

SB 2714

Measure Title: RELATED TO RECYCLING.

Report Title: Repeal of State Recycling Program

Description: Repeal of failing recycling program to allow for exploration of sustainable alternatives.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

LATE

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Technology

Friday February 5, 2016 1:15PM Room 414

In OPPOSITION SB2714 Relating to Recycling

Aloha Chairman Wakai and member of the EET Committee,

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly opposes SB2714 because it end recycling in Hawai'i as we know it.

The Bottle Bill: The Single Most Significant Improvement to Hawai'i's Waste Problem

Before the Bottle Bill was adopted in 2005, Hawai'i residents recycled about 20% of their glass and plastic bottles. Within one year of adopting the bill, Hawai'i's recycling rate skyrocketed to 68%. That is an undeniably quick and significant improvement in recycling habits. And it has stuck; annual recycling rates for glass and plastic bottles are consistently over 75%. That amounts to over 4.7 billion containers since 2005. Recycling those containers provides 3,000 full-time jobs statewide, produces 49,000 MWh of electricity, and reduces global greenhouse gas emissions.

Given these facts, it is misleading to characterize the Bottle Bill as a "failing" program.

Maintaining high rates of recycling is essential to Hawai'i's survival

Even with our high rates of glass and plastic bottle recycling, Hawai'i is over-run with recyclable waste. Overstuffed landfills and illegal dump sites pose significant risks to human health. Research by the World Economic Forum and Ellen MacArthur Foundation found that 165 million tons of plastic currently pollute our ocean. If this trend continues, then they estimate that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish.¹

Always looking to improve

Recognizing that recycling programs in Hawai'i could always be improved, we urge the Committee to consider the findings of the 2014 Auditor's Report "A Study to Identify Local Alternatives to Shipping Non-Deposit Glass out of the State of Hawai'i".² This report identifies concrete steps we could take right now to improve glass recycling.

¹ <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2016/01/24/oceans-more-plastic-than-fish/79267192/>

² <http://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2014/14-17.pdf>

Options for making much needed improvements in our recycling program include:

- requiring retailers to take back recyclable waste, like plastic and glass containers,
- expand the redemption program to include all containers, especially wines and spirits,
- increase the deposit/redemption fee to 10-cents, instead of 5-cents,
- merge the Advance Deposit Fee program with the HI-5 redemption fee program.

The Sierra Club is committed to defending the overwhelmingly successful HI-5 and ADF programs. We are always open to consider improvements and appreciate this Committee considering our testimony on this important measure.

Mahalo,



Martha Townsend
Director

wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 11:00 AM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: mihosaito612@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2714 on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM*

LATE

SB2714

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for EET on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miho Saito	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 8:44 AM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: natalie.mckinney@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2714 on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM

LATE

SB2714

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for EET on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie McKinney	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Chair Wakai, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Slom, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and committee members, I am writing in opposition of SB2714, which would repeal the current State recycling program by dismantling the Deposit Beverage Container (HI-5) program and the Advanced Disposal Fee/Fund (ADF). Without a system in place to manage the billions of containers imported and disposed of in Hawaii, we lose decades of work protecting Hawaii's environment. This bill calls for no specific replacement program, which would create a vacuum of no regulation or oversight, which would be a disaster for Hawaii's people and environment. In 2002, in an effort to increase participation in recycling, connect manufacturing decisions and recycling program management, and reduce litter, the State Legislature passed Act 176. This Act promoted recycling through an incentive program for consumers, providing a five cent redemption for each beverage container recycled. This bill has helped recycle 70% of containers sold, for a total of over 6.6 billion containers in the last decade. Although the current system is not without flaws, it has greatly improved recycling and materials management in the state as compared to pre 2002 figures. I am in support of creating a more sustainable and efficient recycling program. However, I think a new program would be better achieved by amending the current laws and programs using lessons learned rather than repealing the entire State Recycling Program. As you consider the merits of SB 2714, I respectfully request that you consider our overflowing landfills and the need to increase our State's waste management efficiency as we strive to become a leader among the several states for environmental protection and green policy. SB 2714 would undue many years of work improving our State's recycling system, with no directive for a timeline or strategy to create a new "sustainable alternative" I strongly oppose SB 2714. Mahalo, Natalie McKinney

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LATE

TO: Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

FR: Terry Telfer, President
Reynolds Recycling, Inc.

Date: 2/5/16

RE: Testimony in **OPPOSITION** to SB2714

Reynolds Recycling is a local kamaaina recycling company with over 35 years in helping keep Hawaii beautiful. Reynolds Recycling, Inc. is in **opposition** to SB2714.

The ten bottle bill states nationwide recycle more than all the non -deposit states combined. Bottle bills, just like Hawaii's HI-5 law is the only proven method that addresses landfill diversion and litter control at the same time. If you were to see a beverage container on the street or elsewhere, it would be gone the next time you passed by. Hawaii's HI-5 law is helping to keep Hawaii beautiful for residents and tourist alike every day!

The Hi-5 deposit program needs to be administered by the State as it's a State-wide program. *Whatever maybe wrong with Hawaii's HI-5 program can be fixed*, i.e, if a redemption center is uncertified then require them to be certified. The local media reports of tons of glass containers not recycled due to the lack of reimbursement funding to offset processing costs is for the ADF glass containers (wine etc.) and not the HI-5 glass containers.

Hawaii's HI-5 program has made the recycling industry the State's largest exporter. Recycling saves energy. For every aluminum can recycled you save an energy equivalent of a cup of gasoline. Glass is made into new beer bottles. Plastic containers are made into carpet and clothing.

In closing, please support Hawaii's Hi-5 program and all of its benefits. Reynolds Recycling is opposed to SB2714 and in favor of working with the State of Hawaii in making our current HI-5 program better. Let's keep Hawaii beautiful! Should you have further questions, I can be reached at 487-2802.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry G. Telfer".

Terry G. Telfer
President
Reynolds Recycling Inc.

February 4, 2016

Testimony in OPPOSITION of
SB2714 Relating to Recycling

LATE

To: The Chairs and members of the Economic Development, Environment, and
Technology Committee and the Ways and Means Committee

Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair Wakai, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Slom, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and
committee members,

I am writing in opposition of SB2714, which would repeal the current State recycling program by dismantling the Deposit Beverage Container (HI-5) program and the Advanced Disposal Fee/Fund (ADF). Simply put, I do not believe it is prudent to repeal this legislation without having something better to take its place. In the absence of a ready to run program (which should probably be first run as a pilot), the will potential be several months where Hawaii has no recyclable container program. In that period of time, Hawaii would face potential environmental pollution and damage. The State's public image of being a place of great natural beauty could also be more tarnished than it already is by the garbage and crumbling infrastructure that already blight the landscape.

Any talent for lawmaking would be of greater service if it were applied towards shoring up the existing gaps identified in the current program and exploring measures to initiate an alternative program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Anthony Weersing



LATE

Testimony in OPPOSITION of
SB2714 Relating to Recycling

To: The Chairs and members of the Economic Development, Environment, and Technology Committee and the Ways and Means Committee

Position: OPPOSE

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I oppose SB 2714.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Milholen
President
Styrophobia