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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO INVESTIGATE HAZARDS POSED BY  
POLYSTYRENE FOOD CONTAINERS AND TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR  
BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC FOOD CONTAINERS AND GROCERY BAGS.

WHEREAS, many types of everyday household products and materials are  
manufactured from various types of plastics; and

WHEREAS, styrene is a clear colorless liquid that is derived from  
petroleum and natural gas by-products, but which also occurs naturally; and

WHEREAS, styrene is used in the manufacture of many types of plastic  
materials, including food containers and packaging, computer parts, and  
automobile components; and

WHEREAS, styrene can enter packaged foods by migration from  
polystyrene food containers and packaging materials, and test results are  
unclear as to whether the amount of styrene leaching increases when foods  
are heated in polystyrene containers; and

WHEREAS, human data from tests are insufficient to conclude that  
styrene, when ingested, is toxic to normal human growth and development;  
and

WHEREAS, grocery bags manufactured from low density polyethylene do  
not biodegrade naturally in landfills and when improperly disposed may  
enter the environment as litter and pose a hazard to marine wildlife; and

WHEREAS, improperly disposed polystyrene that enters the environment  
as litter can create health hazards for marine wildlife, including  
entanglement and ingestion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth  
Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the Senate  
concurring, that the Department of Health is requested to adopt rules  
requiring polystyrene food containers sold in the State to display a label  
that warns of the potential dangers of heating food in the container; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to

conduct a study, based on available research and data, that assesses the safety of polystyrene food containers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to form a task force to establish minimum statewide standards for biodegradability for plastic grocery bags and food containers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_