



RESOLUTION No. 2020-21-17

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REFERRED TO: A.S. Board of Directors

ADOPTED: March 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution Re-affirm the Banning of Single-use Plastics and Bottled Water in HSU Dining

WHEREAS, the Associated Students (A.S.) Board of Directors of Humboldt State University (HSU) is the single recognized voice for over 6,500 students; and,

WHEREAS, the Mission of the Associated Students of Humboldt State University serves to "assist in the protection of rights and interests of the individual student and the student body,"¹ and to "stimulate the educational, social, physical, and cultural well-being of the University community"¹; and,

WHEREAS, HSU has proclaimed its vision to "improve the global human condition and our relationship with the environment"²; and,

WHEREAS, that CSU Policy has outlined that "by 2023, the California State University's 23 campuses will be eliminating the use and sale of all single-use plastics including plastic straws, water bottles and bags"³; and,

WHEREAS, in 2009, "the production, transportation, storage and disposal of bottled water to meet HSU bottled water demand requires approximately 43 barrels of oil per academic year; HSU contributed approximately 35,300 pounds of CO₂ being released into the atmosphere"⁴; and,

WHEREAS, the institution has claimed to have banned or eliminated the on-site sales and distribution of at least one type of single-use disposable plastic on the 2020 STARS report⁵; and,

WHEREAS, it has been stated in our 2020 STARS report that "Humboldt State has been an early adopter and leader in banning and phasing out plastics at HSU as both policy and general practice, having banned plastic water bottles in 2011, banned plastic bags in 2014, removed most expanded polystyrene,

also known as Styrofoam, from Dining in early 2010's, and is currently working to reduce plastics further.”⁵; and,

WHEREAS, in Fall of 2011, “HSU Dining Services stopped selling single-use plastic water bottles at all campus marketplaces and eateries, like the “J” Cafeteria and Depot. Throughout the semester, the campus will phase out plastic water bottles in campus vending machines as well.”⁶; and,

WHEREAS, according to Humboldt State Now in September of 2011, “Humboldt State has taken the first steps in phasing out the sale of plastic water bottles on campus, making it the first public university in California and just the third public university in the nation to do so.”⁶; and,

WHEREAS, it has been stated in our 2020 STARS report regarding sustainable dining initiatives that HSU has “eliminated plastic single use water bottles completely from our campus, and the beverages coolers at our primary dining location are 100% plastic free. Each student who attends HSU receives a stainless steel water container in their welcome package that can be refilled at various hydration stations across campus.”⁷; and,

WHEREAS, according to Chartwells Sustainability Scorecard, “Chartwells is committed to reducing the number of single-use plastics in our dining facilities. Straws and cup lids are only offered upon request and all single-use to-go containers are recycled PET or made of fully recyclable materials.”⁸; and,

WHEREAS, according to Humboldt State Now in February of 2019, “32 percent of the 78 million tons of plastic packaging produced annually is left to flow into our oceans. Much of it ends up in the ‘Great Pacific Garbage Patch’ located between Hawai’i and California, which is the largest accumulation of ocean plastic in the world.”⁹; and,

WHEREAS, the sale of aluminum water bottles does is not an appropriate replacement for plastic water bottles; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Carbon Trust, “primary aluminum uses huge amounts of electricity and it’s also got some chemical releases of greenhouse gas emissions”¹⁰

WHEREAS, half of aluminum cans are lined with BPA and the alternatives are also harmful to our health; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students reaffirms their position in favor of banning single-use plastics and bottled water of any form on the HSU campus.

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students calls upon HSU dining to be better in their sustainability practices and hold Chartwells, and future dining companies they contract with, accountable in upholding past single-use plastics bans on campus.

RESOLVED, that Humboldt State University has taken steps to reduce students and faculty plastic consumption on campus. Through using the OZZI containers, water bottle filling stations, reusable water

bottles, and compostable packaging, students were given options to reduce their plastic consumption. People are drawn to Humboldt State University with the impression we are a sustainable school. While steps have been in place to make this vision into a reality they need to be continuously pursued. Chartwells has taken pride over practices that have been in place at this school, as if they were the ones to introduce those ideas. What has been in place is the bare minimum and needs to keep being expanded. Prior to COVID-19 bulk food buying was going to be introduced into the market place or depot. There was also intent to put a reusable container washing station in the Depot so students could easily practice sustainability on a daily basis.

RESOLVED, that once the pandemic restrictions are lifted be it resolved that dining should offer bulk buying and a washing station on campus for reusable containers.

RESOLVED, that Chartwells ends the sale of bottled water including aluminum water bottles due to the extensive environmental impacts that aluminum has on the environment.

RESOLVED, that the city of Arcata has some of the best drinking water in the nation and the use of bottled water is egregious, unhealthy and unnecessary.

RESOLVED, that HSU builds more hydration stations on campus to promote the use and accessibility of reusable water bottles.

RESOLVED, that future dining companies that HSU contracts with abides to these standards listed.

RESOLVED, that student clubs, Athletics and all departments on campus end the use and sale of bottled water.

RESOLVED, that the only water available on campus for consumption is tap water with the exception of laboratory use and emergency supplies.

RESOLVED, that the school disallows the give-away, distribution and sale of all bottled water as the effects of bottled water has been proven to cause social, health, economic and environmental hardships to the most vulnerable communities globally.

RESOLVED, that it is not only important to help students become aware of their plastic usage for themselves, but also for the planet. The Earth is in one of its most troubling times as the waters rise and global warming continues to make the Earth hotter. It is important that part of a student's knowledge when they leave Humboldt State University is how to reduce and eliminate plastic waste usage and carry that onto future generations to help our earth sustain life longer. The way to start educating students is to show students that single-use plastics can be eliminated from our campus stores, and to share more information through our sustainability and environmental classes about single-use plastics and how to reduce usage in student's daily lives.

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to, but not limited to President Jackson, Todd Larsen [Director of Housing Operations & Executive Director of University Center], Dr. Jason L. Meriwether

[Vice President Enrollment Management], Eboni Turnbow [Interim Dean of Students], Stephen St. Onge [Associate Vice President of Student Success], Lynda Henderson [Purchasing Coordinator], Jonathan Reynoso [Business Operations Coordinator], Donyet King [Director of Residence Life], Sonja Brown [Regional Marketing Director for Chartwells], Melanie Bettenhausen [Director of Dining Services], Kevin Ralston [Assistant Director of Dining Services], Joe Fischioni [Division President for Chartwells], Laura Lapp [Vice President, Sustainability & Culinary Services at Chartwells Higher Education Dining Services], Kylene Ott [District Manager, Chartwells Higher Education Dining Services], Ivy Kusler [Regional Vice President, West at Chartwells Higher Education]

¹“HSU Associated Students: Mission & Vision.” <https://associatedstudents.humboldt.edu/node/3944>

²“Future Forward HSU Strategic Plan 2021-2026” Page 9.
https://strategicplan.humboldt.edu/sites/default/files/strategicplan_2020_final.pdf

³“CSU Says Goodbye to Single-Use Plastics” in reference to CSU Policy 5236
<https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/CSU-Says-Goodbye-to-Single-Use-Plastics.aspx>

⁴“Resolution in Support of the Drinking and Utilization of Local Water and the Phasing Out of the Sale”
<https://associatedstudents.humboldt.edu/content/resolution-support-drinking-and-utilization-local-water-and-phasing-out-sale>

⁵ Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report of Humboldt State University.
“IN-32: Single-Use Plastic Ban.”
<https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/humboldt-state-university-ca/report/2020-05-07/IN/innovation-leadership/IN-32>

⁶“Newly Extinct Species on Campus: Bottled Water.” <http://now.humboldt.edu/news/new-extinct-species-on-campus-bottled-water/>

⁷ Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report of Humboldt State University.
“OP-8: Sustainable Dining.” <https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/humboldt-state-university-ca/report/2020-05-07/OP/food-dining/OP-8/>

⁸ Chartwells Sustainability Scorecard
<http://chartwellshighered.com/sustainability/#scorecard>

⁹“HSU Ahead of the Sustainability Curve”
<http://now.humboldt.edu/news/hsu-ahead-of-the-csu-sustainability-policy-curve/>

¹⁰ “Plastic bottles vs. aluminum cans: who'll win the global water fight?”
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-environment-plastic-aluminium-insight/plastic-bottles-vs-aluminum-cans-wholl-win-the-global-water-fight-idUSKBN1WW0J5>