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LATE TESTIMONY

TO:
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS
Representative Derek S. K. Kawakami, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Tuesday February 17, 2015
TIME: 1:05pm
PLACE: Conference Room 229

RE: SB221

Position: Comments

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA strongly supports the intent of this measure. However, we believe that SB1151 will serve as a better vehicle to maximize positive impact. As with this measure, SB1151 would allow restaurants and brewpubs to sell certain beverages for off-premises consumption under certain circumstances. In addition to which, SB1151 would also allow retail dealers to sell certain beverages in growlers.

Growlers are far more eco-friendly than other container options because they can be used over and over again and allowing them at retail dealers is an important step in decreasing the use of glass in Hawaii, and by extension decreasing the expense of recycling glass. The recent audit of the Glass Advance Disposal Fee has made it very apparent that continuing to handle the disposal of glass in the way we have been is not an option, one simple solution to help unburden this program is to reduce the amount of glass we use. For these reasons we ask that this bill be modified to include language to allow growlers to be sold at retailers, or that SB1151 be advanced in place of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.