

FEB 04 2021

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION TO ENSURE THAT DESTINATIONS TO WHICH THE STATE'S RECYCLABLE WASTE IS TRANSPORTED FOR OUT-OF-STATE PROCESSING ABIDE BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AS OUTLINED BY THE BASEL CONVENTION.

1 WHEREAS, in 2019, Hawaii exported approximately 10,500,000  
2 pounds of plastic, 8,500,000 pounds of aluminum, and 32,100,000  
3 pounds of glass and bi-metal for recycling; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, much of the recyclable waste that is shipped to  
6 United States destinations from Hawaii is subsequently sent  
7 overseas for end-of-life processing; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, in 2019, Hawaii shipped its recyclable plastics,  
10 aluminum, glass, and bi-metal to other states, including  
11 California, Georgia, Maryland, and Oregon, and outside the  
12 United States to China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi  
13 Arabia, and South Korea; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, prior to China's import ban on recyclable plastics  
16 in January 2018, seventy percent of the world's plastic waste  
17 was exported to China; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, since China's import ban on recyclable plastics,  
20 recyclable plastic waste shipments to Southeast Asian countries  
21 have increased exponentially; for example, exports of recycling  
22 from the United States to Thailand increased almost seven  
23 thousand percent in one year; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, end-of-life processing for recyclable plastics and  
26 waste in many of the countries in which Hawaii's recyclable  
27 waste ultimately arrives are often handled in a manner that  
28 cause harm to human health and local environments; and



1 WHEREAS, the Basel Convention on the Control of  
2 Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,  
3 commonly referred to as the Basel Convention, was adopted on  
4 March 22, 1989, and entered into force in 1992, in response to  
5 public outcry following the discovery in the 1980s of deposits  
6 of toxic wastes imported from abroad in Africa and other parts  
7 of the developing world; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, the objective of the Basel Convention is to  
10 protect human health and the environment from the effects of  
11 hazardous wastes and other wastes; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the Basel Convention, an international  
14 environmental treaty under the auspices of the United Nations  
15 Environmental Program, was created to reduce the movement of  
16 hazardous and other wastes between nations; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the United States of America is a signatory to the  
19 Basel Convention but not a party; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2021, the Basel Convention  
22 was amended to require trade controls for all mixed plastic  
23 waste not destined for environmentally-sound recycling; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, Hawaii collection companies choose where to send  
26 the State's recyclable waste based on factors including shipping  
27 costs, contracts, and how much the buyer is willing to pay; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, the Department of Health oversees waste disposal  
30 and recycling in the State; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, each county in the State handles its respective  
33 waste processing independent of the other counties; now,  
34 therefore,

35  
36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
38 that the Department of Health's Environmental Management  
39 Division is urged to ensure that destinations to which the  
40 State's recyclable waste is transported for out-of-state  
41 processing abide by the environmental standards as outlined by  
42 the Basel Convention; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties are urged to  
2 ensure that destinations to which their respective county's  
3 recyclable waste is transported for out-of-state processing  
4 abide by the health and safety standards as outlined by the  
5 Basel Convention; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, mayors of each  
9 county, and Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY:     *Karl Nhoah*    

