

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMY & HEALTH

Voting Members:

Matt Weyer, Chair; Radiant Cordero, Vice-Chair;
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Augie Tulba, Andria Tupola

Committee Meeting Held
April 1, 2025

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Housing, Sustainability, Economy & Health, which considered Bill 18 (2025) entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO PLASTIC,"

which passed second reading and was the subject of a public hearing held at the March 19, 2025 Council meeting, reports as follows:

The purpose of Bill 18 (2025) is to address certain single-use plastic containers by adding a new article to Chapter 34 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021.

Deputy Director Kealoha Fox of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency testified in support.

Your Committee considered and approved a CD1 version of the Bill that makes the following amendments:

- A. Amends SECTION 2 of the bill by adding a proposed ROH Section 34-____.3 to exempt certain licensed blind vendors from this article.
- B. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

Ke Kanihela o ke Kalana o Honolulu
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ADOPTED ON

APR 16 2025

COMMITTEE REPORT NO.

113

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMY & HEALTH

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Your Committee on Housing, Sustainability, Economy & Health is in accord with the intent and purpose of Bill 18 (2025), as amended herein, and recommends that it pass third reading, in the form attached hereto as Bill 18 (2025), CD1. (Ayes: Cordero, Dos Santos-Tam, Weyer – 3; Noes: Tulba, Tupola – 2.)

Respectfully submitted,



Committee Chair

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

Ke Kanihela o ke Kalana o Honolulu
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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Respectfully submitted,

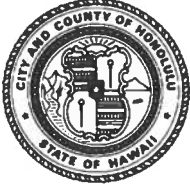


Committee Chair

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
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CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL 18 (2025), CD1

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

RELATING TO PLASTIC.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

SECTION 1. Purpose and findings. The purpose of this ordinance is to address certain single-use plastic containers.

The City Council finds that plastics entering the environment have had a demonstrable adverse effect on the health of the people of the City and County of Honolulu ("City"), as well as the environmental integrity of our islands. Single-use plastic containers have been major contributors to pollution on land and in the ocean, harming both marine and other wildlife, and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. A significant portion of marine debris – estimated to be 80 percent – originates on land, primarily as escaped plastic refuse and other human generated urban runoff. Certain single-use plastic containers, such as polyethylene terephthalate bottles, are not fully degradable but instead only degrade into pieces and particles of various sizes, including microplastics, which can ultimately enter human bodies through the food stream and have been linked to serious human health problems.

To protect the health, life, and property of the City and its inhabitants, the City has enacted ordinances to regulate the use of single-use plastic goods and bags, as well as certain plastic foodware. Reducing the amount of non-degradable and non-recyclable waste that enters the City's waste stream is consistent with the City's Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan and the State-level Aloha+ Challenge to "support changes in design, material use, and manufacturing that reduce waste and toxicity" and to "significantly reduce the annual generation of solid waste." While the rate of plastic bottle recovery in Hawai'i is approximately 37 percent, readily available alternatives such as aluminum containers enjoy a recovery rate of 55 percent, and cardboard containers can be readily burned and converted to fuel the City's power needs through the H-POWER plant. The diversion of plastic bottles from the City's waste stream further supports the City's efforts to reduce the annual generation of solid waste.



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KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL **18 (2025), CD1**

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

SECTION 2. Chapter 34, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Regulation of Businesses"), is amended by adding a new article to be appropriately designated by the Revisor of Ordinances and to read as follows:

"ARTICLE __: SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BOTTLES

§ 34-___.1 Definitions.

For the purposes of this article, the following definitions apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Plastic. Any material made of fossil fuel-derived or petrochemical polymeric compounds and additives that can be shaped by flow.

Plastic Bottle. A formed or molded container made from any type of plastic having a relatively inflexible fixed shape or form with a neck that is smaller than the container body.

Single-Use. An item that is designed to be discarded by the user after a single or limited number of uses and not designed or manufactured for long-term or multiple re-use.

§ 34-___.2 Restrictions on single-use plastic bottles.

No single-use plastic bottle having a capacity of 1 liter or less may be sold or offered for sale at any vending machine located at a city facility after December 31, 2025. Any contracts in effect prior to the enactment of this ordinance may be fulfilled and any subsequent contract renewals must be executed in compliance with this ordinance.

§ 34-___.3 Exemptions.

Vendors participating in the Licensed Blind Vendor program, which is also known as the Vending Facilities program of the Randolph-Sheppard Act of 1936, 20 USC § 107 et. seq. and as amended in 1954 and 1974, are exempted from this article."



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KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
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ORDINANCE _____

BILL 18 (2025), CD1

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

SECTION 3. This ordinance takes effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

Matt Weyer

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

February 12, 2025

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor
City and County of Honolulu

Report Title:

Single-Use Plastic Container; Single-Use Plastic Bottle; Ban

Description:

Prohibits the sale of single-use plastic bottles at any vending machine located at a City facility.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.