

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNITED
NATIONS GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY AND RAPA NUI SUMMIT
DECLARATION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the world is experiencing a triple planetary
2 crisis associated with climate change, biodiversity loss, and
3 pollution; and

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5 WHEREAS, people of the Pacific acknowledge the invaluable
6 wealth of the ocean for present and future generations; and

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8 WHEREAS, recognition of the invaluable contribution of
9 indigenous peoples; leaders and local communities; and the
10 crucial role played by women, youth, and the traditional
11 knowledge passed on by elders is fundamental for the
12 conservation and sustainable use of the ocean; and

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14 WHEREAS, the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty is a
15 legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution on the
16 planet, aiming to address the full lifecycle of plastics from
17 production to disposal; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty creates
20 a common standard for plastic consumption across countries to:

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22 (1) Establish regulations for plastic products and uses;
23
24 (2) Support a circular economy that prioritizes reuse and
25 recycling;
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27 (3) Manage plastic waste in an environmentally sound way;
28 and
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30 (4) Provide financial support and align public and private
31 expenditures and allocations; and



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2 WHEREAS, the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty also
3 requires signatories to:

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5 (1) Phase out all unnecessary plastic products that pose a
6 high pollution risk, including single-use items and
7 excessive packaging;
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9 (2) Establish binding and specific design requirements of
10 plastic products that lead to a decrease in plastic
11 consumption; and
12
13 (3) Match strong binding measures with ambitious
14 mechanisms to enable effective implementation and a
15 just transition, including robust technical and
16 financial assistance; and
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18 WHEREAS, the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty holds
19 all countries to a high common standard on plastic consumption
20 and creates a clear path toward a future free from plastic
21 pollution along with a level playing field that incentivizes and
22 supports national actions; and
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24 WHEREAS, one benchmark of the United Nations Global
25 Plastics Treaty includes the overall reduction in plastic
26 packaging by thirty percent incrementally over twelve years,
27 with the first incremental reduction of ten percent required by
28 2027; and
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30 WHEREAS, another benchmark includes phasing out single-use
31 plastics including but not limited to plastic bags, straws, to-
32 go containers, polystyrene food ware, and coolers; and
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34 WHEREAS, Hawai'i can explore and incentivize local
35 establishments to adopt systems prioritizing refill and reuse
36 containers, thereby eliminating reliance on single-use plastics;
37 and
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39 WHEREAS, the State should aim to:
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- 1 (1) Improve reporting, transparency, and traceability of
2 chemicals and plastics throughout their full life
3 cycle;
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- 5 (2) Advocate for chemical simplification and group-based
6 approaches to regulating hazardous chemicals;
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- 8 (3) Implement chemical monitoring, testing, and quality
9 control;
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- 11 (4) Create economic incentives that follow the waste
12 hierarchy; and
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- 14 (5) Generate support for a just and equitable transition
15 to protect individuals, including waste pickers, who
16 are impacted throughout the life cycle of plastics;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, recognizing the connection between human health
20 and reducing plastic pollution while reinforcing the need for
21 upstream intervention on production, eliminating toxic
22 chemicals, establishing producer responsibility, and subsidizing
23 and advancing nontoxic reuse systems, can help the State to
24 alleviate the effects of plastics on society; and

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26 WHEREAS, Rapa Nui hosted a global and regional summit
27 declaring major priorities around plastics in Moananuiākea; and

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29 WHEREAS, the Rapa Nui Pacific Leaders Summit addressed
30 plastic pollution in the Pacific Ocean by aiming to:

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- 32 (1) Promote actions to reduce plastic and microplastic
33 pollution in Moananuiākea;
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- 35 (2) Foster ocean conservation and protection; and
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- 37 (3) Highlight the importance of integrating scientific and
38 traditional knowledge; and
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40 WHEREAS, adopting the recommendations provided in the
41 United Nations Global Plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit



1 Declaration will better position the State to address the
2 harmful effects of plastics; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
6 House of Representatives concurring, that this body encourages
7 the adoption and implementation of the recommendations from the
8 United Nations Global Plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit
9 Declaration applicable to the State to address climate justice
10 and sustainable development; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages the State
13 to undertake effective, inclusive, sustainable, and rights-based
14 considerations to address the challenge of plastic pollution and
15 the degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages the
18 adoption of actions promoting protection, conservation, and the
19 sustainable use of the ocean, including preservation of marine
20 biodiversity and ecosystems and implementation of mechanisms to
21 increase marine resilience, especially among indigenous peoples
22 and local coastal communities; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body supports the
25 promotion of culture-based climate justice, utilizing the
26 principles established in the Charter of the United Nations and
27 the Charter of the Pacific Islands Forum; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages greater
30 participation in the United Nations human rights, sustainable
31 development, and climate processes promoting rights, fundamental
32 freedoms, and protection of the planet; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary General of
3 the United Nations, Executive Director of the United Nations
4 Environment Programme, Administrator of the United Nations
5 Development Programme, members of Hawai'i's congressional
6 delegation, and the Governor.

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OFFERED BY: _____

