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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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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  
6

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  
16

17 WHEREAS, the plastic caps, or parts of caps, cause harm  
18 when ingested by marine birds and mammals; and  
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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  
27

28 WHEREAS, plastic caps are part of a successful plastic  
29 recycling program in North and South Carolina that employs more  
30 than one thousand three hundred people, processes more than



1 seven hundred fifty million pounds of plastic per year and had  
2 sales of nearly \$450,000,000 in 2012; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, plastic caps have also been successfully recycled  
5 by companies such as Aveda, which has collected one hundred  
6 forty-five million caps since 2008 to recycle into product  
7 bottles and has encouraged some American cities to accept "caps-  
8 on" recycling; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, an Indiana company named Green Tree Plastics LLC  
11 makes products such as planters from recycled plastic caps and  
12 partners with schools to set goals for collecting plastic caps  
13 which are used to make products of their choosing; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, plastic caps from Hawaii can currently be recycled  
16 only by mail to programs outside the State such as Preserve  
17 Gimme 5, a New York company that recycles plastic to make  
18 products such as toothbrush handles; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, if Hawaii were to have its own plastic cap  
21 material recovery program, plastic caps could remain on  
22 discarded bottles, and both bottles and caps could be recycled,  
23 while also potentially creating economic development  
24 opportunities in the State; now therefore,

25  
26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
27 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
28 of 2018, that the counties of the State of Hawaii, in  
29 conjunction with the Department of Health, are urged to study  
30 the potential effects of increasing plastic recycling to include  
31 plastic caps, including the study of program models in other  
32 states and regions that may have application in Hawaii; and

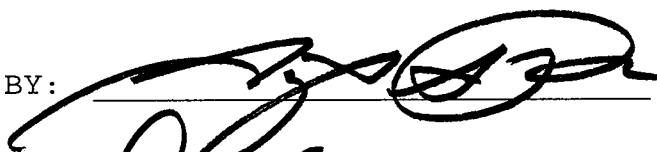
33  
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties of the State of  
35 Hawaii and the Department of Health are requested to submit a  
36 report of their findings and recommendations to the Legislature  
37 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
38 Session of 2019; and

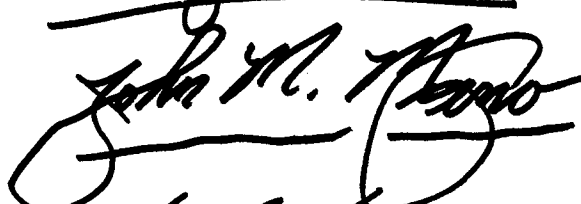


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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the mayors of each county and the Director of Health.

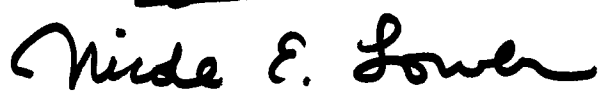
OFFERED BY:

  
Andy Evans

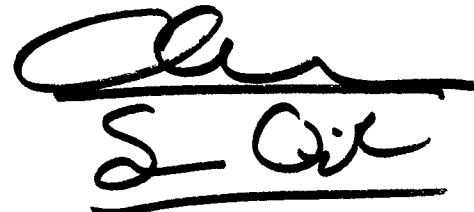
  
John M. Thompson

  
Samuel King

  
Lynn D. Crite

  
Nida E. Lower

  
R. D. D. D.

  
S. C. C.

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