



To:
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
March 12, 2019; 8:30 am
Conference Room 325

From:
Bruce Iverson, Director of Marketing and Development
Reynolds Recycling, Inc.

Testimony in opposition to SB893 SD1

Aloha,

As Hawaii's largest bottle and can recycling company, Reynolds Recycling would support any measure that would enhance recycling opportunities and help to improve the Hawaii Bottle Deposit Law, unfortunately this measure does not meet the above mentioned goals.

- Bottles with caps on are not redeemable (Hawaii Administrative Rules §11-282-61).
- Since 2005 we have worked to eliminate confusion with regards to bottle caps, and most customers understand that caps are to be removed. This law would cause confusion as it would cause county run locations to accept bottles with caps, while private industry is still prohibited from accepting them, and customers already know to dispose of them properly.
- It would put privately run redemption locations at a disadvantage as county locations could redeem materials (containers with caps) that privately run locations cannot.
- Bottles with caps weigh more, specifically more than the official State Segregated Rate (their rate studies were made with containers without caps) therefore the addition of caps would defraud the Deposit Beverage Special Fund for any money paid out for cap weight.
- Bottle caps are not a marketable material or product: there is no known local or international market to sell them.

- Bottle caps as a material cannot be compacted or densified for shipping. They would need to be boxed for shipping, and then stored for long periods until shipping containers could be filled with them, even if a market that would buy those containers was found.
- The bill would include “Polypropylene” into the Bottle Deposit Law. Bottle caps, to our knowledge, are not made of Polypropylene, rather they are made of Polythene Terephthalate (PET or PETE, Plastic #1). The bottles themselves are made of Polyethylene Terephthalate (also PET or PETE, Plastic #1), which is not recyclable with the cap plastic.

For these various reasons, while we support your intent to keep Hawaii clean, this measure would instead create customer confusion, likely cause unnecessary cost to the recycling industry, and defraud the state Deposit Beverage Container fund of monies.

For these reasons we would urge you to vote in opposition to SB893.

Bruce Iverson, Director of Marketing and Development
Reynolds Recycling, Inc.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 12, 2019 8:30 a.m. Room 325

In **SUPPORT of SB893 SD1**: Relating to recycling

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB 893 SD1**, which seeks to prohibit counties from rejecting number 1 and 2 plastic bottles presented for recycling solely because the bottles are accompanied by or adjoined to nonrecyclable bottle caps. This bill requires and appropriates funds for the counties to separate and appropriately dispose of such nonrecyclable bottle caps. This bill adds the definition of "PP", or polypropylene plastic material, into integrated solid waste management law. This bill also requires counties to include feasibility assessment of recycling PP materials.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is committed to supporting efforts seeking to reduce waste and consumption across the islands, that initiate on-island recycling and processing, and that explore innovative ways to upcycle and reuse various waste materials, notably plastics.

Plastic number 1 & 2 are the most common types of plastic containers and the most easily recyclable. Currently, the counties do not accept number 1 & 2 plastic bottles that are accompanied by or adjoined to bottle caps that are made of polypropylene (#5 plastic). This is unfortunate because many of the number 1 & 2 plastic bottles are made with these types of caps such as single-use water bottles, soda bottles, and many other plastic beverage containers. Polypropylene #5 plastics are considered a good recyclable and have considerable value. There are some competitive markets and recyclers that buy polypropylene scrap for reuse in car battery casings, paint cans, automotive parts, casters and wheels, etc. Not to mention the detrimental effects these caps have on our natural environment. In one way or another because they are not accepted as recyclable here in the state, they end up as litter on the beaches and in parks where they pollute our environment and can cause harm when ingested by marine birds and mammals.

By having the counties separate caps from bottles, we can increase recycling rates and reduce the volume of waste being sent to H-POWER, which creates pollution when burning plastic. It's simple, when recycling gets easier, participation goes up and that is exactly what Sierra Club is striving for. Our communities have come so far in their support for recycling programs, and we *should continue moving toward a zero waste Hawai'i in a way that is clean, efficient, and causes minimal harm to the environment.*

We urge the committee to pass this measure, which will serve our collective efforts to keep Hawai'i's land, freshwater bodies, and oceans free of plastic pollution and other waste. Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 893 SD1**.

Mahalo,
Lori Mallini, Volunteer, Sierra Club of Hawai'i

SB-893-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 6:44:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-893-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 12:03:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara L. George | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SUPPORT! We need to do everything possible to increase recycling, including providing more funding for workers to separate recycled #1 and 2 plastics as well as anything else that can be recycled.

SB-893-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 1:51:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lisa Marten | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

We already have an investment in recycling plastic bottles and infrastructure to do so. By failing to remove caps from bottles the rest of the effort is wasted and we do not actually achieve our recycling goals. This investment in labor at one point in the recycling process is worth it.

SB-893-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 12:25:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marion McHenry | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-893-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 3:06:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sandra Fujita | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support SB893 SD1.

SB-893-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 7:56:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Erica Scott | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-893-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 8:00:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brodie Lockard | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-893-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 3:45:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Diane Ware | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support this bill because it is the right thing to do and will help us toward zero waste-- less going to landfills, less pollution and fiscally responsible.

Sincerely,

Diane Ware

99-7815 Kapoha

Volcano, HI 96785

SB-893-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 4:01:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| J Riverstone | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-893-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 2:25:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| chris c. | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Aloha Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,

This legislation mandates an unnecessary waste of taxpayer money and County resources.

Requiring County (non-DBC) recycling programs to accept #5 (or other) resin code plastic caps on containers and then spend taxpayer money to have the Recyclers remove them and place them in the landfill is a total waste of time and labor, especially given the current world market conditions that do not highly value #5 plastics. Capped containers trap air and fill up County recycle bins more easily than uncapped and crushed containers, air-filled capped containers also would require additional warehouse storage space and more frequent transport of recyclables bins. Adding additional staff to already busy sort lines just to remove bottle caps would inevitably slow the process down and contribute to higher costs and potentially more contamination when the market is demanding less contamination. The Counties should have the flexibility to determine which materials are economically recyclable in their own non-DBC recycling programs.

If the intent of the bill was to address the removal of Deposit Beverage Container (DBC) bottle caps before redemption this bill does not address that at all and instead punishes County (non-DBC) recycling programs at the same time. The State of Hawai'i Department of Health DBC Program by regulation has instructed all Certified Redemption Centers (CRCs) to have their customers remove caps/lids from Deposit Beverage Containers (DBC), ***it wasn't the Counties that made this rule***. If your intent is to reverse this State DOH policy the simple solution would be to amend HRS §342G-101 to include #5 resin code plastics and caps (as part of the definition of an empty beverage container) explicitly.

SB-893-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 4:55:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrea Quinn | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB893. Many people keep the caps on bottles because it limits cockroaches and other vermin in the home which would otherwise smell the contents of containers.

We need to take whatever steps necessary to limit plastic pollution. Many plastics leach suspected carcinogens and neurotoxins as they degrade into smaller and smaller pieces, and studies show some of these toxins are slowly accumulating in the fatty tissues of humans and other animals.

Last year a whale died in Thailand after swallowing 17 pounds of plastic, and a dead sperm whale washed ashore in Spain with 64 pounds of plastic in its stomach. Birds, fish and sea turtles also commonly mistake plastic for food. The great garbage patch between Hawaii and California is steadily growing. Most plastic is not biodegradable and only degrades into smaller and smaller pieces, thereby contaminating the lowest levels of the food web.

Additionally, many plastics are made with petroleum, the manufacture of which is a great contributor to the heat-trapping gases responsible for the greenhouse effect we are now seeing.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

SB-893-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 8:53:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Greg Puppione | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

I'd love to see us ban single use plastic all together, but until then, let's make sure recycling is easier not harder. This seems like an important way to do that.