
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRANSITIONING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SERVICE PRODUCTS AND EXPAND COMPOSTING PROGRAMS AT APPROPRIATE SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, many food service products are composed of
2 plastics and expanded polystyrene foam that are not
3 biodegradable or compostable and end up in our waste stream or
4 as litter in our communities; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State and counties are forced to spend
7 taxpayer dollars to clean up non-biodegradable and non-
8 compostable food service product litter every year; and

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10 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has adopted a goal of reducing
11 the solid waste stream by seventy per cent prior to disposal in
12 accordance with the Aloha+ Challenge; and

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14 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Manoa has established
15 campus-wide policies to eliminate the use of plastic and
16 polystyrene foam products in their food service products on
17 campus; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Department of Education could follow the
20 sustainable model established by the University of Hawaii at
21 Manoa and reduce its contribution to the waste stream and to
22 litter by using compostable food service products; and

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24 WHEREAS, several Department of Education schools are
25 currently participating in successful composting and waste
26 reduction programs, such as the 'Aina in Schools Program and a
27 pilot composting program at Pearl City High School that
28 processed over 56,000 pounds of waste from Fall 2013-Fall 2014;
29 and



H.C.R. NO. 220

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2 WHEREAS, expanding composting programs while moving to use
3 compostable food service products at Department of Education
4 schools would eliminate or divert much of the waste produced by
5 those schools, and could provide additional opportunities to
6 eliminate food waste from the school's cafeteria, green waste
7 from custodial staff, and paper waste produced in classrooms and
8 offices; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
12 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
13 Education is requested to convene a working group to develop
14 recommendations for Department of Education schools to:
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- 16 (1) Transition to alternative food service products from
17 plastic and polystyrene products; and
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19 (2) Expand or establish composting programs in schools,
20 where appropriate; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Education
23 or the Superintendent's designee is requested to serve as the
24 chairperson of the working group and that the following
25 individuals, or their designees, are invited to be members of
26 the working group:
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- 28 (1) The Vice President of Administration of the University
29 of Hawaii;
30
31 (2) The Principal of Pearl City High School; and
32
33 (3) The Principal of Sunset Beach Elementary School; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
36 to report its findings and recommendations, including any
37 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
38 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
42 Superintendent of Education, the Chairperson of the Board of



H.C.R. NO. 220

1 Education, the Mayor of each county, the Chairperson of each
2 county council, the Vice President of Administration of the
3 University of Hawaii, the Principal of Pearl City High School,
4 and the Principal of Sunset Beach Elementary School.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Law', written over a horizontal line.

MAR 13 2015

