## November 17, 2014

MEMO TO: Elle Cochran, Chair

and Members of the Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee

Michael F July

F R O M: Michael P. Victorino

Council Member

SUBJECT: POLYSTYRENE DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINERS (PAF 14-218)

The informal task force on polystyrene disposable food service containers reports as follows after having discussions on August 27, 2014, August 28, 2014, September 8, 2014, and September 22, 2014:

## I. Background

The task force's purpose was to make findings and recommendations on the proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 20.26, MAUI COUNTY CODE, PERTAINING TO POLYSTYRENE DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINERS" ("the bill"), which was originally introduced during the 2009-2010 Council term. I reintroduced the bill during the current Council term via County Communication 13-29. The bill was posted to the Committee's website on July 28, 2014, the same day the Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee initially discussed the bill. During the meeting, I volunteered to convene this task force. As stated on today's agenda, the bill's purpose is "to regulate the use and sale of polystyrene disposable food service containers by food providers in the County of Maui." Polystyrene is a type of plastic.

## II. Scope of Work

The scope of the task force's work included:

- Clarifying the bill's purpose.
- Identifying the materials, containers, foods, and food providers subject to the bill.
- Identifying the bill's potential impacts on food providers and County programs.
- Evaluating the bill's proposed exemptions.
- Reviewing the reporting requirements of the administering agency.

RECEIVED AT IEM MEETING ON 11/17/14
Councilmember Victorino

Task Force on Polystyrene Disposable Food Service Containers November 17, 2014 Page 2

### III. Resources

The task force is composed of the following community stakeholders:

- Business advocates Maui Chamber of Commerce, business consultant
- County officials Department of Environmental Management, Office of the Mayor, Kaunoa Senior Services
- Environmental advocates Surfrider Foundation, Pacific Whale Foundation, Styrophobia, individuals
- Food providers Pukalani Superette, Zippy's Restaurants, Times Supermarket, Wailuku Coffee Company, Whole Foods
- Manufacturers of disposable food service containers KYD, Inc.
- Wholesalers of disposable food service containers Maui Chemical and Paper Products, VIP Foodservice

Exhibit "1." attached hereto, provides a list of the individual task force participants.

## IV. Findings

## A. Purpose

The bill's primary intent is to protect marine animals and birds from the hazards of plastic litter. All members of the task force agree the County should protect marine animals and birds, but disagree on whether the bill is an appropriate means of doing so. The bill may also provide other environmental and health benefits.

The task force finds that educational outreach and improved litter control are needed to mitigate litter hazards.

The bill seeks to fulfill the objective of plastic-litter mitigation by prohibiting: (1) food providers from dispensing prepared food in polystyrene disposable containers, (2) the County's use of polystyrene disposable containers, and (3) the retail sale of polystyrene disposable containers, subject to listed exemptions.

## B. The bill's efficacy

The task force does not have a consensus on whether enacting the bill is a good strategy for mitigating the impacts of plastic litter.

- 1. Those opposed to the bill assert the following:
  - a. The bill fails to address the other types and sources of plastic litter that are more problematic in the environment.
  - b. A product ban is not intended to reduce litter and will only result in the substitution of polystyrene litter with non-polystyrene litter.
- 2. Those supportive of the bill assert the following:
  - a. Reducing the prevalence of single-use plastic products, such as polystyrene containers, is a manageable step toward combating the global problem of plastic marine debris.
  - b. Numerous municipalities and other government agencies have implemented similar prohibitions without realizing adverse effects. According to the City of San Jose, California, 71 cities and agencies in California alone have enacted polystyrene bans.
  - c. Enacting the bill would solidify the County's commitment to addressing the problem of plastic marine debris.

The task force finds the bill will not significantly reduce waste sent to the County's landfills for the following reasons:

- 1. Polystyrene materials comprise less than 1 per cent of the waste stream entering the landfills.
- 2. Landfills are designed to inhibit the decomposition of materials. Compostable or biodegradable materials alternatives to polystyrene materials will not decompose at a significantly faster rate than polystyrene materials when disposed into a landfill.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See http://tinyurl.com/polystyreneordinances

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See http://www.sanjoseca.gov/eps

- 3. Compostable or biodegradable alternatives to polystyrene containers will not be diverted from the landfills until a facility capable of receiving these alternative containers is constructed. There are no known plans to construct such a facility in Maui County.
- 4. Both polystyrene and non-polystyrene containers will have negligible impacts to the landfills should the proposed Integrated Waste and Energy Conversion project come to fruition.

The task force does not have a consensus on the public health risks of using polystyrene disposable containers.

- 1. Those opposed to the bill assert the following:
  - a. Use of polystyrene containers is approved by the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA").
  - b. Synthetic styrene (the material used in the manufacturing of polystyrene) and naturally occurring styrene (found in common foods and beverages such as beef, beer, and cinnamon) are chemically identical.
  - c. The amount of styrene that may leach into prepared food served in a polystyrene container is significantly below the safety limits set by the FDA and is similar to the amounts of styrene contained in commonly consumed foods.
- 2. Those supportive of the bill assert the following:
  - a. Styrene has been shown to leach out from food containers that are in contact with prepared foods.
  - b. Styrene is suspected to be a neurotoxin, and the National Academy of Sciences has identified styrene as being reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen (Exhibit "2").

## C. Types of polystyrene materials

Every type of foam and non-foam polystyrene plastic is subject to the bill. No other types of plastic are identified. Expanded polystyrene foam is the most common and inexpensive form of polystyrene used for disposable containers.

Styrofoam is not used for disposable containers or subject to the bill. Styrofoam is a trademarked brand of an extruded polystyrene foam product used as a building material. Food service containers made from expanded polystyrene foam are commonly referred to as Styrofoam; this is incorrect.

## D. <u>Analysis of the bill's prohibitions</u>

- 1. Food providers. The bill bans a "food provider" from giving or selling polystyrene disposable containers to customers; however, food providers can apply for an exemption from this restriction. Food providers include restaurants, supermarkets, and other stores and shops.
- 2. County. The use of polystyrene containers is prohibited from every County facility, County program, and County-approved activity, without exception. This restriction applies to parks, community centers, recreation areas, offices, County operations, and any activity that requires a County permit. Programs supported by the County, such as Meal on Wheels, would be subject to the prohibition.

Those opposed to the bill assert the prohibitions would be detrimental to food providers, other businesses, and the County for the following reasons:

- 1. Alternatives to polystyrene disposable containers have inferior performance and therefore may adversely impact food providers' operations.
- 2. Non-polystyrene alternatives cost more than polystyrene disposable containers. Exhibit "3," attached hereto, provides VIP Foodservice's pricing for various polystyrene and non-polystyrene containers.
- 3. The County's Kaunoa Senior Services program provides more than 100,000 meals per year, the majority of which are served in disposable polystyrene containers. Whether non-polystyrene containers can maintain food temperatures and adequately transport these meals is a significant question.

Those supportive of the bill assert the prohibitions are not burdensome and are consistent with industry trends for the following reasons:

- 1. Job losses and business closures have not been reported in the municipalities that have adopted similar prohibitions.
- 2. Some food providers in the County already use non-polystyrene containers without experiencing adverse performance or cost differences.
- 3. Information shared by the wholesalers of disposable food service containers indicates non-polystyrene containers sales are increasing. Exhibit "4", attached hereto, provides information from VIP Foodservice comparing recent sales of polystyrene cups against non-polystyrene cups.

## E. <u>Exemptions</u>

The bill exempts foods prepared or packaged entirely outside of the County.

Food providers unable to import prepared food would have to either pass on or absorb the costs from using non-polystyrene containers. Those food providers would be put at a competitive disadvantage. The exemption creates a financial incentive for food providers to outsource their packaging operations and may drive business activity away from the County.

Foam coolers and ice chests are exempt under the bill because these items are designed for multiple use.

Any food provider can apply for a one-year exemption if: (1) "no reasonable alternatives" to use of polystyrene disposable containers exist; and (2) "significant economic hardship" would result. These terms need to be defined for this exemption to be implemented.

## F. Reporting

The bill says the Director of Environmental Management shall annually submit to the Council a report estimating the increase in the number of food providers using compostable or recyclable containers. When food providers come into compliance, there will be little or no useful data. So, the report would not produce helpful information. Task Force on Polystyrene Disposable Food Service Containers November 17, 2014 Page 7

### V. Recommendations

The task force emphasizes education and public outreach to residents and visitors are critical to reducing plastic litter. The County needs to dedicate resources and facilitate partnerships with community organizations and businesses to develop educational programs that raise awareness to the impacts of litter on the marine environment. In addition, improved litter control and prevention is needed.

The task force is divided on whether the Council should pass the bill.

Task force members opposed to the bill have submitted their own recommendations, attached hereto as Exhibit "5." They recommend that no action be taken for the following reasons:

- County resources should not support administering or enforcing a product ban that
  may impose financial hardships on businesses. Rather, these resources should be
  used to support improved education on litter control.
- A law intended to eliminate the use of polystyrene disposable containers is unnecessary when industry trends show food providers are already transitioning to non-polystyrene alternatives.
- Prior to taking any action, the Council should gather more information by conducting a "triple bottom line" assessment (social, environmental, financial) and reviewing a related study to be conducted by the City and County of Honolulu.

Task force members supportive of the bill have also submitted their own recommendations, attached hereto as Exhibit "6." They recommend passage of the bill for the following reasons:

- Many coastal communities have adopted similar prohibitions. The bill is an achievable step toward combating the global problem of plastic marine debris.
- Prohibiting polystyrene disposable containers would reduce the amount of litter entering the environment by displacing toxic plastic materials with non-toxic biodegradable materials.
- A codified policy is needed to reinforce the County's commitment to reduce plastic litter and to create the impetus for supporting improved litter control and education.

The task force recommends that any further discussion on the bill include consideration of revisions to the following provisions:

SECTION 1 of the bill -

- Proposed Maui County Code Section 20.26.010 ("Purpose")
  - Clarify that the bill's primary intent is to address impacts to marine animals and birds attributable to plastic litter by reducing the prevalence of single-use plastic products.
- Proposed Maui County Code Section 20.26.020 ("Definitions")
  - Evaluate other types of single-use disposable items that may warrant exclusion from the definition of "disposable food service container." The task force suggests plastic films used for sealing a food service container or packaging a prepared food should be excluded.
- Proposed Maui County Code Section 20.26.030 ("Administration")
  - O Incorporate a provision for providing marine debris and litter reduction education to residents and visitors and consider designating a specific County agency or office to be responsible for this function.
  - o Incorporate a provision for establishing litter control programs.
- Proposed Maui County Code Section 20.26.040 ("Restrictions")
  - O Subsection A prohibits dispensing polystyrene disposable containers to "customers." Clarify who is considered a customer. It is unclear whether people attending a private event are considered "customers."
  - O Consider whether County programs should be allowed to apply for an exemption.
  - Evaluate the legality of restricting retail sales of polystyrene products, including potential conflicts with the Interstate Commerce Clause.<sup>3</sup>
  - O Consider whether to limit the bill's scope to cups and clamshell-type containers.
  - O Consider whether to limit the bill's scope to expanded polystyrene foam.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Staff research has failed to reveal any successful legal challenges to ordinances banning polystyrene disposal containers.

Task Force on Polystyrene Disposable Food Service Containers November 17, 2014 Page 9

- Proposed Maui County Code Section 20.26.050 ("Exemptions")
  - Eliminate the exemption for prepared foods packaged outside of the County so that food providers unable to qualify for the exemption are not disadvantaged.
  - o Consider whether to establish an exemption for charitable fundraisers.
  - O Clarify the meaning of the terms "reasonable alternative" and "significant economic hardship."
  - O Clarify the process for determining when a particular type of container qualifies for an exemption.

### SECTION 2 of the bill -

The bill's effective date should allow for a two-year grace period, similar to the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance.

paf:jkm:14-218f

Attachments

cc: Members of the Task Force on Polystyrene Disposable Food Service Containers

## TASK FORCE ON POLYSTYRENE DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINERS

## **Task Force Participants**

Attendance

Name	Organization	8/27	8/28 X	9/8	9/22	
Kathleen Aoki	Kaunoa Senior Services	X		X		
Stacia Ash	Individual		1	Х		
Marjorie Bonar	Individual	X	X	Х	Х	
Lauren Campbell	Pacific Whale Foundation	X	X	Х	Х	
Kyle Ginoza	Department of Environmental Management	X	X		Х	
Jacqueline Goring	Wailuku Coffee Company				Х	
Eric Higa	Times Supermarket			X	X	
Jason Higa	Zippy's Restaurants	X	X	X	Х	
Crystal Kahihikolo	Pukalani Superette			X		
Tom Knox	Business consultant			X	Х	
Tim Lara	Surfrider Foundation			X	Х	
Gretchen Leisenring	Styrophobia	X	X	X	Х	
Jerry Masaki	Pukalani Superette	X	X		Х	
Harry Nakagawa	Maui Chemical and Paper Products	X	X		Х	
Nelson Okamura	VIP Foodservice	X		X	X	
Rob Parsons	Office of the Mayor	X	X	X	Х	
Michael Poulter	Zippy's Restaurants	X				
Pamela Tumpap	Maui Chamber of Commerce	X	X	X	Х	
Stella Yasuda	KYD, Inc.	X	X	X		
Sandra	Whole Foods				X	

Gateways

Members Newsroom Congressional Affairs Sponsors

Teachers & Students Careers

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Contact Us | Current Operating Status

Home

**About Us** 

Organization

**Events & Activities** 

Reports & Publications

Oct. 30, 2014

#### OFFICE OF NEWS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

Media Contacts

News Release Archive

Media Tipsheet

Multimedia

Presidents' Corner

Communications Awards

FAQ



Back | Home



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

CADEMIES

#### Styrene Reasonably Anticipated to Be a Human Carcinogen, New Report Confirms

A new report from the National Research Council has upheld the listing of styrene as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen" in the National Toxicology Program's 12th Report on Carcinogens (RoC). The committee that wrote the report found that the listing is supported by "limited but credible" evidence of carcinogenicity in human studies, "sufficient" evidence from animal studies, and "convincing relevant information" in mechanistic studies that observed DNA damage in human cells that had been exposed to styrene. The committee reached the same conclusion after conducting both a peer review of the RoC and an independent assessment of the styrene literature.

The NTP is an interagency program that produces the RoC. Styrene is a substance of interest for the RoC because many people in the United States are exposed. It is an oily, colorless to yellow liquid and it is found in many consumer products such as plastic packaging, food containers, and household goods. Sources of environmental exposure include cigarette smoke and vehicle exhaust. Occupational exposure can occur during the industrial processing of styrene.

Based on RoC listing criteria, a substance can be classified as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen based on sufficient evidence in animals or limited evidence in human studies. In its peer review of the 12th RoC, the committee examined the primary literature cited in the document as well as other research published before June 10, 2011, and found that the RoC identified the most important studies and described the limitations and strengths of each, and that the arguments supported listing styrene as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.

In its independent assessment, the committee considered additional research published through Nov. 13, 2013. It found that "compelling evidence" exists in human, animal, and mechanistic studies to support listing styrene, at a minimum, as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.

The committee noted, however, that there was ambiguity with respect to weighing the mechanistic evidence when applying the listing criteria, and that a strong argument could be made to support the listing of styrene as a known human carcinogen if data derived from the study of human tissues or cells alone were considered sufficient. Further clarification and expanded guidance by the National Toxicology Program regarding the types and strength of mechanistic evidence and how it is used in the context of the RoC listing criteria is needed, the report says.

Review of the Styrene Assessment in the National Toxicology Program 12th Report on Carcinogens is available for immediate release at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\_id=18725. Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of News and Public Information; tel. 202-334-2138 or e-mail news@nas.edu.



Follow Us: T E-Newsletters

Where the Nation Turns for Independent, Expert Advice

The National Academies

500 Fifth Street, NW | Washington, DC 20001 | T. 202.334.2000 Privacy Statement | DMCA Policy | Terms of Use | Site Map Copyright © 2014 National Academy of Sciences. All rights reserved.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

# VIP Foodservice Price List

Item	Pack		Brand	Size	Material	Compo stable	Description	Price	Unit
938001	6		COMPANIONS	6 inch	Polystyrene	No	#HINGE TRAY FOAM 5.75IN HAMBURGER (Y)	\$69.16	\$0.1372
	1		WORLD CENT	6 inch	Plant Fiber	Yes	Fiber Burger Box 6x6x3	\$69.26	\$0.1385
938130	4	100	BRIDGE-GAT	6 inch	Molded Fiber	Yes	#HINGE TRAY BROWN 6IN BRDG GATE (Y)	\$60.31	\$0.1508
956029		50	Fold Pak	6 inch	Recycled paper	No	Bio Earth Paper Box #1 5x4.5x2.5	\$80.14	\$0.1781
938119	1	500	TATERWARE	6 inch	Potato Starch	No	HINGE TRAY 6IN 1 SEC TATERWARE (Y)	\$100.21	\$0.2004
938087	4	100	PACTIV	6 inch	Polypropylene	No	#HINGE TRAY 6 IN EARTHCHOICE (Y)	\$79.59	\$0.1990
938021	1		PACTIV	8 inch 1-compt	Polystyrene	No	#HINGE TRAY FOAM MED 1 SEC SHAL (Y)	\$20.81	\$0.1387
938177	6		WORLD CENT	8 inch 1-compt	Plant Fiber	Yes	HINGE CONT 8 IN 1COMP FIBER TOSCU85 (Y)	\$82.19	\$0.2740
938008	2		PACTIV	8 inch 1-compt	Polystyrene	No	#HINGE TRAY FOAM 1 SEC MED DL (Y)	\$42.51	\$0.2834
956033	4	50	Fold Pak	8 inch 1-compt	Recycled paper	No	Bio Earth Paper Box #3 8.5x6.25x2.5	\$65.80	\$0.3290
938088	2	100	PACTIV	8 inch 1-compt	Polypropylene	No	#HINGE TRAY 8IN 1 EARTHCHOICE (Y)	\$80.51	\$0.4026
938121	1	200	TATERWARE	8 inch 1-compt	Potato Starch	No	HINGE TRAY 8IN 1 SEC TATERWARE (Y)	\$86.08	\$0.4304
938022	1	150	PACTIV	8 inch 3-compt	Polystyrene	No	#HINGE TRAY FOAM MED 3 SEC SHAL (Y)	\$20.81	\$0.1387
	1	300	World Centric	8 inch 3-compt	Plant Fiber	Yes	Fiber clamshell 8X8" 3-compt	\$80.92	\$0.2697
938133	2	100	BRIDGE-GAT	8 inch 3-compt	Molded Fiber	Yes	#HINGE TRYA 8IN 3 SEC BROWN BRDGATE (Y)	\$54.55	\$0.2728
938018	2	75	PACTIV	8 inch 3-compt	Polystyrene	No	#HINGE TRAY FOAM MED 3 SEC DL PACTIV (Y)	\$42.51	\$0.2834
	1	300	WORLD CENT	9 inch 1-compt	Plant Fiber	Yes	Fiber Clamshell 9x9x3 1-compt	\$88.59	\$0.2953
938023	1	150	PACTIV	9 inch 1-compt	Polystyrene	No	#HINGE TRAY FOAM 1 SEC LARGE DL (Y)	\$44.74	\$0.2983
938135	2	100	BRIDGE-GAT	9 inch 1-compt	Molded Fiber	Yes	#HINGE TRAY 9IN BROWN BRDG GATE (Y)	\$62.71	\$0.3136
956034	4	40	Fold Pak	9 inch 1-compt	Recycled paper	No	Bio Earth Paper Box #4 8.75x6.5x3.5	\$71.72	\$0.4483
938093	1	120	PACTIV	9 inch 1-compt	Polypropylene	No	#HINGE TRAY LG 1 SEC EARTHCHOICE (Y)	\$58.45	\$0.4871
938125	1	125	TATERWARE	9 inch 1-compt	Potato Starch	No	HINGE TRAY 9IN 1SEC TATERWARE (Y)	\$61.64	\$0.4931
	1	300	WORLD CENT	9 inch 3-compt	Plant Fiber	Yes	Fiber Clamshell 9x9x3 3-compt	\$85.80	\$0.2860
938028	1		PACTIV	9 inch 3-compt	Polystyrene	No	#HINGE TRAY FOAM 3 SEC LG DL (Y)	\$47.69	\$0.3179
938095			PACTIV	9 inch 3-compt	Polypropylene	No	#HINGE COMP LG 3COMP EARTHCHOICE TFP (Y)	\$58.46	

#### Fact:

VIP Foodservice conducted an inquiry over a period of time using current sales data to determine the percentage food containers which not made from type 6 resins compared to food containers made with type 6 resins. VIP Foodservice also conducted an inquiry over the same period of time to determine the percentage of both hot cups and cold cups which are not made from type 6 resins compared to hot and cold cups made from type 6 resins.

#### The findings are as follows:

		Percentage
Food containers made without type 6 resins	14824 cs	65%
Food containers made with type 6 resins	8089 cs	35%
Total food containers	22913 cs	100%
		Percentage
Hot and cold cups made without type 6 resins	10341 cs	87%
Hot and cold cups made with type 6 resins.	1516 cs	13%
	11857 cs	100%
		Percentage
Total food container and cups made without type 6 resins.	25165	72%
Total food containers and cups made with type 6 resins.	9605	28%
Total food containers and cups	34770	100%

#### Fact:

In 2007 VIP Foodservice sold a negligible amount of food containers and cups made without type 6 resins. Since then the major hotels and restaurants have on their own initiative made a concerted effort to convert their disposables to compostable or products not made with type 6 resins. We do not need a law. The industry has and is still changing to more environmentally friendly products on its own accord.

To: Council Member Victorino

From: Maui Business Representatives on Maui Task Force

Date: September 23, 2014

Council Member Victorino, as businesses serving the Maui community, we appreciate your efforts to voluntarily convene the Maui Task Force (MTF) for the purpose to collaboratively develop policy recommendations about the proposed ban of polystyrene (PS) disposable food service containers (IEM-5). As you stated from the beginning, this is a controversial issue and your facilitation of the meetings to strive for respectful, science-based discussion was much appreciated.

We believe that all MTF participants have a deep love for Maui's environment and people. We are all seeking solutions to better manage systems that protect Maui's environment.

Based upon the MTF meetings, we cannot support any recommendations that mandate a ban on PS disposable food service containers for the following reasons:

- Such a ban does not solve the stated problem of marine debris and impact on marine life.
- Litter of all materials, including post-consumer use of compostable products and PS, is the problem that must be managed more effectively.
  - PS products across the nation make up 1.5% of the litter stream. The Maui Waste Characterization Study finds the amount of PS entering the landfill is less than 1 % of the total tonnage received.
  - When PS is banned, litter does not decrease. It only changes the type of material that is littered, as seen in the 2008 City of SF Streets Litter Re-Audit.
- A ban on PS would negatively impact Maui food service businesses and residents.
  - FDA approved PS food service containers are safe, economical, and effective with many of Hawaii's foods which are often served with gravy or are soupbased.
  - Cost to businesses and consumers are 3 to 5 times more for compostable products than PS containers.
  - The marketplace, Maui businesses and consumers, should have the choice of what type of FDA approved disposable food containers to use and at what expense. Legislation should not ban one type of product and mandate the use of another product.

We strongly support a community education program in conjunction with Maui County and Maui's visitor and business industry to strengthen Maui's residents' and visitors' post-consumer food service container disposal. This program could be integrated with Maui's pending state-of-the-art Maui Resource Recovery Facility, which is vital to the solution for litter management as well as renewable fuels and land-use sustainability.

We respectfully request that this memo be included as a matter of record as part of the Maui Task Force final report to the IEM Committee.

Acknowledged and Agreed Upon By:
Eric Higa, Times Supermarket
Life riiga, Times oupermarket
Jason Higa, Zippy's Restaurants
Ja <b>ş</b> on Higa, Zippy's Rest <b>a∕u</b> rants
And manhor
Jerry Masaki, Pukalani Superette
Day lebon
Marry Nakagawa, Maui Chemical and Paper Products
MbyToury
Nelson Okamura, VIP Foodservice
Jamela Jumpap
Pámela Tumpap, Maui Chamber of Commerce

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. Follow in the footsteps of nearly 100 other cities and municipalities that have, in some fashion, addressed the issue of disposable food service ware (particularly expanded polystyrene) by allowing only items that are readily compostable or recyclable.
- 2. Expanded polystyrene foam food service ware products to be covered in this ordinance shall include: cups, bowls, plates, clamshell containers, soup containers and trays.
- 3. Provide adequate time allowed for food providers (includes retailers) to make the transition to alternatives.

## FINDINGS:

- Polystyrene foam is a threat to natural ecosystems due to its tendency to break into smaller pieces that wildlife species can mistake for food and ingest. In addition, polystyrene foam contains styrene, a possible carcinogen and neurotoxin that can leach into food and drink posing a human health risk.
- The Maui Island Plan specifically directs the County to avoid 6.1.2-Action 2 "Develop regulations, programs, funding opportunities, and/or incentives to: (5) Discourage slow degradable materials, e.g., Styrofoam."
- Numerous alternatives exist to polystyrene food service ware that are renewablysourced rather than fossil-fuel based and are thus more environmentally sound
- It is not economically feasible to recycle polystyrene single use food ware in Maui County and no local recycling programs accept it. Recycling is possible, however, for some disposable food ware made from materials other than polystyrene.
- A ban on expanded polystyrene food containers will improve our quality of life, the natural environment, our local waterways and potential negative impacts such as windblown litter and marine debris, and impacts on marine life and birds.
- Many food providers have already made the switch to more environmentally friendly options, however there are still food providers that have not switched. Public education is of course important, but as we know, will not alone solve the issue.

Supported by:

Timothy Lata (page Bonau)

Gretchen Leisenring (by e-mail)

Lauren Couph (EXHIBIT "6" Stacia Ash (in absentia)