



SOLID WASTE DIVISION RECYCLING SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

COUNTY OF HAWAII - 108 RAILROAD AVENUE, HILO, HI 96720

Administrative Office Assistant (808) 961-8270 Fax (808) 961-8553

Recycling Coordinator (808) 961-8942

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Recycling Specialist - HI5 Program: (808) 961-8549

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October 2012

To All Hawai'i County Businesses,

Starting January 17, 2013, the County of Hawai'i's new Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance 12-1 becomes effective. This new law affects all businesses in Hawai'i County. The purpose of the law is to reduce the use of plastic checkout bags and encourage the use of more environmentally preferable alternatives such as reusable bags or paper bags.

Under the law, a business is defined as *"any commercial enterprise or establishment, including sole proprietorships, joint ventures, partnerships and corporations, or any other legal entity, and includes independent contractors associated with the business. Exempted from these rules are organizations classified under Section 501 (c) of the United States Internal Revenue code or non-incorporated community booster organizations.*

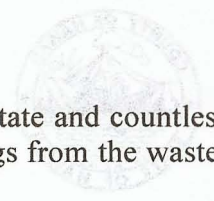
During the first year of the new law, beginning January 17, 2013, businesses may offer plastic checkout bags for purchase but are not allowed to provide them to customers for free. Each business may determine how much to charge for their plastic checkout bags and any such fees are the property of the business.

The second year, starting January 17, 2014, businesses may not provide plastic checkout bags to customers for free or for purchase. The law will allow plastic bags without handles that are designed and used solely for protection of food products like raw meat, poultry, seafood, frozen foods, deli foods, fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, cereal, flour, rice and candy. It also allows for plastic bags designed and used for small retail items like jewelry, buttons, beads, ribbon and hardware items like nails, nuts and screws. Plastic bags used to protect laundry and dry cleaning are permitted as well. Biodegradable or compostable plastic checkout bags are not permissible under the law.

A public hearing to adopt administrative rules for implementing the law is being held in Kona on December 6, 2012 and in Hilo on December 12, 2012. For a copy of the draft rules and the public hearing notice that includes details about the meeting including locations, please visit our website <http://www.hawaii zerowaste.org/reuse/plastic-bag-ordinance-and-reuse/>.

To assist businesses with communications to their customers about the new law, the County is developing public outreach and education initiatives. Some of the outreach tools include templates for banners, posters and leaflets that will be downloadable from our website and may be distributed to your customers and/or store personnel.

SOLID WASTE DIVISION
RECYCLING SECTION



In adopting a plastic bag ban, Hawai'i County joins the other three counties in the State and countless others around the country in an effort to reduce the disposal of single-use plastics bags from the waste-stream and to emphasize the use of reusable bags in most commercial transactions.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at lpeters@co.hawaii.hi.us or call 961-8942.

Sincerely,

Linda Peters
County of Hawai'i Recycling Coordinator

October 2013

To All Hawai'i County Businesses

Starting January 17, 2014, the County of Hawai'i's new Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance 15-1 becomes effective. This new law affects all businesses in Hawai'i County. The purpose of the law is to reduce the use of plastic checkout bags and encourage the use of more environmentally preferable alternatives such as reusable bags or paper bags.

Under the law, a business is defined as any commercial enterprise or establishment, including sole proprietorship, joint venture, partnership and corporations or any other legal entity, and includes independent contractors associated with the business. Excluded from these rules are organizations classified under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code or non-incorporated community-based organizations.

During the first year of the new law, beginning January 17, 2014, businesses may offer plastic checkout bags for purchase but are not allowed to provide them to customers for free. Each business may determine how much to charge for their plastic checkout bags and any such fees are the property of the business.

The second year starting January 17, 2015, businesses may not provide plastic checkout bags to customers for free or for purchase. The law will allow plastic bags without handles that are designed and used solely for protection of food products like raw meat, poultry, seafood, frozen foods, deli food, fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, cereal, flour, rice and pasta. It also allows for plastic bags designed and used for small retail items like jewelry, buttons, beads, ribbon and hardware items like nails, nuts and screws. Plastic bags used to protect jewelry and dry cleaning are permitted as well. Biodegradable or compostable plastic checkout bags are not permissible under the law.

A public hearing to adopt administrative rules for implementing the law is being held in Kona on December 6, 2013 and in Hilo on December 12, 2013. For a copy of the draft rules and the public hearing notice that includes details about the meeting including locations, please visit our website <http://www.hawaiiwaste.org/plastic-bag-ordinance-and-rules/>.

To assist businesses with communications to their customers about the new law, the County is developing public outreach and education initiatives. Some of the outreach tools include templates for banners, posters and leaflets that will be downloadable from our website and may be distributed to your customers and/or staff personnel.