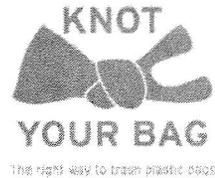




HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

820 Mililani St., Suite 810, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone (808) 533-1292 - Fax (808) 599-2606 - Email LISHawaii@aol.com
Direct (808) 479-7966



February 24, 2009

To: House Committee on Health
Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

By: Hawaii Food Industry Association
Richard C. Botti, President
Lauren Zirbel, Government Relations

Re: HCR 43 POLYSTYRENE FOOD CONTAINERS STANDARDS

In Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

While we support the purpose and intent of HCR 43, we feel there is an opportunity to turn discarded polystyrene containers into an asset, and request that the following amendments be included in the resolution:

WHEREAS, Polystyrene is a polymer made from a liquid hydrocarbon manufactured from petroleum. Expanded polystyrene is a foam product that is used for packing material, insulation and foam food containers. Extruded Polystyrene Foam has air inclusions (5% polystyrene/95% air) which gives it moderate flexibility, a low density, and a low thermal conductivity. Due to its insulation properties, it can be used as a construction material, ie., insulation, structural insulation panels, and non-weight bearing architectural structures. EPS cost is approximately 2 – 3 times less than equivalent disposable paper container and 4 – 5 times less than a comparable reusable food service item when all costs (equip., labor, water, electricity and detergent) are included; and

WHEREAS, EPS when incinerated converts to carbon dioxide, water vapor and a small amount of nontoxic ash. When EPS is converted from waste to energy at facilities such as H-Power it generates large quantities of energy – approximately 16,000 BTUs/pound (roughly twice the amount of energy generated from coal). While this may be good for the City & County of Honolulu because of the Honolulu Project Of Waste to Energy Recovery (H-Power), this is not the case for Neighbor Island Counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to study the feasibility of diverting EPS from landfills for recovery as an energy source to further Hawaii's goals of sustainability.