
HOUSE 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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27 WHEREAS, any PFAS imported into the State pose a risk to
28 human health and will eventually enter the food chain and
29 contaminate already scarce drinking water aquifers; and
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1 WHEREAS, the State has a duty to protect the health and
2 safety of the public; and

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4 WHEREAS, the State should limit, to the extent possible,
5 the further importation of new PFAS into Hawaii; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
9 Session of 2024, that the Department of Health is urged to
10 investigate and implement policies to reduce the importation of
11 ingestible food and beverage products, packaging, or materials
12 containing PFAS into the State; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Department of
16 Defense PFAS Task Force, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Director
17 of Health, Deputy Director for Environmental Health
18 Administration, Manager and Chief Engineer of the City and
19 County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Manager and Chief
20 Engineer of the County of Hawaii Department of Water Supply,
21 Manager and Chief Engineer of the County of Kauai Department of
22 Water, and Director of the County of Maui Department of Water
23 Supply.
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