
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

Report Title:

Plastic Source Reduction Working Group

Description:

Creates the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations to reuse, reduce, recycle, and recover plastic waste. (CD1)

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