

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO INVESTIGATE AND IMPLEMENT
POLICIES TO REDUCE THE IMPORTATION OF PRODUCTS, PACKAGING,
OR MATERIALS CONTAINING PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL
SUBSTANCES INTO THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances,
2 commonly known as PFAS, or forever chemicals, are persistent
3 toxic substances that can contaminate drinking water,
4 bioaccumulate in fish and wildlife, have adverse health effects
5 on humans, and do not break down in the environment; and
6

7 WHEREAS, scientific studies have shown that exposure to
8 PFAS is harmful to the health and well-being of humans and
9 wildlife; and
10

11 WHEREAS, PFAS exposure has been linked to increased
12 cholesterol levels, lower antibody response to some vaccines,
13 changes in liver enzymes, pregnancy-induced hypertension and
14 preeclampsia, decreases in birth weight, kidney and testicular
15 cancer, and decreased fertility; and
16

17 WHEREAS, despite the adverse health effects, PFAS continue
18 to be used in a variety of products, packaging, and materials
19 that are imported into the State; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency
22 has promulgated rules to dramatically reduce maximum contaminant
23 levels for PFAS in drinking water, but has not yet taken action
24 to phase out the production of PFAS or their use in a wide
25 variety of everyday products; and
26

27 WHEREAS, any PFAS imported into the State pose a risk to
28 human health and will eventually enter the food chain and
29 contaminate already scarce drinking water aquifers; and
30



S.R. NO. 146


1 WHEREAS, the State has a duty to protect the health and
2 safety of the public; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the State should limit, to the extent possible,
5 the further importation of new PFAS into Hawaii; now, therefore,

6
7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
9 that the Department of Health is urged to investigate and
10 implement policies to reduce the importation of products,
11 packaging, or materials containing PFAS into the State; and

12
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and Deputy
15 Director for Environmental Health Administration.

16
17
18 OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Gabbard", is written over a horizontal line.