

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

CLIMATE ACTION, RESILIENCE, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

July 23, 2021

**Committee
Report No. _____**

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Climate Action, Resilience, and Environment Committee, having met on June 30, 2021, makes reference to County Communication 21-223, from Council Chair Alice L. Lee, relating to the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act.

By correspondence dated June 10, 2021, the Chair of your Committee transmitted a proposed resolution entitled “REQUESTING THE STATE’S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT REDUCING THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF CERTAIN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS.”

The purposes of the proposed resolution are to:

- Support the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act (“BFFPPA”), pending in the 117th Congress as Senate Bill 984 (2021) and House Bill 2238 (2021), which amends the Solid Waste Disposal Act by:
 - reducing the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging;
 - improving the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging;

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- preventing pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways; and
- Urge the support of the State’s Congressional delegation.

Your Committee notes State Congressional delegates Ed Case and Kaiali’i Kahele cosponsored House Bill 2238.

Your Committee further notes the BFFPPA builds on successful statewide laws across the United States and outlines practical plastic reduction strategies to realize a healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable future.

The BFFPPA also represents the most comprehensive set of policy solutions to the plastic pollution crisis introduced by Congress.

Your Committee received a computer-generated presentation from Lauren Blickley, Hawai’i Regional Manager for Surfrider Foundation. According to their website, Surfrider Foundation’s mission is “dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world’s ocean, waves and beaches,” by “reducing the impact of plastics in the marine environments.”

Ms. Blickley’s presentation provided information on the impact of the BFFPPA and the negative impacts that single-use plastics have on the environment.

According to Ms. Blickley’s presentation, the BFFPPA will:

- shift responsibility for waste management and recycling to manufacturers and producers;
- launch a national beverage container refund program;

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- establish minimum recycled content standards;
- phase out certain single-use plastic products that are not recyclable;
- prohibit plastic waste from being exported to developing countries;
- ban new and expanding plastic facilities until updates to the Environmental Protection Agency are made and create vital environmental and health regulations on those facilities; and
- require a comprehensive analysis on the scale of fishing gear losses by domestic and foreign fisheries, including an evaluation of the ecological, human health, and maritime safety impacts of derelict fishing gear, and recommendations on management measures.

Representatives from the Department of Environmental Management expressed support for the proposed resolution. The Department also supported BFFPPA's commitment to address litter in oceans from fishing gear, a big problem in Maui County.

Your Committee revised the title of the resolution and included certified copies be sent to:

- individually named members of Hawai'i's Congressional delegation;
- the President of Hawai'i State Association of Counties;
- the President of Polynesian Voyaging Society;
- the Governor of Hawai'i;

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- the President of Hawai'i State Senate; and
- the Speaker of Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

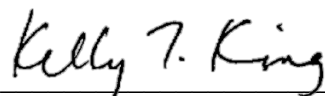
Your Committee voted 7-0 to recommend adoption of the revised proposed resolution and filing of the communication. Committee Chair King, Vice-Chair Sinenci, and members Johnson, Lee, Molina, Paltin, and Sugimura voted "aye."

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised proposed resolution, entitled "REQUESTING THE STATE OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT REDUCING THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF CERTAIN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS," incorporating your Committee's recommended revisions and nonsubstantive revisions.

Your Climate Action, Resilience, and Environment Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution _____, attached hereto, entitled "REQUESTING THE STATE OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT REDUCING THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF CERTAIN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS," be ADOPTED; and
2. That County Communication 21-223 be FILED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



KELLY TAKAYA KING, Chair

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.