
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO VOLUNTARILY UTILIZE
BIODEGRADABLE OR RECYCLABLE NON-POLYSTYRENE FOAM FOOD
SERVICE-WARE.

1 WHEREAS, expanded polystyrene foam (commonly known as
2 Styrofoam) is a petroleum by-product, nonrenewable resource
3 composed of the chemical styrene, a neurotoxin and a possible
4 human carcinogen; and
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6 WHEREAS, due to the inherent nonbiodegradable,
7 nonrecyclable nature and chemical composition of expanded
8 polystyrene foam, the disposal of food service-ware and packing
9 materials made from this product pose a significant threat not
10 only to Hawaii's ecosystems and environment but also to the
11 general health and welfare of the citizens of this State; and
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13 WHEREAS, improper or inadvertent disposal (littering) of
14 food service-ware and packing materials made from expanded
15 polystyrene foam is not only an aesthetic concern but also
16 raises significant health and welfare concerns for the State's
17 aquatic and other wildlife; and
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19 WHEREAS, when expanded polystyrene foam breaks down in the
20 State's landfills, dangerous chemicals leach into the seepage of
21 the landfills, adversely impacting the State's environment and
22 ecosystems. Additionally, as this seepage is pumped out of the
23 landfill and inadequately processed or treated before being
24 discharged into the ocean, it also threatens marine ecosystems
25 around the islands; and
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27 WHEREAS, when expanded polystyrene foam is disposed of by
28 incineration, it produces a dense, black, irritating smoke
29 containing acidic gases and over ninety different chemical
30 compounds, including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and the
31 known neurotoxin and possible carcinogen, styrene; and
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33 WHEREAS, when, contrary to the designed one-time use, food
34 or beverages are reheated in expanded polystyrene foam



1 containers, leaching of the chemical neurotoxin styrene occurs;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, expanded polystyrene foam products take hundreds
5 of years to breakdown, food service-ware and packing materials
6 made from this product pose a significant long-term detrimental
7 impact upon Hawaii's environment and ecosystems; and

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9 WHEREAS, disposable cups, plates, packing supplies, and
10 numerous other items made from expanded polystyrene foam pose a
11 significant threat to the numerous, and oftentimes fragile,
12 ecosystems that exist in Hawaii and to the health and welfare of
13 the general public and environment; and

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15 WHEREAS, it is currently economically feasible to replace
16 disposable food service-ware products made from expanded
17 polystyrene foam with environmentally friendly biodegradable,
18 compostable, or recyclable alternative products; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
22 Session of 2008, that all state departments and agencies are
23 requested to voluntarily promote the procurement and use of
24 environmentally friendly, biodegradable, compostable, or
25 recyclable food service-ware products, as an alternative to
26 expanded polystyrene foam. This includes but is not limited to:

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28 (1) Explicitly limiting contracting requirements in the
29 bid process for disposable food service-ware to
30 non-polystyrene foam, biodegradable, compostable, or
31 recyclable expanded polystyrene foam alternative
32 products; and

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34 (2) Creating incentives for outside vendors to utilize
35 environmentally friendly, biodegradable or recyclable
36 food service-ware products in any endeavor connected
37 with department or agency business; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller; the Energy
3 Resources Coordinator; the Administrator of the State
4 Procurement Office; all chief procurement officers as defined in
5 section 103D-203, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and the Governor.

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OFFERED BY:

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