

MAR 07 2025

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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33 WHEREAS, the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty also
34 requires signatories to:



- (1) Phase out all unnecessary plastic products that pose a high pollution risk, including single-use items and excessive packaging;
- (2) Establish binding and specific design requirements of plastic products that lead to a decrease in plastic consumption; and
- (3) Match strong binding measures with ambitious mechanisms to enable effective implementation and a just transition, including robust technical and financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Global Plastics Treaty holds all countries to a high common standard on plastic consumption and creates a clear path toward a future free from plastic pollution along with a level playing field that incentivizes and supports national actions; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Hawai'i can explore and incentivize local establishments to adopt systems prioritizing refill and reuse containers, thereby eliminating reliance on single-use plastics; and

WHEREAS, the State should aim to:

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



- (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 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 Moananuiākea; 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 Moananuiākea;
- (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,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,



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

