

MAR 12 2008

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM  
TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES TO CONVERT TO  
EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE FOAM ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS.

1           WHEREAS, due to the inherent nonbiodegradable,  
2 nonrecyclable nature and chemical composition of expanded  
3 polystyrene foam (commonly known as Styrofoam), the use and  
4 disposal of this product poses a significant threat not only to  
5 Hawaii's ecosystems and environment but also to the general  
6 health and welfare of the citizens of this State; and  
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8           WHEREAS, expanded polystyrene foam is a petroleum  
9 by-product, nonrenewable resource composed of the chemical  
10 styrene, a neurotoxin and a possible human carcinogen; and  
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12           WHEREAS, when expanded polystyrene foam breaks down in the  
13 State's landfills, dangerous chemicals leach into the seepage of  
14 the landfills, adversely impacting the State's environment and  
15 ecosystems. Additionally, as this seepage is pumped out of the  
16 landfill and inadequately processed or treated before being  
17 discharged into the ocean, it also threatens marine ecosystems  
18 around the islands; and  
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20           WHEREAS, expanded polystyrene foam products take hundreds  
21 of years to breakdown, posing a significant long-term  
22 detrimental impact upon Hawaii's environment and ecosystems; and  
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24           WHEREAS, when expanded polystyrene foam is disposed of by  
25 incineration, it produces a dense, black, irritating smoke  
26 containing acidic gases and over ninety different chemical  
27 compounds, including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and the  
28 known neurotoxin and possible carcinogen, styrene; and  
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30           WHEREAS, when, contrary to the designed one-time use, food  
31 or beverages are reheated in expanded polystyrene foam  
32 containers, leaching of the chemical neurotoxin styrene occurs;  
33 and  
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1           WHEREAS, improper or inadvertent disposal (littering) of  
2 expanded polystyrene foam products is not only an aesthetic  
3 concern but also raises significant health and welfare concerns  
4 for the State's aquatic and wildlife; and

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6           WHEREAS, disposable cups, clamshell containers, egg  
7 cartons, meat trays, and numerous other items made from expanded  
8 polystyrene foam pose a significant threat to the environment,  
9 including the numerous and oftentimes fragile ecosystems that  
10 exist in Hawaii, and to the health and welfare of the general  
11 public; and

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13           WHEREAS, Haleiwa town's Plastic Free Haleiwa coalition  
14 provides a tremendous example and excellent model of community  
15 members and business owners working together to reduce and  
16 ultimately eliminate the use of disposable plastics, including  
17 expanded polystyrene foam products, in their community; now,  
18 therefore,

19  
20           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,  
22 that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
23 Tourism (DBEDT) is requested to create a voluntary compliance  
24 program to encourage communities and businesses to convert to  
25 alternative products, other than expanded polystyrene foam  
26 products; and

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28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that under the program, DBEDT is  
29 requested to create a list of alternatives to commonly used  
30 expanded polystyrene foam products, and make the information  
31 available to the public; and

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33           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
34 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a  
35 report containing the contents, actions, and results of the  
36 voluntary compliance program to the Legislature twenty days  
37 before the start of each regular session, and that the report  
38 may include but is not limited to suggestions, comments, or  
39 requests for legislative action; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Business,  
 3 Economic Development, and Tourism; and each Mayor and Council  
 4 Chairperson of each county of the State.

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OFFERED BY:

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