment in a landfill or other environment, unless the product is certified by independent scientific laboratory testing to break down in a manner that is not harmful to the environment;
- (3) Permitting the labeling of plastic products that have been certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute using the Biodegradable Products Institute's logo; and
- (4) Establishing penalties for violations of labeling provisions.



A member of the Kauai County Council, Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii, and several individuals testified in support of this measure. The Hawaii Food Industry Association testified in support of the intent of this measure. The Department of Health provided comments on this measure.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that no plastic product shall be labeled in any way to imply that it is compostable or will otherwise biodegrade, decompose, break down, or fragment in a landfill or other environment, unless it meets ASTM D6400 specifications as certified by an approving authority;
- (2) Clarifying that the penalties for labeling violations apply to a manufacturer of plastics or wholesale distributor; and
- (3) Changing its effective date to January 1, 2112, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 620, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 620, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Consumer
Protection & Commerce,



ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, Chair



