

Let's Get Ready Together

Plastic checkout bags to be banned in Maui County beginning January 11, 2011

To All Residents, Businesses and Visitors in the County of Maui:

Did you know that every year we use over 50 million single-use plastic bags in the County of Maui and most of them end up in our landfills, parks, beaches, highways and the ocean?

Single-use plastic checkout bags will officially be "retired" from service in our County a year from now. We realize transitioning from single-use plastic checkout bags to reusable cloth bags will be a challenge, however we believe our community, like many other communities throughout the world, can make the switch.

Our fragile eco-system has been harmed by the overuse of plastic bags. Plastic bags are picked up by strong winds and blown across our beautiful islands, eventually ending up strung on trees and fences or carried out to sea. Enough already! It's time to change our ways.

We appreciate the bag distributors and retailers who are providing reusable bags for their customers, and encourage all businesses to stop offering single-use plastic bags as soon as possible.

Many businesses are now asking customers if they need a bag, and placing signs at the register asking "Did you remember your bag?" or "Please bring reusable bags back to the store." We also know that several stores offer a five-cent credit for customers who bring their own reusable bag.

We will be holding informational meetings (meeting dates, times and locations below) to reach out to our partners in the business sector. With the help of businesses, we are in the process of learning a new way to shop, thereby creating a more sustainable lifestyle.

We encourage visitors to our islands to also carry reusable bags, because this is the new trend for Maui County and the world. We invite our visitors to join us in preserving our beautiful environment.

The keiki of Maui County will have an important role to play in helping us make the transition, by reminding family members to take the reusable bags into the store. Thus, some of our educational outreach will be geared toward our youth, whose participation will be key to the success of this new legislation. Years from now they can look back on this historical occasion and reflect on how they helped shape our county's future.

Thank you for your support of the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance, which takes effect January 11, 2011. It will take all of us, working together, to make this important change-a change that will have a profound impact on our health, the wildlife and our environment for generations to come.

Sincerely,


Mayor Charmaine Tavares

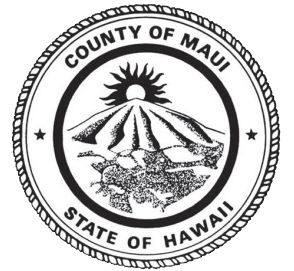

Council Vice-Chair Michael Molina



Mayor Charmaine Tavares



Council Vice-Chair Michael Molina



"Every year, more than 50 million single-use plastic bags are used in Maui County ... it's time to change our ways."



Informational Outreach Meetings*: Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance

KIHEI COMMUNITY CENTER:
Thursday, Feb. 18 • 3:00 p.m.

WAILUKU COMMUNITY CENTER:
Thursday, Feb. 25 • 3:00 p.m.

WEST MAUI COMMUNITY CENTER:
Thursday, March 11 • 3:00 p.m.

*Appropriate for businesses and restaurants of all sizes;
wholesale bag distributors

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI:
SECTION 1. Title 20, Maui County Code, is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"Chapter 20.18
PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION

Sections:
20.18.010 Purpose.
20.18.020 Definitions.
20.18.030 Administration.
20.18.040 Plastic bag restrictions.
20.18.050 Violation and penalties.

20.18.010 Purpose. A. The production and use of plastic bags have significant impacts on the environment, including, but not limited to: contributing to unsightly litter; creating an additional burden on landfills; contributing to potential death of marine animals through ingestion and entanglement; and requiring the use of millions of barrels of crude oil for their manufacture.

B. The council finds and declares that to preserve the health, safety, welfare, and scenic and natural beauty of the County of Maui, the use of plastic bags must be regulated.

C. The purpose of this chapter is to encourage the use of environmentally preferable alternatives to plastic bags, such as recyclable paper bags or reusable bags.

20.18.020 Definitions.

"Business" means any commercial enterprise or establishment, including sole proprietorships, joint ventures, partnerships and corporations, or any other legally cognizable entity, whether for profit or not for profit, and includes all employees of the business or any independent contractors associated with the business.

"Director" means the director of environmental management.

"Plastic bag" means a bag that is made from noncompostable plastic or compostable plastic, and is not specifically designed and manufactured for multiple re-use.

"Recyclable paper bag" means a paper bag that: (1) is one hundred percent recyclable, (2) contains a minimum of forty percent post-consumer recycled content, and (3) displays the words "Reusable" and "Recyclable" in a highly visible manner on the outside of the bags.

"Reusable bag" means a bag that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple re-use and is (1) made of cloth or other washable fabric, or (2) made of durable material suitable for reuse.

20.18.030 Administration. A. The director shall administer this chapter and shall adopt administrative rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, within one hundred eighty days from the effective date of this ordinance.

B. On or before September 1 of each year, the director shall submit to the council a report assessing the estimated increase in the number of business customers using recyclable paper bags or reusable bags.

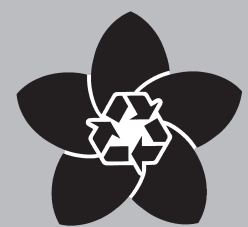
20.18.040 Plastic bag restrictions. A. Businesses are prohibited from providing plastic bags to their customers at the point of sale for the purpose of transporting groceries or other goods.

B. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude a business from making reusable bags or recyclable paper bags available for sale or without charge to customers at the point of sale for the purpose of transporting groceries or other goods.

20.18.050 Violation and penalties. A. Violations of this chapter shall be subject to the civil penalties and enforcement procedures of section 19.530.030 of this code.

B. Fines collected pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited into the open space, natural resources, cultural resources, and scenic views preservation fund."

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect January 11, 2011.



RECYCLE
MAUI COUNTY

For more information
Online:

www.mauicounty.gov/recycle

Recycle Maui County Hotline:

Ph. (808) 270-7880

Email:

recycle.mauicounty.gov