

Bill No. 2279

Testimony in strong support of HB 2279

Before

the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Support Y N

Date 2/5

Time 1506

Dear Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman and Members of the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee,

Cat AF AS AX C

Type 1 2 WI

I submit testimony in strong support of this bill. The reason what we have a "Bottle Bill" is because our legislative leaders realized the need to lessen the flow of trash into our dwindling landfills and to try and keep our beautiful islands as scenic as possible.

I collect cans almost every day for redemption. I was surprised recently when I was told that bottle caps are not redeemable. This makes no sense to me. The reason given is that some unscrupulous collectors try and add weight to their bottles by filling them with water.

With or without a law stating bottle caps are redeemable these unscrupulous collects will try and add weight to their bottles anyway. That is why the standard operating procedure of Reynolds Recycling station is to transfer, by slowly dumping the bottles from one container to another, while they scan the bottles.

I have noticed that since this policy of not redeeming bottle caps, more and more of them are thrown on the ground. While cigarette butts will disintegrate, plastic bottle caps do not. Thereby our lands will become more and more cluttered with them.

I do recommend that the word "may" in section 7 of the bill, be replaced with the word "must" require that caps cannot be on the bottles when redeemed.

With this friendly amendment I hope you pass this bill.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Williams
Waikiki resident



Bill No. 2279
Support Y (N)
Date 2/5
Time 1623
Cat AF AS AX BC
Type (1) 2 WI

To: Representative Hermina Morita, Chairperson
Representative Denny Coffman, Vice Chairperson
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP)

To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chairperson
Representative Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chairperson
Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs (EBM)

Fr: Terry G. Telfer, President
Reynolds Recycling, Inc.

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 9am, House Conference Room 325

Re: Opposition to HB 2279

As one part of the network of companies that redeem containers for the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container law, we are strongly opposed to HB2279.

This bill would require all certified redemption centers to collect bottle caps. This material is considered contamination if mixed with the Deposit beverage containers and would become a huge impediment in the recycling process.

- Because these caps are small, it is not technically feasible to incorporate them into current processing methods. Plastic bottles are baled, and these caps being small, would continually fall out of processed bales, creating safety hazards and increasing labor requirements for redemption center operators.
- We have not found any processor that is willing to accept bottle caps as a product. It would also be a logistical nightmare to keep a separate shipping container for these caps, as it would take months to fill up, even **IF** we were able to find someone who would process these.

A recent campaign by Aveda Salon to recycle bottle caps became a green disaster, as they had to ship caps from all over US to one location because they could only find one location that could deal with recycling these caps.

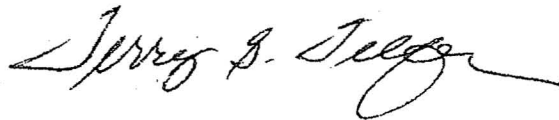
- Glass bottle tops would be included because of the wording of this bill, and there is **NO** method to recycle these caps. It would simply create one more step in the disposal of these bottle caps, and one more cost to the recycler.

Address: 1122 Mikole Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 Ph. 487-2802 Fax. 486-7753

- Bottle cap litter is not an education issue. Everyone knows they should not be throwing these on the ground.
- People who litter bottle caps are not doing so because they cannot take them to a redemption center. They are littering because they don't care to take them to a garbage can. Forcing redemption centers to accept these will have **ZERO** effect on cap litter.
- Many redemption centers already have garbage containers for their customers. Forcing redemption centers to accept these would mislead them into thinking that these caps will be recycled.
- Lidded containers keep the contents inside. Recyclers **MAY NOT** purchase containers with free-flowing liquid. The redemption process will slow down because people (customers and or staff) will be required to remove caps prior to recycling.
- The biggest reason to make sure caps are not brought in with the containers is that more people will get in the habit of leaving these caps on, allowing water to remain in bottles thereby changing the weights of these containers, and cheating the Deposit program of valuable deposit funds.

We believe that HB2279 is not in the best interest of the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Program, the redemption center operators, or the consumers. This passes one more unnecessary complication, and cost onto those who are making this system work effectively.

We believe that this bill serves no useful purpose at this time, and would ask that you vote no on HB 2279.



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House Committee on EEP

Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 9:00 am CR 325

In Support of HB 2279- Relating to the deposit beverage container program

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman and Members of the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee

I am Flor Martinez, a radio broadcaster with KNDI radio and a retired Department of Foreign Affairs worker.

I strongly support HB 2279 that will mandate Recycling Stations to accept bottle tops and caps for recycling. Bottle caps and tops are non biodegradable and improper disposal of which will pollute the environment. Encouraging people to redeem bottle caps and tops minimizes trash and overflowing of the landfills

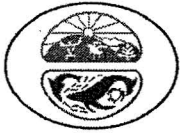
This preventive measure is not only environmental friendly by promoting prevention awareness but is also cost effective in keeping high cost of producing bottle caps and tops.

Having the redemption stations open at least 30 hours each week in a high density populated areas at least 5 hours on Saturdays and Sundays will provide adequate service to the people especially the working population.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Flor Martinez

Bill No. 2279
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Date 2/5
Time 1714
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Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

HB 2279 Relating to the Deposit Beverage Container Program
Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2010 9:00 am Room 325

Bill No. 2279

Support N

Date 2/5

Time 1754

Cat AF AS AX C

Type 1 2 WI

In support of HB 2279

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 2279, which requires redemption centers to accept and properly dispose of plastic tops and caps. There is no reason why bottle tops and caps cannot be made of recycled (#1 and #2) plastic. HB 2279 bill will encourage this. In the meantime, requiring redemption centers to accept and properly dispose of plastic tops and caps that are not, necessarily, made of recycled plastic at this time, will reduce the number of such tops and caps from littering our land and waters. Plastic tops and caps are one of the targeted items seabirds, such as the moli (Laysan albatross) accidentally ingest, mistaking them for food or ingesting them with real food. Plastic accumulated in the stomach of a seabird can cause dehydration and starvation. This is a serious threat added to the many other threats to our seabirds.

Please pass HB 2279. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu

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