

MAR 13 2008

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO EXAMINE THE  
EXISTING WASTE TO ENERGY PROGRAM ON OAHU AS IT RELATES TO  
THE COLLECTION OF A DEDICATED RECYCLING STREAM OF PLASTICS  
FOR CONVERSION TO ENERGY.

1           WHEREAS, recycling is considered a key component of a waste  
2 management system; and

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4           WHEREAS, all fossil fuels consumed in Hawaii are imported  
5 and are subject to the worldwide escalation in energy prices,  
6 which are eventually passed on to consumers; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that Hawaii can be a  
9 leader in waste-to-energy recycling; and

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11           WHEREAS, other than proposed bans, Hawaii has not focused  
12 on recycling of plastic, specifically converting plastic  
13 material to energy; and

14  
15           WHEREAS, plastics are made from petroleum derivatives and  
16 release high levels of energy when burned, for example, burning  
17 one pound of the polyethylene in plastic grocery bags produces  
18 18,500 BTU (British thermal unit--the amount of energy needed to  
19 heat one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit) as opposed to  
20 8,500 to 14,000 Btu for coal; and

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22           WHEREAS, polyethylene burns cleanly, giving off no toxic  
23 fumes and releases only carbon dioxide and water; and

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25           WHEREAS, Oahu already operates a waste to energy facility  
26 at H-Power in Campbell Industrial Park and it is estimated that  
27 the island of Oahu uses 300,000,000 plastic bags annually; now,  
28 therefore,

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30           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
32 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative  
33 Reference Bureau is requested to examine the existing waste to



1 energy program on Oahu as it relates to the collection of a  
2 dedicated recycling stream of plastics for conversion to energy;  
3 and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
6 Bureau is requested to submit a written report of findings and  
7 recommendations, including any necessary proposed legislation,  
8 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
9 convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and  
10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Environmental  
12 Services and the recycling coordinator of the City and County of  
13 Honolulu and the Facility Manager of H-Power are requested to  
14 fully cooperate with the Legislative Reference Bureau in this  
15 study; and  
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Acting Director of  
19 the Legislative Reference Bureau, the Director of Health, the  
20 Mayor and the Director of Environmental Services of the City and  
21 County of Honolulu, and the Facility Manager of H-Power.  
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OFFERED BY:

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Clarena K. Nishikawa*  
*Norman Sakami*  
*James R. Brown*

*Amil J. Lee*  
*Card Fukunaga*

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*[Handwritten signature]*  
*Brianne Chun Oakland*

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*Gordon Trumble*  
*[Handwritten signature]*

