
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO INVESTIGATE AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO REDUCE THE IMPORTATION OF INGESTIBLE FOOD AND BEVERAGE PRODUCTS, PACKAGING, OR MATERIALS CONTAINING PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES INTO THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances,
2 commonly known as PFAS, or forever chemicals, are persistent
3 toxic substances that can contaminate drinking water,
4 bioaccumulate in fish and wildlife, have adverse health effects
5 on humans, and do not break down in the environment; and
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7 WHEREAS, scientific studies have shown that exposure to
8 PFAS is harmful to the health and well-being of humans and
9 wildlife; and
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11 WHEREAS, PFAS exposure has been linked to increased
12 cholesterol levels, lower antibody response to some vaccines,
13 changes in liver enzymes, pregnancy-induced hypertension and
14 preeclampsia, decreases in birth weight, kidney and testicular
15 cancer, and decreased fertility; and
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17 WHEREAS, despite the adverse health effects, PFAS continue
18 to be used in a variety of products, packaging, and materials
19 that are imported into the State; and
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21 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency
22 has promulgated rules to dramatically reduce maximum contaminant
23 levels for PFAS in drinking water, but has not yet taken action
24 to phase out the production of PFAS or their use in a wide
25 variety of everyday products; and
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1 WHEREAS, any PFAS imported into the State pose a risk to
2 human health and will eventually enter the food chain and
3 contaminate already scarce drinking water aquifers; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State has a duty to protect the health and
6 safety of the public; and
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8 WHEREAS, the State should limit, to the extent possible,
9 the further importation of new PFAS into Hawaii; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
13 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
14 Health is urged to investigate and implement policies to reduce
15 the importation of ingestible food and beverage products,
16 packaging, or materials containing PFAS into the State; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
20 Department of Defense PFAS Task Force, Governor, Lieutenant
21 Governor, Director of Health, Deputy Director for Environmental
22 Health Administration, Manager and Chief Engineer of the City
23 and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Manager and Chief
24 Engineer of the County of Hawaii Department of Water Supply,
25 Manager and Chief Engineer of the County of Kauai Department of
26 Water, and Director of the County of Maui Department of Water
27 Supply.
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