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OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL

MEMO TO: CARE-48 File

F R O M: Kelly Takaya King, Chair
Climate Action, Resilience, and Environment Committee

Kelly T. King

SUBJECT: **TRANSMITTAL OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL RELATING TO THE
BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC POLLUTION ACT** (CARE-48)

The attached legislative proposal pertains to Item 48 on the Committee's agenda.

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Attachment

Resolution

No. _____

REQUESTING THE STATE OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT REDUCING THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF CERTAIN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, according to the Countywide Policy Plan, enacted by Ordinance 3732 on March 24, 2010, the County of Maui's official policies are to:

- “Reduce air, noise, light, land, and water pollution” as stated on page 48; and
- “Develop strategies to promote public awareness to reduce pollution and litter, and encourage residents to reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost waste materials” as stated on page 71; and

WHEREAS, according to a *ScienceMag.org* article dated October 30, 2020, “in 2016, the U.S. population produced the largest mass of plastic waste of any country in the world and also had the largest annual per capita plastic waste generation of the top plastic waste-generating countries”; and

WHEREAS, a report published in December 2020 by the International Pollutants Elimination Network and the Endocrine Society said, “plastics contain and leach hazardous chemicals,” including endocrine-disrupting chemicals, “which disturb the body's hormone systems and can cause cancer, diabetes, reproductive disorders, and neurological damage in fetuses and children”; and

WHEREAS, in April 2021, a report of the United Nations Environment Programme stated, “Environmental harms disproportionately impact persons, groups, and peoples already living in vulnerable situations – including women, children, the poor, migrants, and internally displaced people, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities”; and

WHEREAS, the same report also said that plastic pollution poses a considerable threat to marine life, biodiversity, and ecosystems, as well as human health, safety, and local and national economies; and

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WHEREAS, the Council has shown its commitment to reducing plastic pollution in Maui County by enacting Ordinance 3587 (2008), which encourages “the use of environmentally preferable alternatives to plastic bags, such as recyclable paper bags or reusable bags”; and

WHEREAS, more recently, the Council also enacted Ordinance 4457 (2018) and Ordinance 5084 (2020), to “promote public health, reduce litter, and limit harmful materials from entering the environment by regulating and limiting the use of plastic disposable foodware”; and

WHEREAS, the Pacific Whale Foundation’s website says its research confirms that 70 to 90 percent of all debris found on Maui is plastic, with single-use plastics being the biggest contributor; and

WHEREAS, the State has limited waste management infrastructure, historically shipping much of its plastic waste overseas, potentially further polluting underdeveloped countries with weak waste management infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the Maui County community to protect the State’s natural resources for the health of the people, economy, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 984 (2021) and House Bill 2238 (2021) would each amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to:

- Reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging;
- Improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging; and
- Prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways; and

WHEREAS, both bills are pending in the 117th Congress; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it supports Senate Bill 984 (2021) and House Bill 2238 (2021);
2. That it urges the State's Congressional delegation to support amending the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging; and
3. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Nainoa Thompson, President, Polynesian Voyaging Society; Mason Chock, President, Hawai'i State Association of Counties; the Honorable Brian Schatz, United States Senator; the Honorable Mazie Hirono, United States Senator; the Honorable Ed Case, United States Representative; the Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, United States Representative; the Honorable Ron Kouchi, President, Hawai'i State Senate; the Honorable Scott Saiki, Speaker, Hawai'i State House of Representatives; the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawai'i; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.