



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

March 20, 2013, 2:30 P.M.
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1133 SD2 HD1

Chair McKelvey and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with over 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, respectfully *supports* SB 1133 SD2 HD1. This measure establishes closes a loophole in the tremendously successful deposit beverage container program.

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*. Some drinks are utilizing a loophole -- a "dietary supplement" exemption -- in order to evade complying with our beverage container (HI-5) law. There is no logical basis to exempt these beverages from our incredibly successful recycling program and to allow certain distributors to have an advantage in the marketplace.

If we want to move Hawaii to a sustainable future and help solve our growing landfill crisis, we need to start taking the "small changes" necessary to eliminate our problems. Including dietary containers would be a start.

We respectfully ask this Committee to change the effective date on this measure and move it forward. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.