



Representative Hermina Morita, Chair
Representative Mele Carroll, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

HEARING Thursday, January 24, 2008
 8:30 am
 Conference Room 312

RE: HB2235, Relating to the Deposit Beverage Container Program

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Carroll, and Members of the Committee:

Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a not-for-profit trade organization representing about 200 members and over 2,000 storefronts, and is committed to support the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii.

RMH acknowledges the intent of this measure, notably that it is an innovative approach to managing the redemption of deposit beverage containers. We do understand that, in their attempts to establish redemption centers, recyclers, as all business entities in Hawaii, are challenged by the high cost of property and the applicable and continually rising fees and taxes associated with real estate.

Our concern: there must be assurance that redemption centers established by this measure are dedicated solely to deposit beverage containers and that the focus is not diluted to accommodate other recyclable materials.

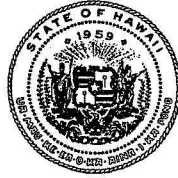
Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carol Pringle', is written in black ink.

President

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P.O. Box 3378
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

H.B. 2235, RELATING TO THE DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINER PROGRAM

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

**January 24, 2008
8:30 AM**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health opposes this bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Unquantified.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill proposes to give the department the authority to use the deposit
4 beverage container special fund to purchase real property for the purpose of establishing redemption
5 centers. The Department opposes this because it conflicts with the policy in Hawaii Revised Statutes
6 (HRS) section 171-30, which grants the authority to purchase real property solely to the Department of
7 Land and Natural Resources.

8 We also think that our deposit beverage container program will operate better if it does not
9 expand into a new line of operations, property acquisition, ownership, and management, for which we
10 now lack expertise. We prefer to let the recyclers gauge consumer demand and the economics of
11 property use and determine where to operate redemption sites.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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