

Bill No. 2239
Support Y N
Date 1/22/10
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To: Representative Hermina Morita, Chairperson
Representative Denny Coffman, Vice Chairperson
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chairperson
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chairperson
Committee on Finance

Fr: Bruce Iverson
Director of Marketing and Development
Reynolds Recycling, Inc.

Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Re: Support of HB 2239

Aloha.

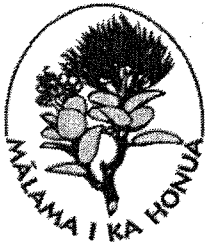
As one part of the network of companies that redeem containers for the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container law, we support HB2239.

This bill would eliminate one exclusion in the definition of what is or is not a deposit beverage container. By doing so, it would eliminate some consumer confusion, and there by help reduce congestion at redemption centers. The simplification of the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Law would help both the consumer, and by reducing the number of exclusions, would reduce required inspection and removal time at the point of redemption. This would help the operators of certified redemption centers.

As long as adequate time is allowed to enable a smooth introduction of these products into the deposit system, there should be little confusion created by the addition of these products. The State Department of Health may need to investigate whether the products involved would cause discrepancies to the current units per pound ratios, and hence to the current HI-5 price rates.

We humbly urge your support for HB 2239.

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Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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Bill No. HB 2239

Support Y N

Date 1/25/10

Time 1:50/

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Type 1 2 WI

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 26, 2010, 8:00 A.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2239

Aloha Chair Morita and Committee Members -

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, supports HB 2239, which extends the deposit beverage container program to include dietary supplements.

Hawaii's bottle law has proven to be an overwhelming success for Hawaii's environment, with over 930 million bottles and cans diverted from Hawaii's landfills annually. Beyond waste diversion, our recycling law reduces litter, creates jobs, and provides opportunities for churches, charities, and schools to fundraise. The recycling program proves that a little change can make a big difference.

Despite its success with redeeming over four billion beverage containers, the bottle law can be improved. Including dietary supplement drinks into this comprehensive scheme is a logical continuation of the public policy underlying this system.

We also strongly urge this Committee to consider amending this bill to require distributors to "take back" the bottles and cans they sell. Hawai'i is currently the only state with a bottle law that does not require grocery stores to 'close the loop' on recycling. Hawai'i should require that stores over a certain size (or over a certain sales threshold) provide redemption options.

The single best way to ensure easy, convenient redemption for Hawaii's consumers is to mandate that grocery stores and retailers of a certain size take back the bottles and cans that they sell, just like every other deposit law state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.