



March 30, 2010

LATE

TO: Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Honorable Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Committee of Ways and Means

Regarding Deposit Beverage Container Program
HB 2239, SD1

Please do not vote in the addition of 6 cents more to our wine and spirits bottles. We already pay a penny and a half a unit and the addition of this will add a very cumbersome problem to an already tough business.

I realize that everyone looks at the liquor business as a source for revenues but I feel we already pay more than our fair share. Hawaii currently has the second highest liquor tax in the nation and for a large tourist State this is a heavy burden to carry.

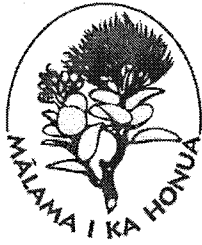
I am a small business man and my business is locally owned in Hawaii. We cannot keep getting nickel and dimed for every cent we can cough up.

I feel the little additional amount this money will bring in will be considerably out weighed by the damage it does to our industry. The wineries may not want to set up readjusting labels to add the deposit amounts on such a small State as ours and we will end up suffering the consequences as either they will choose not to ship product to us or we will have to apply stickers by hand if they do, which is an extremely laborious process.

Please do not vote for this deposit program.

Sincerely,

E. John Doty
Partner/CEO



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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 31, 2010, 9:30 A.M.
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 2239, SD1

Aloha Chair Kim and Members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, strongly *supports* HB 2239, which extends the deposit beverage container program to include dietary supplements, wine, and hard spirits containers. Including these items is a logical continuation of the public policy underlying our beverage container law.

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. Approximately 4 billion bottles have been recycled since the beverage container law was passed. 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*. Energy drinks are becoming increasingly popular and nonsensically evade the beverage container law because of the definition of dietary supplements. Millions of wine bottles and hard spirits are sold in Hawai'i each year and -- because of the lack of deposit -- there is little or no enticement to recycle these items.

There is no rationale basis why these products are not included in a comprehensive beverage container program. It's time to close the loop on these items and ensure there is an incentive to properly recycle them.

We strongly support HB 2239. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.