

## ENV 2016-01 **Ban the Use of Polystyrene Foam Foodware**

Whereas, Polystyrene Foam Foodware (PFF), commonly known as “Styrofoam” is non-biodegradable and is not compostable; and,

Whereas, PFF contains styrene, which the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has identified as “reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen,” and benzene, which has been identified as “known to be a human carcinogen,” and which can leach out of polystyrene when exposed to hot foods and liquids; and

Whereas, PFF breaks into tiny pieces and is often mistaken for food by land and marine animals, birds, and fish, including by albatross whose numbers have been drastically reduced due to the inability of albatross chicks to digest even small pieces of PFF and other plastics; and

Whereas, PFF floats on water and remains indefinitely available to ingestion by marine birds and many fish species; and

Whereas, The resources and energy to make one PFF container could make three compostable containers that are non-toxic and less harmful to the environment; and

Whereas, Compostable foodware is currently more expensive than PFF; however, once there is large scale use of compostables, the economies of scale will reduce the price of compostables; and

Whereas, Several Counties are currently engaged in solid waste programs to divert food waste, including food scraps, to make compost for farmers, landscapers, and homeowners, which programs will cost significantly less if PFF food containers are not present as they need to be removed from the diverted food waste; and

Whereas, Many other municipalities around the Country and the World have or are in the process of banning PFF foodware; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved* That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the public statewide to refrain from purchasing food that is sold in PFF containers, and urges County public officials statewide to pass legislation that no later than January 1, 2019 prohibits the dispensation of prepared food to a customer in a polystyrene foam food container; and be it further

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all members of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislatures who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and all county elected officials who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

## ENV 2016-02 To Establish County Environmental Coordinator Offices

Whereas, The Planetary ecosystem is under severe threat from Climate Change, and warnings of rising tides, rising temperatures, coral bleaching, more hurricanes, and mosquito-borne infectious diseases; and

Whereas, Not only is there Global Warming around the planet, but also in Hawai'i, land and sea is getting hotter; and

Whereas, Temperature rise has resulted in the Elementary, Middle, and High Schools being too uncomfortably hot to hold classes and necessitating installing air-conditioners; and

Whereas, Trees bring rain and cooling temperatures; and

Whereas, Our native forest ecosystem and watershed especially need to be protected and not needlessly bulldozed for house lots; and

Whereas, The Puna Community Development Plan calls for the Hawai'i County Council by 2012 to "Establish an Office of County Ecologist within the Planning Department" (Malama I Ka 'Aina Action 2.2.3.C) and this has not happened; and

Whereas, Maui County has an Environmental Coordinator Office, which offers an excellent example of action with ecological concern; and

Whereas, An Environmental Coordinator Office for each of the counties is much needed to maintain the well being of Hawai'i; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That Democratic Party of Hawai'i encourages each County to establish an Environmental Coordinator Office similar to Maui's; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Environmental Coordinator Office serves as an advocate to ensure that environmental concerns are brought before decision makers and will respond to and coordinate a broad range of environmental issues among different departments, including: Native Forest Ecosystems, Watershed Protection, Invasive Species, Agricultural Sustainability, Renewable Energy, Marine Protection, and Environmental Justice; and be it further

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai'i, and all members of the County Councils of each island that are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

## ENV 2016-03 Invasive Species Prevention

Whereas, Invasive species are an extreme danger to Hawaii's environment; and

Whereas, Invasive species prevention is orders of magnitude less expensive than invasive species mitigation or eradication, and invasive species represent a devastating economic impact on tourism, agriculture, and real estate; and

Whereas, When noxious invasive species are present, it is can be a difficult and slow process to implement a quarantine due to the perception of short term negative economic impact; and

Whereas, The economic impact of a quarantine is orders of magnitude less than the economic impact of noxious invasive species spreading; and

Whereas, A 2002 Legislative Reference Bureau report specifying an annual budget need of \$50 million, and the need has grown since then, and in 2016 Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources requested a budget of \$10 million for invasive species work, although it appears the State Legislature may only appropriate \$5 million for invasive species work; and

Whereas, The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture is developing an important Biosecurity Plan that will require funding; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the State Legislature to significantly increase the appropriation for invasive species control to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, including funding the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's Biosecurity Plan; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i calls on the State Legislature to draft, sponsor, and pass legislation regarding invasive species prevention and eradication, including but not limited to quarantine procedures, regulations to stop intra- and inter-island spread of invasive species, and punitive consequences for businesses selling infested products; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, to the Hawai'i State Legislature, and to the heads of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.