
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE CAPITOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO DESIGNATE THE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL BUILDING AND ITS GROUNDS AS A SINGLE-
USE PLASTIC FREE ZONE.

1 WHEREAS, over the past few decades, both locally and
2 globally, there has been an exponential rise in the consumption
3 of plastic items, including a six hundred ten percent increase
4 in raw plastic production since 1975; and
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6 WHEREAS, plastic packaging accounts for more than half of
7 the plastic waste in the world and Americans are among the
8 highest per capita users of plastic packaging; and
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10 WHEREAS, only nine percent of plastic produced is recycled
11 and twelve percent is incinerated, with the rest ending up in
12 landfills or in the environment, with much of the improperly
13 disposed plastic eventually ending up in the ocean; and
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15 WHEREAS, an additional eight million metric tons of plastic
16 end up in the ocean each year, contributing to plastic islands
17 like the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the largest accumulation
18 of ocean plastic in the world, which lies between Hawaii and
19 California; and
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21 WHEREAS, the production of plastic products contributes to
22 climate change, and by 2050, is projected to account for twenty
23 percent of global fossil fuel use; and
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25 WHEREAS, single-use plastic products are especially
26 detrimental to Hawaii's environment, flora, and fauna, as
27 ninety-five percent of plastic packaging is discarded after its
28 first single use, eighty percent of ocean plastic pollution
29 enters the ocean from land, and countless marine animals, birds,
30 and corals are harmed from the ingestion of and the suffocation
31 from plastic pollution; and
32



1 WHEREAS, single-use plastic products also present an
 2 exacerbating threat to the economy, with single-use plastics
 3 being major contributors to street and beach litter and causing
 4 intangible damage to the State's tourist reputation, as well as
 5 millions of dollars in stormwater management and cleanup
 6 efforts; and
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8 WHEREAS, the cost of plastic pollution on marine litter
 9 alone is estimated at \$13,000,000,000 per year, which includes
 10 the impact on fisheries, tourism, and biodiversity; and
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12 WHEREAS, the total social and environmental costs are
 13 pegged at a staggering \$139,000,000,000, which includes costs
 14 from the impact on climate change, health, crops, the
 15 environment, and the cost of waste disposal; and
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17 WHEREAS, a growing body of scientific literature has
 18 identified potential human health hazards from plastics,
 19 including that the incineration of plastic releases harmful
 20 dioxins that may be released into ambient air; single-use
 21 plastics like polystyrene and single-use plastic bottles may
 22 leach endocrine-disrupting and potentially carcinogenic
 23 chemicals with re-use; and microplastics may be ingested by
 24 marine animals and bioaccumulate and biomagnify up the food
 25 chain, bringing toxic chemicals into food sources; and
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27 WHEREAS, feasible alternatives to plastics exist at cost-
 28 competitive levels; Hawaii has pledged its support for the
 29 Aloha+ Challenge, one of the pillars of which is solid waste
 30 reduction; and the Legislature has introduced multiple bills
 31 that aim to curb or eliminate plastic waste; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 34 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the State
 35 Capitol Management Committee is urged to designate the Hawaii
 36 State Capitol building and its grounds as a single-use plastic
 37 free zone; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 40 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate,
 41 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Chairperson of the
 42 State Capitol Management Committee.

