

MAR 12 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM
TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES TO CONVERT TO
EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE FOAM ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS.

1 WHEREAS, due to the inherent nonbiodegradable,
2 nonrecyclable nature and chemical composition of expanded
3 polystyrene foam (commonly known as Styrofoam), the use and
4 disposal of this product poses a significant threat not only to
5 Hawaii's ecosystems and environment but also to the general
6 health and welfare of the citizens of this State; and

7
8 WHEREAS, expanded polystyrene foam is a petroleum
9 by-product, nonrenewable resource composed of the chemical
10 styrene, a neurotoxin and a possible human carcinogen; and

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12 WHEREAS, when expanded polystyrene foam breaks down in the
13 State's landfills, dangerous chemicals leach into the seepage of
14 the landfills, adversely impacting the State's environment and
15 ecosystems. Additionally, as this seepage is pumped out of the
16 landfill and inadequately processed or treated before being
17 discharged into the ocean, it also threatens marine ecosystems
18 around the islands; and

19
20 WHEREAS, expanded polystyrene foam products take hundreds
21 of years to breakdown, posing a significant long-term
22 detrimental impact upon Hawaii's environment and ecosystems; and

23
24 WHEREAS, when expanded polystyrene foam is disposed of by
25 incineration, it produces a dense, black, irritating smoke
26 containing acidic gases and over ninety different chemical
27 compounds, including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and the
28 known neurotoxin and possible carcinogen, styrene; and

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30 WHEREAS, when, contrary to the designed one-time use, food
31 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, improper or inadvertent disposal (littering) of
5 expanded polystyrene foam products is not only an aesthetic
6 concern but also raises significant health and welfare concerns
7 for the State's aquatic and wildlife; and

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9 WHEREAS, disposable cups, clamshell containers, egg
10 cartons, meat trays, and numerous other items made from expanded
11 polystyrene foam pose a significant threat to the environment,
12 including the numerous and oftentimes fragile ecosystems that
13 exist in Hawaii, and to the health and welfare of the general
14 public; and

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16 WHEREAS, Haleiwa town's Plastic Free Haleiwa coalition
17 provides a tremendous example and excellent model of community
18 members and business owners working together to reduce and
19 ultimately eliminate the use of disposable plastics, including
20 expanded polystyrene foam products, in their community; now,
21 therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
26 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) is requested
27 to create a voluntary compliance program to encourage
28 communities and businesses to convert to alternative products,
29 other than expanded polystyrene foam products; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that under the program, DBEDT is
32 requested to create a list of alternatives to commonly used
33 expanded polystyrene foam products, and make the information
34 available to the public; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
37 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a
38 report containing the contents, actions, and results of the
39 voluntary compliance program to the Legislature twenty days
40 before the start of each regular session, and that the report
41 may include but is not limited to suggestions, comments, or
42 requests for legislative action; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director
3 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and each Mayor
4 and Council Chairperson of each county of the State.
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