

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

ORDINANCE **25-18**
BILL **18 (2025), CD1**

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

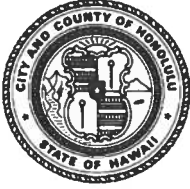
RELATING TO PLASTIC.

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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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.

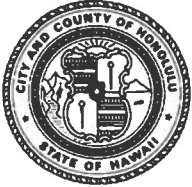
Single-Use. An item that is designed to be discarded by the user after a single or limited number of uses and not designed or manufactured for long-term or multiple re-use.

§ 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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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 **DUANE W.H. PANG**

APPROVED this 2nd day of May, 20 25.


RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor
City and County of Honolulu

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

BILL 18 (2025), CD1

Introduced: 02/12/25 By: MATT WEYER

Committee: HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY,
ECONOMY & HEALTH (HSEH)

Title: RELATING TO PLASTIC.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

02/12/25	INTRO	Introduced.
02/26/25	CCL	Passed first reading. 5 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, NISHIMOTO, WATERS, WEYER 4 NOES: KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA
03/04/25	HSEH	Reported out for passage on second reading and scheduling of a public hearing. CR-75 3 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, WEYER 2 NOES: TULBA, TUPOLA
03/07/25	PUBLISH	Public hearing notice published in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser.
03/19/25	CCL/PH	Bill passed second reading, public hearing closed and referred to committee. 5 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, NISHIMOTO, WATERS, WEYER 4 NOES: KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA
03/27/25	PUBLISH	Second reading notice published in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser.
04/01/25	HSEH	Amended to CD1. 5 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER
04/01/25	HSEH	Reported out for passage on third reading as amended in CD1 form. CR-113 3 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, WEYER 2 NOES: TULBA, TUPOLA
04/16/25	CCL	Committee report adopted and Bill passed third reading as amended. 5 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, NISHIMOTO, WATERS, WEYER 3 NOES: KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, TULBA 1 ABSENT: TUPOLA

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this BILL.


GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK


TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER