

Resolution

No. _____

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TO ESTABLISH A ZERO WASTE PLAN FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI

WHEREAS, residents and businesses in Maui County are generating an ever-increasing volume of solid waste, the majority of which goes to the landfill; and

WHEREAS, the rate of waste generated per capita in the County during 2006 was three times the national average of 4.6 pounds per person per day; and

WHEREAS, the amount of waste generated in the County is projected to grow by 30 per cent over the next 15 years; and

WHEREAS, disposing of materials in landfills and incinerators transfers liabilities associated with these materials to future generations, and it is cost prohibitive; and

WHEREAS, source reduction refers to the reuse of products and the change in the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials or products to reduce their amount or toxicity before they become municipal solid waste; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency lists source reduction as its first priority in combating municipal solid waste issues, and the National Recycling Coalition and the Environmental Defense Fund view source reduction as a viable means of reducing municipal solid waste; and

WHEREAS, the Maui County Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan states source reduction is the County's and the State's preferred method for managing solid waste; and

WHEREAS, the Maui County General Plan 2030, Countywide Policy Plan and Maui Island Plan establish policies for the County of Maui to develop strategies that increase awareness and encourage residents to reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost waste materials; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, Hawaii State Legislature, and Hawaii's four county mayors endorse the Aloha+ Challenge, which calls for a 70 per cent reduction in Hawaii's solid waste stream, prior to disposal, by 2030 through source reduction, recycling, and bioconversion; and

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WHEREAS, zero waste principles promote the highest and best use of materials by utilizing a closed-loop system of production and consumption; and

WHEREAS, implementing a zero waste plan requires transforming the existing philosophy of “managing solid waste” into a “resource management” paradigm; and

WHEREAS, resource management principles involve using discarded resources for economic sustainability by returning them to the economic mainstream for industrial and agricultural uses; and

WHEREAS, zero waste programs have been shown to reduce disposal costs and overhead for businesses, improve employee morale and loyalty, enhance community ties, and improve the local environment; and

WHEREAS, the ahupua`a system, utilized throughout the Hawaiian Islands, includes zero waste principles and continues to be a guide for making sustainable decisions today; and

WHEREAS, developing a zero waste plan corresponds with Maui’s commitment to islandwide sustainability; now, therefore,

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

1. That it hereby urges the Department of Environmental Management to establish a zero waste plan for the County of Maui; and
2. That through legislation, policies, and actions, Maui County shall follow the concepts of zero waste to the greatest extent possible; and after deliberate consideration of the economic, social, and environmental costs, the Council and the Administration shall take steps to incorporate zero waste principles into the County’s Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan; and
3. That it calls upon the Administration, County employees, and Maui residents, visitors, and businesses to follow the concepts of zero waste and take the necessary steps to incorporate zero waste principles into their daily lives at home, at work and throughout the County of Maui; and
4. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and the Director of Environmental Management.