



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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Bill No. HB 2239

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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.