
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ADDRESS MICROPLASTICS BY DESIGNATING PERSONNEL, IMPLEMENTING TECHNOLOGY, AND ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROJECT AT KAILUA BEACH PARK TO DEPLOY AND TEST NEW SAND-CLEANING TECHNOLOGIES FOR STATEWIDE USE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is known worldwide for its beautiful
2 beaches and rich ocean habitat that have provided residents with
3 sustenance, recreational opportunities, and other resources for
4 generations; and

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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii's location in the center of the Pacific
7 Ocean, just east of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, ensures
8 that countless tons of marine debris from around the world,
9 including very small pieces of plastic particles known as
10 microplastics, wash up on the State's beaches; and

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12 WHEREAS, the health of our beaches, ocean resources, and
13 fragile marine ecosystems are seriously threatened by pollution
14 from microplastics; and

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16 WHEREAS, scientists have documented at least six hundred
17 ninety species of wildlife that have been impacted by the
18 ingestion of microplastics, including the beloved green sea
19 turtles, which lay their eggs on the State's beaches; and

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21 WHEREAS, plankton, invertebrates, fish, sea birds, and
22 marine mammals are also all known to absorb, ingest, or
23 otherwise uptake microplastics; and

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25 WHEREAS, the microplastics absorbed or ingested by these
26 organisms eventually impact humans as the microplastics make
27 their way up the food chain; and



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1 WHEREAS, because microplastics are less than five
2 millimeters in size, it is extremely difficult to remove them
3 from the environment; and
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5 WHEREAS, although microplastics are deposited at beaches
6 statewide, Kailua Beach on the island of Oahu has been
7 especially prone to microplastic pollution due to onshore winds
8 and other natural conditions; and
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10 WHEREAS, despite regular beach cleanups by volunteer
11 groups, including a recent clean-up effort that resulted in the
12 removal of five thousand pounds of plastics, the ocean
13 continually deposits new plastic debris onto Kailua Beach; and
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15 WHEREAS, Kailua Beach has consistently been voted as one of
16 the best beaches in the United States; however, the continued
17 influx of plastics onto Kailua Beach may threaten the beach's
18 reputation and status as a gathering place for residents and
19 visitors; and
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21 WHEREAS, researchers have been developing new technologies
22 to remove microplastics from the coastline, including one used
23 in a recent pilot project conducted by the University of Hawaii
24 at Hilo, the Hawaii Wildlife Fund, and engineering students from
25 the Université de Sherbrooke in Québec, Canada, that tested a
26 machine designed to filter microplastics from sand at Kamilo
27 Point on Hawaii Island; and
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29 WHEREAS, the State must support efforts like the pilot
30 program at Kamilo Point in order to find viable solutions to
31 protect our beaches from microplastic pollution, with the
32 ultimate goal of deploying these solutions statewide; now,
33 therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
37 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and
38 Natural Resources is urged to specifically address microplastics
39 by designating personnel to address the issue and implementing
40 technology that removes microplastic debris from the sand and
41 ocean water; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
 2 Natural Resources is urged to develop and implement a pilot
 3 program at Kailua Beach, which has been subject to
 4 disproportionately large sums of microplastics, to deploy and
 5 test new sand-cleaning technologies for statewide use; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
 8 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report of its
 9 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 10 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 11 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 15 Board of Land and Natural Resources and Director of the
 16 Department of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of
 17 Honolulu.
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