
HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONVENING A WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS LOCAL ISSUES SURROUNDING
WASTE REDUCTION.

1 WHEREAS, there is a need to create a statewide responsible
2 waste management system that does not pollute the air, land, or
3 ocean in order to maintain Hawaii's delicate island ecosystem;
4 and

5
6 WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique geography and remote location make
7 waste-relocation programs uniquely costly; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the placement of materials in waste disposal
10 facilities such as landfills and incinerators leads to polluted
11 air and waterways and transfers liabilities to future
12 generations; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the increasing cost of oil and the continuing
15 growth in worldwide consumption of our natural resources have
16 created strong, stable markets for recovered materials; and

17
18 WHEREAS, waste-reduction technologies are rapidly
19 advancing, providing many opportunities to reduce the costs of
20 recycling; and

21
22 WHEREAS, investing in local recycling facilities can create
23 diverse employment opportunities and create useful products and
24 services; and

25
26 WHEREAS, conserving natural resources and reducing waste is
27 of primary importance both locally and worldwide; and

28
29 WHEREAS, the ahupua'a system that was utilized throughout
30 the Hawaiian islands, from mauka to makai, included principles
31 of sustainability and continues to serve as a guide for making
32 sustainable decisions today; and



1 WHEREAS, zero waste principles promote the highest and best
2 use of materials to eliminate waste and pollution by emphasizing
3 a closed-loop system of production and consumption, moving in
4 logical increments toward the goal of zero waste through the
5 core principles of:

- 6
- 7 (1) Improving downstream reuse and recycling of end-of-
8 life products and materials to ensure their highest
9 and best use;
- 10
- 11 (2) Pursuing upstream re-design strategies to reduce the
12 volume and toxicity of discarded products and
13 materials, and promote low-impact or reduced-
14 consumption lifestyles; and
- 15
- 16 (3) Fostering and supporting the use of discarded products
17 and materials to stimulate and drive local economic
18 and workforce development; and
- 19

20 WHEREAS, adopting a goal of zero waste disposal and
21 pursuing zero waste principles is consistent with and explicit
22 validation of the State of Hawaii's commitment to state-wide
23 sustainability; now, therefore,

24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
27 2019, that a working group be convened by the Legislature to
28 discuss local issues surrounding waste reduction, including:

- 29
- 30 (1) Potential source reduction techniques, including plans
31 to eliminate single-use plastic packaging from the
32 Hawaii waste stream and phasing out the use of single-
33 use plastic beverage containers;
- 34
- 35 (2) Developing strategies to encourage reuse in the food
36 service industry, such as reusable container incentive
37 programs for customers;
- 38
- 39 (3) Expanding local municipal recycling services
40 throughout the islands;



- 1 (4) Incentivizing complimentary recycling facilities on
2 different islands;
- 3
- 4 (5) Proposing sunset dates for contractual waste
5 production obligations; and
- 6
- 7 (6) Developing education campaigns to publicize the types
8 of materials that are compostable or recyclable in
9 each county; and

10
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consist of
12 the following members or their respective designees:

- 13
- 14 (1) The State Sustainability Coordinator;
- 15
- 16 (2) A representative from the Office of Solid Waste
17 Management;
- 18
- 19 (3) A representative from each county's respective
20 department in charge of sustainability;
- 21
- 22 (4) A representative from each county's respective
23 department in charge of solid waste and recycling;
- 24
- 25 (5) The Chairpersons of each County Council;
- 26
- 27 (6) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives
28 Standing Committee on Energy & Environmental
29 Protection;
- 30
- 31 (7) The Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on
32 Agriculture and Environment;
- 33
- 34 (8) A representative of the Sierra Club of Hawaii;
- 35
- 36 (9) A representative of the Surfrider Foundation;
- 37
- 38 (10) A representative of Zero Waste Oahu;
- 39
- 40 (11) A representative of the Hawaii Food Industry
41 Association;



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- 1 (12) A representative of the Hawaii Restaurant Association;
- 2
- 3 (13) A representative of The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii;
- 4
- 5 (14) A representative of the Hawaii Tourism Authority; and
- 6
- 7 (15) A representative of Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii; and
- 8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the working
 10 group elect a chairperson amongst themselves; and

11
 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group convene no
 13 later than July 1, 2020, and meet monthly until January 1, 2021;
 14 and

15
 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
 17 to submit its findings and recommendations, including
 18 recommendations for pilot projects for Hawaii businesses to
 19 phase out single-use plastic packaging, promote reuse, and find
 20 sustainable alternatives for packaging, and any proposed
 21 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 22 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

23
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 25 Resolution be transmitted to the State Sustainability
 26 Coordinator, State Solid Waste Management Coordinator, Mayor of
 27 each County, Chair of each County Council, Chair of the
 28 Executive Committee of the Sierra Club of Hawaii, Hawaii Manager
 29 of the Surfrider Foundation, Director of Zero Waste Oahu, Chair
 30 of the Hawaii Food Industry Association, Chair of the Hawaii
 31 Restaurant Association, President and Chief Executive Officer of
 32 The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, President and Chief Executive
 33 Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and Executive Director
 34 of Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii.

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 36
 37

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