

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



January 28, 2008

ERIC S. TAKAMURA, Ph.D., P.E.
DIRECTOR

KENNETH A. SHIMIZU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:
WAS 08-55

Representative Hermina M. Morita, Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 312
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morita:

Subject: HB 2508 -- RELATING TO THE DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINER PROGRAM. *Requires retail dealers with more than 75,000 square feet of retail space to operate redemption centers. Effective 10/1/08.*

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services supports HB 2508, which requires retail dealers with more than 75,000 square feet of retail space to operate redemption centers. The success of the HI-5 beverage container deposit-recycling program depends on locating redemption centers convenient to the consumer. Retailers in other states have provided redemption centers for their customers for decades.

Since the start of the HI-5 program in 2005, Oahu has seen a significant jump in recovery rates for aluminum, glass, and plastic, but we estimate that millions of beverage containers are still going into the trash each year. Diverting waste from landfill is a top priority and necessitates increasing recycling in all programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Eric S. Takamura", is written over a large, stylized letter "F" that is part of the signature.

Eric S. Takamura, Ph.D., P.E.
Director

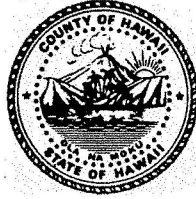
BOB JACOBSON

Councilmember

Chair, Environmental Management Committee

Vice-Chair, Finance Committee

Vice-President Hawai'i State Association of Counties



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i

January 26, 2008

To: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,

Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair and Members

Rep. Mele Carroll, Vice Chair, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Roland D. Sagum, III

Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Rep. Scott K. Saiki

Rep. Michael Y. Magaoay, Rep. Cynthia Thielen

DATE: Tuesday, January 29, 2008, TIME: 8:30 am

Regarding Testimony in favor of:

HB 2508

RELATING TO THE DEPOSIT BEVERAGE
CONTAINER PROGRAM.

Requires retail dealers with more than 75,000
square feet of retail space to operate redemption
centers. Effective 10/1/08.

Aloha Chair Morita and Members,

I want to express my support for HB 2508. We are all aware of the need to reuse, recycle and reduce. This could make it much easier for consumers to redeem HI5 containers. Hawai'i residents want to have a clean environment. Let us make it easy for all of us to do the right thing.. Please give this bill favorable consideration. I believe that the retailers will embrace this program once it is mandatory. More people will recover their deposits and retailers will have that money back in their store in the form of more purchases. Instituting recycling at such stores will increase the effectiveness of our HI5 program.

Mahalo

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Jacobson".

Janice Lehner

From: Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [info@waa-hawaii.org]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 10:34 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: HB 2508 - Relating to the Deposit Beverage Container Program

Shannon Wood, *Interim President*
Windward Ahupua`a Alliance
P.O. Bxo 6366
Kane`ohe, HI 96744
Phone: 808/247-6366 ext. 1#
Cell: 808/224-4496

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Hermina Morita, Chair
Rep. Mele Carroll, Vice Chair

HB 2508 - RELATING TO THE DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINER PROGRAM
Support With Amendment

PUBLIC HEARING

8:30 am

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Conference Room 312

The *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance* supports **HB 2508** which would require retailers whose premises are 75,000 feet or larger to set up a **HI-5** redemption center on the premises. However, we urge that the footage be reduced to 10,000 square feet. That's still a very large store.

WAA helps support its work by running recycling drives, and we know from first-hand experience how inconvenient it is for many people to do the right thing. We also offer pickup services for people unable to get to a recycling site.

This requirement should have been part of the original bill which was finally passed in 2002 after 32 years of trying. The retailers moaned and groaned back then and every year since that it is a health hazard and would drive up their costs.

The *additional costs argument* is fallacious. Since they'd get a penny per container from the state for processing them, any costs for additional janitorial services and to build a recycling area using reverse vending machines would be covered.

If we as a very small recycler can average about \$5,000 a year recycling some 125,000 containers out of the nearly 900 million sold without getting that one-cent processing fee, can you imagine what a store processing 10 million containers a year would get since they'd be eligible for the one-cent fee? About \$100,000 which would cover all annual costs.

1/28/2008

Who knows - the convenience of being able to return containers where they're bought might even encourage additional sales when the tickets are turned in by the public!

Every other state in the country mandates this. **WAA** urges that you pass **HB 2508** with the amendment lowering the minimum space requirement to 10,000 square feet.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.



HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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January 29, 2008

To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair
Rep. Mele Carrol, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, President
Lauren Zirbel, Government Affairs

Re: HB 2508 RELATING TO THE DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINER PROG.

Chairs & Committee Members:

While this measure sounds provocative, we do not support it.

The main concern our member have is that they don't trust that it wouldn't be reduced from 75,000 square feet to lower square footage levels once implemented.