
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ENDORSE THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY
GLOBAL COMMITMENT AND THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO SET TARGETS TO FULFILL THE NEW
PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the wasteful use of plastics continues to threaten
2 the State's health and environment; and

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4 WHEREAS, one million plastic bottles are purchased every
5 minute and over five trillion plastic bags are used annually;
6 and

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8 WHEREAS, many plastic products are designed for single-use
9 and sixty percent of all plastic products produced since 1950
10 have eventually ended up in landfills or natural environments;
11 and

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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii is particularly vulnerable to the effects
14 of plastic pollution, which pose a threat to the State's unique
15 natural environments and vital tourism sector; and

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17 WHEREAS, in January 2020, the Guardian named Kamilo Beach
18 on Hawaii island as one of the most plastic-polluted places on
19 the globe and, in July of the same year, the Environmental
20 Protection Agency deemed the beach to be contaminated by the
21 high volumes of plastic waste; and

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23 WHEREAS, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the United
24 Nations Environment Programme have created a New Plastics
25 Economy Global Commitment to set goals and standards for the use
26 of plastic products; and

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28 WHEREAS, the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment aims to
29 reduce reliance on single-use plastic products and limit the
30 production of plastic waste by:

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- 1 (1) Eliminating unnecessary plastic packaging and
- 2 products;
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- 4 (2) Encouraging reuse;
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- 6 (3) Incentivizing reusable, recyclable, and compostable
- 7 packaging;
- 8
- 9 (4) Increasing collection and sorting of waste;
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- 11 (5) Stimulating demand for recycled plastics; and
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- 13 (6) supporting social and behavioral change; and
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15 WHEREAS, the State is already a signatory of the United
 16 Nations Sustainable Development Goals; and

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 18 WHEREAS, the next step toward greater sustainability
 19 includes endorsement of the Global Commitment for a New Plastics
 20 Economy; now, therefore,

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 22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 23 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 24 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is requested
 25 to endorse the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and United Nations
 26 Environment Programme's New Plastics Economy Global Commitment;
 27 and

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 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning and
 30 Sustainable Development is requested to develop and publish
 31 meaningful targets to achieve the goals of the New Plastics
 32 Economy Global Commitment and to implement policies in pursuit
 33 of those targets; and

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 35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
 37 Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

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 40 OFFERED BY: *Nicole E. Lowen*

MAR - 9 2022