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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC PACKAGING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that compostable plastics  
2 are largely produced from polylactic acid (PLA) made from corn.  
3 In the United States, ninety-five per cent of corn is  
4 genetically modified, largely to withstand higher doses of  
5 herbicides like glyphosate, which causes cancer. Often used in  
6 contact with food, ninety-one per cent of PLA plastics tested  
7 have been found to leach synthetic estrogen compounds that can  
8 disrupt hormonal systems -- more than any other type of plastic,  
9 except for polycarbonates. Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl  
10 substances, commonly referred to as PFAS, have also been found  
11 in compostable plastics.

12           The legislature recognizes that disposing of compostable  
13 plastics is a challenge, as they are a contaminant when placed  
14 in recycling bins. Though the disposal of compostable plastics  
15 in incinerators results in air pollution, disposing compostable  
16 plastics in landfills could be worse than the disposal of  
17 non-compostable plastics because they break down more readily,



1 potentially producing greenhouse gases. The legislature notes  
2 that composting bins are often not available, and, when  
3 available, it is often unclear whether the compostable material  
4 collected is delivered to a commercial composting facility  
5 capable of processing the material.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 7 (1) Establish certain requirements for the collection and  
8 disposal of single-use compostable plastic packaging  
9 or utensils for any food or beverages sold; and  
10 (2) Require the department of health to report to the  
11 legislature before the regular sessions of 2026  
12 through 2035.

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

16 **"§342H- Single-use compostable plastic packaging or**  
17 **utensils for food or beverages; collection; delivery.** Beginning  
18 January 1, 2026, no person shall provide single-use compostable  
19 plastic packaging or utensils for any food or beverages sold in  
20 the State unless:



1        (1) One or more composting collection bins are prominently  
2        available to consumers in each room where the single-  
3        use compostable plastic packaging or utensils are  
4        provided; and

5        (2) The person delivers the collected single-use  
6        compostable plastic packaging or utensils, or  
7        contracts for the collection and delivery of the  
8        single-use compostable plastic packaging or utensils,  
9        to a properly permitted commercial composting facility  
10       that:

11       (A) Is capable of processing single-use compostable  
12       plastic; and

13       (B) Certifies that the facility will accept the  
14       single-use compostable plastic packaging or  
15       utensils collected."

16       SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report  
17 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
18 legislation, to the legislature no later than forty days prior  
19 to the convening of the regular sessions of 2026, 2027, 2028,  
20 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, and 2035, on the sale and  
21 composting of single-use compostable plastics. The report shall

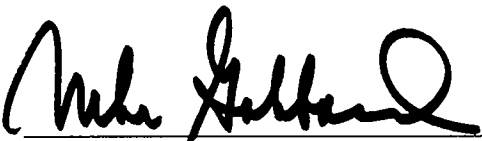


1 include an inventory of business establishments and institutions  
2 in the State that provide single-use compostable plastic  
3 packaging or utensils for food or beverages sold, whether the  
4 establishments and institutions are in compliance with  
5 section 342H- , Hawaii Revised Statutes, and any information on  
6 enforcement actions necessary to ensure compliance with  
7 section 342H- , Hawaii Revised Statutes.

8 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 551

**Report Title:**

DOH; Single-Use Compostable Plastic Packaging or Utensils for Food or Beverages Sold; Composting Collection Bins; Collection and Disposal; Reports

**Description:**

Beginning 1/1/2026, requires persons that provide single-use compostable plastic packaging or utensils for any food or beverages sold in the State to have on-site composting collection bins and ensure the collection and delivery of disposed single-use compostable plastic packaging or utensils to certain commercial composting facilities under certain circumstances. Requires the Department of Health to report to the Legislature before the Regular Sessions of 2026 through 2035.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

