
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF INCREASING PLASTIC
RECYCLING.

1 WHEREAS, plastic is a major pollutant in the Pacific Ocean,
2 other bodies of water, beaches, land, and landfills; and
3

4 WHEREAS, plastic caps from beverage containers for products
5 such as water, juice, and milk are not recyclable in Hawaii; and
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7 WHEREAS, the reason plastic caps cannot be recycled in
8 Hawaii is that they are constructed out of number five plastic
9 (polypropylene), while bottles are constructed out of number one
10 or number two plastic (polyethylene terephthalate or high
11 density polyethylene); and
12

13 WHEREAS, plastic caps often end up as litter on beaches and
14 in parks, sometimes discarded by people collecting recyclable
15 bottles that are redeemable for deposit; and
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17 WHEREAS, the plastic caps, or parts of caps, cause harm
18 when ingested by marine birds and mammals; and
19

20 WHEREAS, in 2016, a federal marine debris removal effort
21 found 4,781 bottle caps on Midway Island's shoreline despite
22 being 1,300 miles from Honolulu; and
23

24 WHEREAS, several states have implemented plastic recycling
25 programs that cost-effectively reduce pollution from plastic
26 while also creating economic development opportunities; and
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28 WHEREAS, plastic caps are part of a successful plastic
29 recycling program in North and South Carolina that employs more



1 than one thousand three hundred people, processes more than
2 seven hundred fifty million pounds of plastic per year and had
3 sales of nearly \$450,000,000 in 2012; and
4

5 WHEREAS, plastic caps have also been successfully recycled
6 by companies such as Aveda, which has collected one hundred
7 forty-five million caps since 2008 to recycle into product
8 bottles and has encouraged some American cities to accept "caps-
9 on" recycling; and
10

11 WHEREAS, an Indiana company named Green Tree Plastics LLC
12 makes products such as planters from recycled plastic caps and
13 partners with schools to set goals for collecting plastic caps
14 which are used to make products of their choosing; and
15

16 WHEREAS, plastic caps from Hawaii can currently be recycled
17 only by mail to programs outside the State such as Preserve
18 Gimme 5, a New York company that recycles plastic to make
19 products such as toothbrush handles; and
20

21 WHEREAS, if Hawaii were to have its own plastic cap
22 material recovery program, plastic caps could remain on
23 discarded bottles, and both bottles and caps could be recycled,
24 while also potentially creating economic development
25 opportunities in the State; now therefore,
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the counties of the State
30 of Hawaii, in conjunction with the Department of Health, are
31 urged to study the potential effects of increasing plastic
32 recycling to include plastic caps, including the study of
33 program models in other states and regions that may have
34 application in Hawaii; and
35

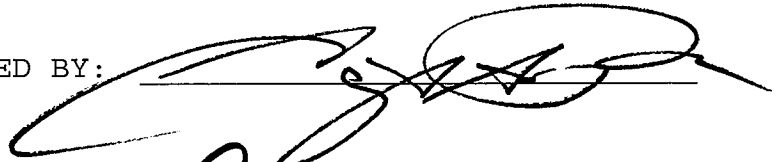
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties of the State of
37 Hawaii and the Department of Health are requested to submit a
38 report of their findings and recommendations to the Legislature
39 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
40 Session of 2019; and



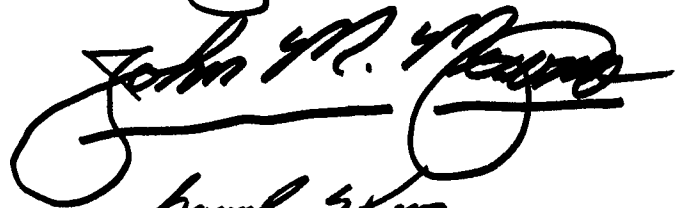
H.C.R. NO. 68

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the mayors of each
3 county and the Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY:



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