Current Plastic Bag Ban Definitions

- **“Business”**
  - Any commercial enterprise or establishment operating in the City and County of Honolulu, including an individual proprietorship, joint venture, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other legal entity, whether for profit or not for profit, and includes all employees of the business or any independent contractors associated with the business.

- **“Compostable plastic bag”**
  - Effective January 1, 2020:
    - Compostable plastic bags shall no longer be provided at the point of sale for the purpose of transporting groceries or other merchandise.

- **“Customer”**
  - A person who purchases merchandise from a business.

- **“Mil”**
  - A unit of measurement that equals one thousandth of one inch (0.001 inch).

- **“Non-recyclable paper bag”**
  - A paper bag that is not a recyclable paper bag.

- **“Plastic”**
  - Effective January 1, 2021 via Ordinance 19-30 (Bill 40):
    - Any material made of fossil fuel-derived or petrochemical polymeric compounds and additives that can be shaped by flow.

- **“Plastic checkout bag”**
  - Effective January 1, 2020:
    1. A carryout bag that is provided by a business to a customer for the purpose of transporting groceries or other retail goods, and is made from plastic and not specifically designed and manufactured for multiple re-use;
    2. This term does include:
      a. Bags used by customers inside a business to package loose items, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, ground coffee, grains, candies, or small hardware items;
      b. Bags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish, flowers or potted plants, or other items to contain dampness;
      c. Bags used to protect or transport prepared foods, beverages, or bakery goods;
      d. Bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription medications;
      e. Newspaper bags for home newspaper delivery;
      f. Door-hanger bags;
      g. Laundry, dry cleaning, or garment bags, including bags provided by hotels to guests to contain wet or dirty clothing;
      h. Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags;
      i. Bags used to contain live animals, such as fish or insects sold in pet stores; or
      j. Bags used to transport chemical pesticides, drain-cleaning chemicals, or other caustic chemicals sold at the retail level; provided that this exemption shall be limited to one bag per customer.
  - Effective January 1, 2021 via Ordinance 19-30 (Bill 40):
    1. Means a carryout bag that is provided by a business to a customer for the purpose of transporting groceries, prepared food, or other retail goods, and is made from plastic and not specifically designed and manufactured for long-term re-use;
2. This term does not include:
   a. Handle-less plastic bags used by customers inside a business to package loose items, such as bakery goods, fruits, vegetables, nuts, ground coffee, grains, candies, or small hardware items;
   b. Handle-less plastic bags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish, flowers or potted plants, or other items to contain dampness;
   c. Laundry, dry cleaning, or garment bags;
   d. Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags;
   e. Bags used to contain live animals, such as fish or insects sold in pet stores; or
   f. Bags used to transport chemical pesticides, drain-cleaning chemicals, or other caustic chemicals sold at the retail level; provided that this exemption shall be limited to one bag per customer.

- "Plastic film bag"
  - Effective January 1, 2020:
    1. A plastic bag made out of thin flexible sheets of plastic with a thickness of 10 mils or less;
    2. This term does not include:
      a. Bags used by customers inside a business to package loose items, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, ground coffee, grains, candies, or small hardware items;
      b. Bags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish, flowers or potted plants, or other items to contain dampness;
      c. Bags used to protect or transport prepared foods, beverages, or bakery goods;
      d. Bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription medications;
      e. Newspaper bags for home newspaper delivery;
      f. Door-hanger bags;
      g. Laundry, dry cleaning, or garment bags, including bags provided by hotels to guests to contain wet or dirty clothing;
      h. Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags;
      i. Bags used to contain live animals, such as fish or insects sold in pet stores; or
      j. Bags used to transport chemical pesticides, drain-cleaning chemicals, or other caustic chemicals sold at the retail level; provided that this exemption shall be limited to one bag per customer.
  - Effective January 1, 2021 via Ordinance 19-30 (Bill 40):
    1. A plastic bag made out of thin flexible sheets of plastic with a thickness of 10 mils or less;
    2. This term does not include:
      a. Handle-less plastic bags used by customers inside a business to package loose items, such as bakery goods, fruits, vegetables, nuts, ground coffee, grains, candies, or small hardware items;
      b. Handle-less plastic bags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish, flowers or potted plants, or other items to contain dampness;
      c. Newspaper bags for home newspaper delivery;
      d. Laundry, dry cleaning, or garment bags;
      e. Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags;
f. Bags used to contain live animals, such as fish or insects sold in pet stores; or
g. Bags used to transport chemical pesticides, drain-cleaning chemicals, or other caustic chemicals sold at the retail level; provided that this exemption shall be limited to one bag per customer.

- **“Recyclable paper bag”**
  - A paper bag that:
    1. Is one hundred percent recyclable,
    2. Contains a minimum of forty percent post-consumer recycled content, and
    3. Displays the words “Reusable” and “Recyclable” in a highly visible manner on the outside of the bags.

- **“Reusable bag”**
  - Effective January 1, 2020:
    - A bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and is made of:
      1. Cloth or other washable fabric, or
      2. Durable material suitable for reuse. Plastic film bags (plastic bags made out of thin flexible sheets of plastic with a thickness of 10 mils or less) shall no longer be considered “reusable bags.”