

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2015

RE: S.B. No. 1170
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Energy and Environment and Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 1170 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PLASTIC PRODUCTS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Health to adopt a standard specification for compostable plastics and that plastic products labeled as "compostable" meet the adopted standard specification;
- (2) Prohibit a person from selling plastic products labeled as "biodegradable" or implying that a plastic product will break down, fragment, biodegrade, or decompose in a landfill or other environment;
- (3) Exempt the sale of plastic products labeled as "compostable" if certain criteria are met; and
- (4) Establish fines for violators.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter, Rise Above Plastics Coalition, Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii, and six individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Health.



Your Committees find that people often use biodegradable items in their efforts to eliminate the wide use of plastics that present environmental and health hazards. However, biodegradable plastics are actually more damaging to the environment than regular plastics. Biodegradable food service items contain plastic and are designed to break down into microplastics, which create a great threat to marine life. The marketing of products as "biodegradable", "degradable", and "decomposable" misleads the public and is dangerous to the environment. Implementation of this measure will reduce the consumption of single use plastic products and move the State toward a more sustainable future.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

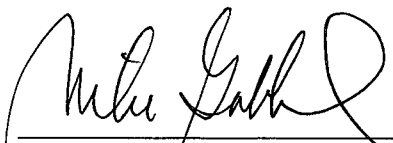
- (1) Defining "degradable" and "decomposable";
- (2) Prohibiting a person from selling a plastic product labeled with the term "degradable" or "decomposable", in addition to "biodegradable";
- (3) Amending the purpose section to reflect the additional prohibitions; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Energy and Environment and Health that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1170, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1170, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary and Labor.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Energy and
Environment and Health,



JOSH GREEN, Chair



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Energy and Environment
ENE

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB1170	ENE/HTH, CPD/JDL	2/17/15		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	✓			
GREEN, Josh (VC)	✓			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les				✓
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center;"></div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health
HTH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 1170	ENE/HTH, CPN/JDL	2/18/15		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GREEN, Josh (C)	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.				✓
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
RIVIERE, Gil	✓			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.				✓
SLOM, Sam		✓		
TOTAL	4	1	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

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