
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

4
5 WHEREAS, people of the Pacific acknowledge the invaluable
6 wealth of the ocean for present and future generations; and

7
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

13
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:

- 21
22 (1) Establish regulations for plastic products and uses;
23
24 (2) Support a circular economy that prioritizes reuse and
25 recycling;
26
27 (3) Manage plastic waste in an environmentally sound way;
28 and
29



1 (4) Provide financial support and align public and private
2 expenditures and allocations; and
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4 WHEREAS, the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty also
5 requires signatories to:
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7 (1) Phase out all unnecessary plastic products that pose a
8 high pollution risk, including single-use items and
9 excessive packaging;
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11 (2) Establish binding and specific design requirements of
12 plastic products that lead to a decrease in plastic
13 consumption; and
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15 (3) Match strong binding measures with ambitious
16 mechanisms to enable effective implementation and a
17 just transition, including robust technical and
18 financial assistance; and
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20 WHEREAS, the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty holds
21 all countries to a high common standard on plastic consumption
22 and creates a clear path toward a future free from plastic
23 pollution along with a level playing field that incentivizes and
24 supports national actions; and
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26 WHEREAS, one benchmark of the United Nations Global
27 Plastics Treaty includes the overall reduction in plastic
28 packaging by thirty percent incrementally over twelve years,
29 with the first incremental reduction of ten percent required by
30 2027; and
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32 WHEREAS, another benchmark includes phasing out single-use
33 plastics including but not limited to plastic bags, straws,
34 to-go containers, polystyrene food ware, and coolers; and
35

36 WHEREAS, Hawaii can explore and incentivize local
37 establishments to adopt systems prioritizing refill and reuse
38 containers, thereby eliminating reliance on single-use plastics;
39 and
40

41 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;
- 4
- 5 (2) Advocate for chemical simplification and group-based
- 6 approaches to regulating hazardous chemicals;
- 7
- 8 (3) Implement chemical monitoring, testing, and quality
- 9 control;
- 10
- 11 (4) Create economic incentives that follow the Zero Waste
- 12 Hierarchy; and
- 13
- 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
- 18

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

25
 26 WHEREAS, Rapa Nui hosted a global and regional summit
 27 declaring major priorities around plastics in Moananuiakea; and

28
 29 WHEREAS, the Rapa Nui Pacific Leaders Summit addressed
 30 plastic pollution in the Pacific Ocean by aiming to:

- 31
- 32 (1) Promote actions to reduce plastic and microplastic
- 33 pollution in Moananuiakea;
- 34
- 35 (2) Foster ocean conservation and protection; and
- 36
- 37 (3) Highlight the importance of integrating scientific and
- 38 traditional knowledge; and
- 39

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 of recommendations from the United Nations Global
8 Plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit Declaration to address
9 climate justice and sustainable development; and

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

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

22
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body supports the
24 promotion of culture-based climate justice, utilizing the
25 principles established in the Charter of the United Nations and
26 the Charter of the Pacific Islands Forum; and

27
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages greater
29 participation in the United Nations human rights, sustainable
30 development, and climate processes promoting rights, fundamental
31 freedoms, and protection of the planet; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary General of
35 the United Nations, Executive Director of the United Nations
36 Environment Programme, Administrator of the United Nations
37 Development Programme, members of Hawaii's congressional
38 delegation, and Governor.

