

"Let's protect our 'aina and our ocean. Please remember to bring your reusable bags."



Auntie Fanny Ahoy

Plastic Bag Reduction

Hawai'i is the first state to have plastic bag reduction laws in all counties.

In Hawai'i County:

- *Beginning January 17, 2013, if stores distribute single use plastic bags at check out, they must charge a fee.
- ne year later, on January 17, 2014, stores cannot distribute single use plastic check out bags at all.
- * Some bags are permissible. These include bags without handles that are used for food, garments, small items and prescription drugs. More information at www.HawaiiZeroWaste.org

Michael Tokunaga

"Here in Hawai'i we are very dependent on a healthy ocean. Reusable bags help protect our environment for future generations."

The truth about plastic bags

- Plastic bags do not degrade into safe compounds. Consequently, they introduce unsafe chemicals into the environment.
 - Whether because of poor management or irresponsible disposal, plastic bags contribute to unsightly litter. Moreover, these plastic bags create the potential for death of marine and pasture animals through entanglement and ingestion.
 - Because plastic bags do not biodegrade, but instead break down into smaller and smaller pieces, plastic bags simplify the introduction of toxins into the marine environment, increasing the overall toxin concentration into the oceans, and inevitably into fish and other marine wildlife.
- Plastic bags are not consistent with the County's goal to reduce the Bring Your Bags quantity of materials going into the landfills.

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