

PROTECT OUR OCEAN

UPHOLD MAUI'S UPON REQUEST LAW

Maui Ordinance 5084:

- On March 1 2022, Maui County Ordinance 5084 went into effect, banning single-use plastic in food service establishments. It restricts the sale and use of disposable plastic items like food containers, cups, forks, spoons, knives, and straws.
- Food service establishments must also follow an “**upon request**” practice with all disposable utensils and straws. They can only provide these items if a customer requests them.
- Food service establishments cannot supply take-out accessories in every order automatically. Staff are allowed to ask customers if these items are needed, and businesses are allowed to set up a “self serve” station for customers to help themselves.

Good for Business & Our Ocean:

- Reduces plastic pollution in our ocean and on our beaches.
- Saves businesses money by reducing the amount of disposable foodware items given away.
- Increases customer satisfaction as a recent study by Oceana shows that 80% of U.S. voters support requiring companies to reduce single-use plastic foodware!

In the U.S., 561 billion disposable food service items are used every year, resulting in 4.9 million tons of waste. Americans use more than 36 billion utensils and as many as 142 billion straws each year.



Did you know? Restaurants can actually save money by only offering utensils and/or straws upon request. The Tiny Turtle, a Surfrider Ocean Friendly Restaurant in Cocoa Beach, Florida saves over \$3,000 a year by providing paper straws upon request.

We can all do our part to uphold Maui Ordinance 5084 and reduce our plastic footprint:

- **Business owners** should be informed of the policy and train all their staff to comply. They can also choose better take-out materials that do not include plastic or bioplastic, such as paper or bamboo, or even provide incentives for customers to bring their own reusable straws, utensils, or containers.
- **Staff** should adjust their habits of providing utensils and/or straws automatically, and instead set a new standard of avoiding these items unless requested.
- **Customers** can also help by bringing their own reusable foodware – such as cups, thermoses, straws, utensils, or food containers – for their take-out orders as much as possible. If asked, customers can always say “no” to disposable utensils or straws and opt for their own instead. If straws or utensils are accidentally provided, customers can kindly return them.

The Surfrider Foundation's [Ocean Friendly Restaurants Program](https://maui.surfrider.org/ofr) can also help address these challenges. By signing up for this free program, a restaurant agrees to making disposable utensils only available by request. Customers of Ocean Friendly Restaurants can support businesses who are making more sustainable choices for the ocean. For a current list of locations on Maui, visit maui.surfrider.org/ofr.

The Surfrider Foundation has resources including signage to help aid in this effort. These signs can help businesses owners, staff, and customers alike by reminding them that straws and utensils need to be requested. To see the options you might be able to display in your restaurant, scan the code below.



Scan to learn more!

maui.surfrider.org