
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING COUNTIES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO
ENCOURAGE RETAILERS TO INCREASE THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY
PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVES TO NON-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC BAGS.

1 WHEREAS, non- biodegradable, plastic bags have significant
2 negative effects on the natural environment; and
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4 WHEREAS, in every stage of their life, from production to
5 disposal, non-biodegradable plastic bags create pollution and
6 environmental hazards; and
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8 WHEREAS, non-biodegradable plastic bags require millions of
9 barrels of crude oil, an increasingly scarce resource, to
10 manufacture, contribute to unsightly litter, crowd landfills
11 with non-biodegradable waste, and endanger marine mammals; and
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13 WHEREAS, in every square mile of ocean, it is estimated
14 that there are over 46,000 pieces of plastic, including plastic
15 bags; and
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17 WHEREAS, over 100,000 marine animals die every year after
18 becoming entangled with this plastic waste; and
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20 WHEREAS, numerous governments worldwide have placed fees or
21 bans on plastic bags and have encouraged the use of alternatives
22 such as compostable plastic bags and reusable bags; and
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24 WHEREAS, compostable plastic bags are made of material that
25 will decompose by natural processes in a safe and timely manner;
26 and
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28 WHEREAS, reusable bags are bags with handles that are made
29 of cloth or other durable material and that have been
30 specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse; and



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1 WHEREAS, encouraging the use of these environmentally
2 preferable alternatives to non-biodegradable plastic bags will
3 help to protect the natural environment and decrease the amount
4 of waste flowing into the landfills; now, therefore,
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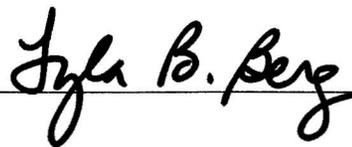
6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
8 Session of 2008, that the counties are requested to develop and
9 implement programs encouraging retailers to increase the use of
10 environmentally preferable alternatives to non-biodegradable
11 plastic bags; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the county programs should
14 encourage retailers to provide only compostable or reusable bags
15 to customers; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the county programs should
18 encourage recycling of non-biodegradable plastic bags and
19 community participation in reducing environmental, social, and
20 economic impacts; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors of the counties of Maui,
24 Kauai, and Hawaii, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and
25 Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 10 2008

