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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND KAUAI COUNTY TO ADOPT  
PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION ORDINANCES TO REDUCE THE SALE, USE,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION CAUSED BY THE PROLIFERATION  
OF NONCOMPOSTABLE PLASTIC BAGS.

1           WHEREAS, noncompostable plastic bags are made from plastic  
2 that does not biodegrade, are not specifically designed and  
3 manufactured for multiple re-use, and are provided by a store to  
4 a customer at the point of sale; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, millions of barrels of crude oil are required to  
7 manufacture noncompostable plastic bags; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, noncompostable plastic bags that are not recycled  
10 have deleterious effects on the environment, such as crowding  
11 landfills with non-biodegradable waste; and

12  
13           WHEREAS, due to their light weight and aerodynamic design,  
14 noncompostable plastic bags tend to blow away from trash  
15 depositories and thus contribute unsightly litter to both land  
16 and ocean; and

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18           WHEREAS, the movement of noncompostable plastic bags in the  
19 ocean is subject to ocean currents that perpetuate their  
20 movement rather than push them to shore for cleanup, and  
21 contribute to floating islands of trash like that of the Great  
22 Pacific Gyre; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, noncompostable plastic bags endanger marine life  
25 by resembling food sources, such as jellyfish, and when ingested  
26 can prevent migration and reproduction in birds and block the  
27 intestines of turtles, making it difficult for them to dive for  
28 food; and



# H.C.R. NO. 61

1 WHEREAS, the State has a compelling interest in protecting  
 2 and preserving the natural environment and in decreasing the  
 3 amount of noncompostable plastic bags that occupy capacity-  
 4 stretched landfills; and

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 6 WHEREAS, mechanisms in place to divert noncompostable  
 7 plastic bags from landfills to recycling centers have not been  
 8 well-advertised to the public and are underused; and

9  
 10 WHEREAS, Maui county officials indicate that taxpayers  
 11 incur costs of over \$180,000 each year to clean up stray plastic  
 12 bags in areas of public use, and therefore passed an ordinance  
 13 in 2008 to reduce the use of noncompostable plastic bags; and

14  
 15 WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii also passed an ordinance in  
 16 2008 to reduce the use of noncompostable plastic bags and at the  
 17 same time encourage citizens to use alternatives, such as paper  
 18 bags and reusable tote bags; now, therefore,

19  
 20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 21 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 22 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the City and County of  
 23 Honolulu and County of Kauai are urged to adopt ordinances  
 24 similar to those of Maui and Hawaii counties to reduce the sale,  
 25 use, and environmental degradation caused by the proliferation  
 26 of noncompostable plastic bags; and

27  
 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the mayors of the City  
 30 and County of Honolulu and County of Kauai.

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OFFERED BY:

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