

JAN 18 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PLASTIC STRAWS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Americans use five
2 hundred million disposable drinking straws daily, according to
3 the National Park Service. To visualize this, five hundred
4 million straws would circle the earth two and a half times.
5 These straws are made of plastic, intended for one-time use,
6 rarely recycled, and are seemingly everywhere. Often the
7 plastic straws end up as marine trash, clogging up oceans, and
8 entangling or being consumed by sea life. Conservationists
9 report that plastic straws are among the most common plastic
10 items volunteers clean from beaches.

11 While the legislature encourages consumers to change their
12 habits and refuse plastic straws, legislative action can have a
13 more effective impact on the abundant use of plastic straws.
14 Some jurisdictions, such as Seattle, Washington, have already
15 taken steps to prohibit the selling and distribution of straws,
16 and many more are considering similar legislation. The



1 legislature also finds that when a straw is necessary, there are
2 numerous alternatives including reusable and paper straws.

3 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the distribution,
4 sale, or provision of plastic straws by individuals and
5 businesses, and establish a fine for violators.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 342H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
8 and to read as follows:

9 "§342H- Plastic straws; prohibited. (a) No individual
10 or business shall distribute, sell, or otherwise provide a straw
11 composed in full or in part of plastic.

12 (b) Any individual or business who violates subsection (a)
13 shall be fined no less than \$100 and no more than \$500 for each
14 offense.

15 (c) As used in this section:

16 "Business" means any commercial enterprise or establishment
17 operating in the State, including any individual proprietorship,
18 joint venture, partnership, corporation, limited liability
19 company, or other legal entity, whether for profit or not for
20 profit, and includes all employees of the business or any
21 independent contractors associated with the business.



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1 "Plastic" means any material made of polymeric organic
2 compounds and additives that can be shaped by flow."

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

6 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

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S.B. NO. 131

Report Title:

Plastic Straws; Fine

Description:

Prohibits the distribution, sale, and provision of plastic straws. Establishes a fine for violators. Takes effect 1/1/2020.

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