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

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

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

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

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

