



LATE

January 28, 2011

Senator Josh Green, M.D. Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 178 – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Green, Vice Chair Nishihara & Members of the Committee:

The Grocery Manufacturers Association¹ (GMA) and its more than three hundred members respectfully oppose SB 178, which would amend the existing beverage deposit law to include dietary supplements, hard spirits, and wine because nutritional and dietary supplements do not have the same use as other covered products such as juice and soda. Nutritional and dietary supplements are health products often recommended by doctors or nutritionists and used, for example, as meal replacements, to combat obesity, and provide nutrients to people with health issues. Their inclusion in the bottle deposit program would be inequitable and in some instances the equivalent of charging a redemption fee for the plastic packaging of a meal replacement bar.

For these reasons, GMA respectfully opposes SB 178.

Sincerely,

John Hewitt
Western Region Director
Grocery Manufacturers Association

¹ Based in Washington, D.C., the Grocery Manufacturers Association is the voice of more than 300 leading food, beverage and consumer product companies that sustain and enhance the quality of life for hundreds of millions of people in the United States and around the globe.

Founded in 1908, GMA is an active, vocal advocate for its member companies and a trusted source of information about the industry and the products consumers rely on and enjoy every day. The association and its member companies are committed to meeting the needs of consumers through product innovation, responsible business practices and effective public policy solutions developed through a genuine partnership with policymakers and other stakeholders.

In keeping with its founding principles, GMA helps its members produce safe products through a strong and ongoing commitment to scientific research, testing and evaluation and to providing consumers with the products, tools and information they need to achieve a healthy diet and an active lifestyle.

The food, beverage and consumer packaged goods industry in the United States generates sales of \$2.1 trillion annually, employs 14 million workers and contributes \$1 trillion in added value to the economy every year.

GROCERY MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION