

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1629-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 01, 2026

RE: H.C.R. No. 205

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 205 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON RECYCLABLE, BIODEGRADABLE, AND COMPOSTABLE LABELING IN THE STATE TO DETERMINE IF THE LABELING IS ACCURATE AND NON-DECEPTIVE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of Health to:

- (1) Conduct a study on recyclable, biodegradable, and compostable labeling in the State to determine if the labeling is accurate and non-deceptive; and
- (2) Submit a report to the Legislature.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; Climate Protectors Hawai'i; and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Health and Consumer Technology Association.

Your Committee finds that consumers rely on certain labeling, including the "chasing arrows" triangle and biodegradable and compostable claims, to make recycling and composting decisions.

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Your Committee further finds that such labeling has been a source of confusion for consumers and has contributed to high rates of contamination, where items that are generally recyclable are mixed with items that cannot be recycled. Your Committee recognizes that sorting through contaminated items is costly and leads to most items being sent to landfills. This measure encourages the evaluation of recyclable, biodegradable, and compostable labeling in order to determine whether the labeling is accurate and recommend standards or guidelines to improve clarity, reduce contamination, and improve recycling and composting rates.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 205 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Energy &
Environmental Protection,



NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



