
SENATE 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

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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;

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

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- 4 (1) Phase out all unnecessary plastic products that pose a
5 high pollution risk, including single-use items and
6 excessive packaging;
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- 8 (2) Establish binding and specific design requirements of
9 plastic products that lead to a decrease in plastic
10 consumption; and
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- 12 (3) Match strong binding measures with ambitious
13 mechanisms to enable effective implementation and a
14 just transition, including robust technical and
15 financial assistance; and
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17 WHEREAS, the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty holds
18 all countries to a high common standard on plastic consumption
19 and creates a clear path toward a future free from plastic
20 pollution along with a level playing field that incentivizes and
21 supports national actions; and

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23 WHEREAS, one benchmark of the United Nations Global
24 Plastics Treaty includes the overall reduction in plastic
25 packaging by thirty percent incrementally over twelve years,
26 with the first incremental reduction of ten percent required by
27 2027; and

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29 WHEREAS, another benchmark includes phasing out single-use
30 plastics including but not limited to plastic bags, straws,
31 to-go containers, polystyrene food ware, and coolers; and

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33 WHEREAS, Hawaii can explore and incentivize local
34 establishments to adopt systems prioritizing refill and reuse
35 containers, thereby eliminating reliance on single-use plastics;
36 and

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38 WHEREAS, the State should aim to:

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- 40 (1) Improve reporting, transparency, and traceability of
41 chemicals and plastics throughout their full life
42 cycle;



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(2) Advocate for chemical simplification and group-based approaches to regulating hazardous chemicals;

(3) Implement chemical monitoring, testing, and quality control;

(4) Create economic incentives that follow the Zero Waste Hierarchy; and

(5) Generate support for a just and equitable transition to protect individuals, including waste pickers, who are impacted throughout the life cycle of plastics; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the connection between human health and reducing plastic pollution while reinforcing the need for upstream intervention on production, eliminating toxic chemicals, establishing producer responsibility, and subsidizing and advancing nontoxic reuse systems, can help the State to alleviate the effects of plastics on society; and

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

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

(1) Promote actions to reduce plastic and microplastic pollution in Moananuiakea;

(2) Foster ocean conservation and protection; and

(3) Highlight the importance of integrating scientific and traditional knowledge; and

WHEREAS, adopting the recommendations provided in the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit Declaration will better position the State to address the harmful effects of plastics; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
3 that this body encourages the adoption of recommendations from
4 the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty and Rapa Nui Summit
5 Declaration to address climate justice and sustainable
6 development; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages the State
9 to undertake effective, inclusive, sustainable, and rights-based
10 considerations to address the challenge of plastic pollution and
11 the degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages the
14 adoption of actions promoting protection, conservation, and the
15 sustainable use of the ocean, including preservation of marine
16 biodiversity and ecosystems and implementation of mechanisms to
17 increase marine resilience, especially among indigenous peoples
18 and local coastal communities; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body supports the
21 promotion of culture-based climate justice, utilizing the
22 principles established in the Charter of the United Nations and
23 the Charter of the Pacific Islands Forum; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages greater
26 participation in the United Nations human rights, sustainable
27 development, and climate processes promoting rights, fundamental
28 freedoms, and protection of the planet; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary General of the United
32 Nations, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment
33 Programme, Administrator of the United Nations Development
34 Programme, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, and
35 Governor.

