

JAN 21 2022

S.B. NO. 2554

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PLASTIC POLLUTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the wasteful use of
2 plastics continues to threaten the State's health and
3 environment. According to the United Nations Environment
4 Programme, one million plastic bottles are purchased every
5 minute and over five trillion plastic bags are used annually.
6 Many of these plastic products are designed for single-use and
7 approximately sixty per cent of all plastic products produced
8 since 1950 have eventually ended up in landfills or natural
9 environments.

10 The legislature further finds that Hawaii is particularly
11 vulnerable to the effects of plastic pollution, which pose a
12 threat to the State's unique natural environments and vital
13 tourism sector. In January of 2020, the Guardian named Kamilo
14 Beach on the island of Hawaii as one of the most plastic-
15 polluted places on the globe and in July of the same year, the
16 Environmental Protection Agency deemed the beach to be
17 contaminated by the high volumes of plastic waste.



1 The legislature further finds that the New Plastics Economy
2 Global Commitment led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation with the
3 United Nations Environment Programme offers viable goals for the
4 State to reduce its reliance on single-use plastic products and
5 limit the production of plastic waste. The Global Commitment
6 aims to accomplish those goals by eliminating unnecessary
7 plastic packaging and products; encouraging reuse; incentivizing
8 reusable, recyclable, and compostable packaging; increasing
9 collection and sorting of waste; stimulating demand for recycled
10 plastics; and supporting social and behavioral change.
11 Additionally, as a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable
12 Development Goals, the State's next step toward greater
13 sustainability includes the Global Commitment for a New Plastics
14 Economy.

15 The purpose of this Act is to implement a new plastics
16 economy in which plastics are circulated through reuse and
17 recycling processes instead of being deposited in landfills or
18 natural environments. By adhering to the Global Commitment, the
19 State can substantially reduce its reliance on single-use
20 plastic products and limit the amount of plastic waste produced
21 by the State.



SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§226- New plastics economy; global commitment; goals; report. (a) The State shall endorse the Global Commitment common vision, as defined by the United Nations Environment Programme.

(b) In pursuance of the State's endorsement of the Global Commitment, and notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all agencies shall, insofar as practicable, take action to assist the State in developing a new plastics circular economy, as defined by the United Nations Environment Programme New Plastics Economy Global Commitment.

(c) The office of planning and sustainable development shall develop and publish meaningful targets to achieve the following goals:

(1) Stimulating the elimination of problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging and products;

(2) Encouraging reuse models where relevant, to reduce the need for single-use plastic packaging and products;



1 (3) Incentivizing the use of reusable, recyclable, or
2 compostable plastic packaging;

3 (4) Increasing collection, sorting, reuse, and recycling
4 rates, and facilitating the establishment of the
5 necessary infrastructure and related funding
6 mechanisms;

7 (5) Stimulating the demand for recycled plastics while
8 avoiding down-cycling into uses that may exacerbate
9 leaking of secondary plastics into the environment;
10 and

11 (6) Supporting social and behavioral change through
12 strategic communication to address plastic pollution.

13 (d) The office of planning and sustainable development
14 shall report annually to the legislature and the United Nations
15 Environment Programme on the State's progress toward the
16 specified targets and implement rules as necessary to ensure
17 transparency and public accountability, including through the
18 public communication channels of the Global Commitment.

19 (e) The office of planning and sustainable development
20 shall collaborate with relevant private sector entities to
21 effectuate the purpose of this section."



1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

3

INTRODUCED BY:

Jane Ocasio



Report Title:

New Plastics Economy; Global Commitment; Circular Economy;
Office of Planning and Sustainable Development

Description:

Endorses the Global Commitment outlined by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and United Nations Environment Programme and directs the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to set targets and implement policies to achieve the goals of the Global Commitment.

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