

SB 2420



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

February 2, 2010, 3:30 P.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT FOR SB 2420 WITH A PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, supports SB 2420, 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 this opportunity to provide testimony.

gabbard1 - Carlton

From: Richard Kamis [kamii@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 10:26 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: S.B. 2420

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT;
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 225
DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2010

To: Senator Mike Gabbard; Committee Chair, Senator J. Kalani English; Committee Vice Chair,
and Committee Members of the Energy and Environment Committee

RE: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2420: Relating to the deposit beverage container program
Dear Energy and Environment Committee:

We strongly support Senate Bill 2420: Removes the exemption for dietary supplements from the deposit beverage container program and request your support for the Bill as well.

Respectfully,

Richard and Elizabeth Kamis
2957 Kalakaua Avenue
96815