



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

July 5, 2019

**GOV. MSG. NO. 1356**

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 5, 2019, the following bill was signed into law:

SB522 SD2 HD2 CD1

RELATING TO PLASTIC.  
**ACT 254 (19)**

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PLASTIC.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the local and global  
2 impact of the world's increasing waste stream is unsustainable  
3 and detrimental to the future of Hawaii's economy and people.  
4 There has been an exponential rise in single-use foodware items  
5 over the past few decades globally, with particularly high  
6 increases in plastics derived from fossils fuels. Single-use  
7 disposable foodware and packaging - including plastic bottles,  
8 caps, lids, straws, cups, and polystyrene and plastic containers  
9 - are major contributors to street and beach litter, ocean  
10 pollution, marine and other wildlife harm, and greenhouse gas  
11 emissions.

12           According to the United Nations, since the 1950s, the  
13 production of plastic has outpaced that of almost every other  
14 material. Much of the plastic produced is designed to be thrown  
15 away after being used only once. As a result, plastic packaging  
16 accounts for about half of the plastic waste in the world. Most  
17 of this waste is generated in Asia, while America, Japan, and  
18 the European Union are the world's largest producers of plastic



1 packaging waste per capita. The world's ability to cope with  
2 plastic waste is already overwhelmed as seen by the closing of  
3 recycling markets in China and Thailand. Even when recycling  
4 markets were open, only nine per cent of the 9,000,000,000 tons  
5 of plastic produced has been recycled. Most plastic ends up in  
6 landfills, dumps, incinerators, or in the environment. If the  
7 growth in plastic production continues at its current rate, then  
8 by 2050, the plastics industry will likely account for twenty  
9 per cent of the world's total oil consumption.

10 Hawaii has a goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 and embraces  
11 the United Nations sustainable development goals, including  
12 achieving sustainable management and the efficient use of  
13 natural resources, sound waste management, encouraging corporate  
14 sustainability practices, strengthening the State's resilience  
15 and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural  
16 disasters, sustainably managing and protecting our marine and  
17 coastal ecosystems, and reducing pollution. Decreasing the  
18 import and use of fossil fuel-based products like single-use  
19 plastics should become part of a movement toward reaching those  
20 goals. For every one ton of waste seen at the end of life,  
21 seventy tons were created upstream in the extraction,



1 production, and transportation sectors. Alternatives to  
2 plastics already exist for many take-out items and an industry  
3 of innovative change for packaging is advancing globally. Zero  
4 waste plastic reduction plans are moving forward all over the  
5 world, including within the European Union, Ethiopia, Costa  
6 Rica, and municipalities across the United States. The  
7 legislature finds that given the current trend, if Hawaii  
8 businesses are at the forefront of this movement, they will be  
9 less burdened by change.

10 Locally, plastic litter and debris can be increasingly  
11 found on every island and in every watershed and protected area  
12 from the remote Kalalau valley on Kauai to Kilauea caldera on  
13 Hawaii island. Hawaii's forests, streams, and beaches are  
14 strewn with plastic debris, including micro plastic debris  
15 smaller than grains of sand, which are consumed by the smallest  
16 of endangered birds to the humpback whale. Among other hazards,  
17 plastic debris attracts and concentrates ambient pollutants in  
18 seawater and freshwater, which can transfer to fish, other  
19 seafood, and salt that is eventually sold for human consumption.  
20 Globally, ninety-five per cent of plastic packaging is discarded



1 after a single use, at a cost of \$80,000,000,000 to  
2 \$120,000,000,000.

3 The legislature further finds that cleaning up plastic is a  
4 significant cost to Hawaii taxpayers. The cost of increasing  
5 cleanups by government agencies, businesses, and the general  
6 public is rising to account for expensive best management  
7 practices and mitigation. A study of over ninety counties in  
8 California recently concluded that taxpayers are paying  
9 \$428,000,000 per year to clean up plastic through storm drain  
10 management, street sweeping, and marine cleanups. San Diego  
11 county, which has an equivalent population to Hawaii at  
12 1,300,000 people, spends \$14,000,000 annually cleaning up  
13 plastic. In January 2019, San Diego county passed legislation  
14 to phase out polystyrene foam and other single-use plastics.  
15 The Hawaii department of transportation has produced a trash  
16 management plan that shows that polystyrene foam and plastic  
17 bags are the top two contributors to the waste stream and must  
18 be regularly removed from storm drains at a cost to the  
19 department.

20 Major news and research publications like *National*  
21 *Geographic* and *60 Minutes* are reporting on plastic pollution as



1 one of the pressing environmental issues currently facing the  
2 world. Minimizing packaging and utilizing alternatives derived  
3 from compostable materials, which are now widely available, can  
4 benefit the State's economy as it shifts toward a system of  
5 responsible conservation, recycling, recovery, and reuse, which  
6 is a foundational principle of Native Hawaiian culture.  
7 Additionally, the State's economy can become a leader in  
8 reducing and recovering plastic waste by collaboratively working  
9 with businesses, as well as researching and implementing  
10 feasible and innovative solutions for all packaging coming into  
11 the State of Hawaii.

12 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
13 of health for administrative purposes a plastic source reduction  
14 working group.

15 (b) The working group shall:

16 (1) Formulate a plan for reducing and recovering plastic  
17 from the Hawaii waste stream;

18 (2) Develop strategies to encourage plastic reduction and  
19 reuse in the food service industry, such as reusable  
20 container incentive programs for customers;



- 1 (3) Provide recommendations to encourage reuse, reduction,  
2 recycling, and recovery of waste and create value  
3 added products to innovate and responsibly manage the  
4 life cycle of existing resources;
- 5 (4) Consult with each county that has already enacted  
6 ordinances related to single-use plastics such as  
7 plastic bags and polystyrene foam containers and  
8 develop recommendations for the implementation of a  
9 uniform, statewide policy for these items that can  
10 replace existing county ordinances and provide  
11 businesses with laws that are consistent throughout  
12 the State;
- 13 (5) Consult with stakeholders to develop appropriate  
14 exemptions to address concerns of health and safety,  
15 lack of suitable alternative products on the market,  
16 and lack of infrastructure; and
- 17 (6) Evaluate potential life-cycle and environmental  
18 implications of replacing plastic packaging with  
19 alternative products.
- 20 (c) The membership of the working group shall be as  
21 follows:



- 1 (1) The director of health or the director's designee;
- 2 (2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
- 3 resources or the chairperson's designee;
- 4 (3) The president and chief executive officer of the
- 5 Hawaii tourism authority or the president and chief
- 6 executive officer's designee;
- 7 (4) Four members, one to be appointed by each of the
- 8 respective mayors of the city and county of Honolulu
- 9 and the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui;
- 10 (5) The state sustainability coordinator;
- 11 (6) A representative of the Surfrider Foundation;
- 12 (7) A representative of Zero Waste Oahu;
- 13 (8) A representative of Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii;
- 14 (9) A representative of the Hawaii Food Industry
- 15 Association;
- 16 (10) A representative of the Hawaii Restaurant Association;
- 17 (11) A representative of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii;
- 18 (12) A representative of the beverage industry;
- 19 (13) A representative from the plastic manufacturing
- 20 industry; and
- 21 (14) A representative of the recycling industry.





1 The representatives in paragraphs (6) through (11) shall be  
2 selected by the director of health.

3 (d) The members of the working group shall serve without  
4 compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses,  
5 including travel expenses, consulting fees, and administrative  
6 expenses such as photocopying, postage, stationery, and office  
7 supplies incidental to the performance of their duties.

8 (e) The working group shall work with the department of  
9 health, the carbon sequestration task force, private  
10 stakeholders, public stakeholders, or any other group or  
11 individuals the working group deems necessary.

12 (f) The working group shall submit a report of its  
13 findings and recommendations, including recommendations for  
14 pilot projects for Hawaii businesses to phase out single-use  
15 plastic packaging, promote reuse, and find sustainable  
16 alternatives for packaging, as well as any proposed legislation,  
17 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
18 convening of the regular session of 2021.

19 SECTION 3. The working group shall cease to exist on  
20 June 30, 2022.

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

S.B. NO.

522  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 2  
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 05 day of JUL, 2019

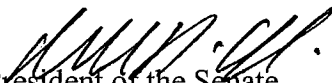
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ige". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: April 30, 2019  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the  
Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2019.

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 522, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1


THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2019  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019.



Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives