
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND A POLICY
TO REDUCE THE USE OF PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS.

1 WHEREAS, plastic grocery bags provided to customers by
2 grocery stores and other retailers are a hazard to the natural
3 environment; and

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5 WHEREAS, plastic grocery bags require fossil fuel to
6 manufacture, contribute to litter, crowd landfills with non-
7 biodegradable waste, and are dangerous to wildlife; and

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9 WHEREAS, there are efforts to discourage or ban altogether
10 the use of plastic grocery bags in cities and countries around
11 the world, including Paris, South Africa, Ireland, Taiwan,
12 Zanzibar, and Rwanda; and

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14 WHEREAS, the City of San Francisco is considering a
15 proposed ordinance to ban the use of non-recyclable plastic
16 grocery bags by large stores. The measure would further require
17 those stores to provide paper bags, recyclable plastic bags, or
18 cloth sacks to their customers; and

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20 WHEREAS, Hawaii has an interest in protecting its natural
21 environment and decreasing the amount of waste flowing into its
22 landfills; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
26 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
27 Health is urged to review and consider recommending a statewide
28 policy to reduce the use of plastic grocery bags by:

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30 (1) Prohibiting stores that have over \$2,000,000 in annual
31 sales from offering non-recyclable plastic grocery
32 bags, and instead requiring those stores to use bags



1 made of paper, recyclable plastic, or a reusable
2 material; and

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4 (2) Imposing fines on stores that violate the ban; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
7 requested to submit its findings and recommendations, including
8 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
9 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
10 2008; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the
14 Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY: Kirk Caldwell

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