

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB0630-HD1  
RELATING TO GLASS CONTAINER RECOVERY**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: March 11, 2019

Room Number: CR 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The loss of approximately \$800,000 of revenue annually for glass  
2 recycling.

3 **Department Testimony:** This bill proposes to eliminate the Glass Advance Disposal Fee  
4 (ADF) Program. The Department of Health (Department) has the following comments on this  
5 proposal.

6 At the current fee of 1.5 cents per glass container, the Department collects approximately  
7 \$800K of revenue annually from glass importers that is disbursed to the counties in amounts  
8 relative to their population as specified by statute. According to the counties, this level of  
9 revenue is not sufficient to support their glass collection programs.

10 Additionally, we note that the Glass ADF Program is the only State program that  
11 provides for the collection of glass that is not a deposit beverage container.

12 **Offered Amendments:** None

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707  
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MAYOR



LORI M.K. KAHIKINA, P.E.  
DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY A. HOUGHTON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
WAS 19-109

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 224  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members:

SUBJECT: HB 630, HD 1 Relating to Glass Container Recovery

The Department of Environmental Services of the City and County of Honolulu (ENV) opposes HB 630 HD 1 which proposes to eliminate the glass container recovery program in HRS Sec 342G-82.


Created in 1994, the Glass Container Recovery program, also known as the ADF (Advance Disposal Fee) program, appropriates funds to the counties to establish recycling programs for glass containers included in this program – mainly non-deposit or non-"HI-5" glass food and beverage containers. The City and County of Honolulu has used these funds to provide glass recycling subsidies to licensed glass recyclers on Oahu and to offset the cost of recycling the ADF glass it collects in its curbside blue cart recycling program. The ADF program has effectively diverted thousands of tons of glass from disposal in Oahu's Waimanalo Gulch Landfill.

The intent of the ADF program is to assign responsibility for the cost of recycling to the producer. This concept, known as "extended producer responsibility," establishes a shared responsibility for recycling among the manufacturer and the consumer, promotes the use of sustainable materials in manufacturing, and provides financial support for solid waste programs operated by government. Although the current fee assessed to importers of glass containers included in the ADF program is insufficient to recover the entire cost of recycling the glass container, eliminating this program and removing that funding altogether would place significantly more burden on government and the general taxpayer to manage our waste in a sustainable manner.

Testimony for HB 630 HD 1  
March 7, 2019  
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration.

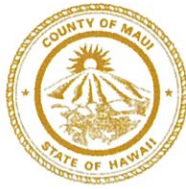
Sincerely,



Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.  
Director

Michael P. Victorino  
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz  
Managing Director



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Senator Gabbard, and Committee Members:

Re: Hearing of March 11, 2019, Testimony in **OPPOSITION** of **HB 630 HD 1**, Relating to Glass Container Recovery

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **opposition** to **HB 630 HD 1**, which repeals the glass advance disposal fee (ADF).

This measure would negatively affect the two glass processors operating on Maui that rely on those funds to subsidize the expensive process of sorting, marketing, and shipping ADF/non-deposit glass such as wine and liquor bottles, as well jars and other glass containers. In turn, county recycling programs would be compromised.

On Maui, the processors are reimbursed with ADF grant funds for only about one half of the annual tonnage actually being processed and shipped. Glass is notoriously heavy and expensive to process and ship to distant markets, and in the current down market, processors are not profiting from recycling it.

Additionally, the Department of Health has not updated its standards of on-island end uses, so the processors must ship them off-island, to markets that are currently dwindling. At the same time, bars and restaurants of a certain size are mandated to recycle all of their glass, so processors have no choice but to continue services and ship the ADF/non-deposit glass overseas. Shipping is the biggest expense, and the ADF funding assists these entities with the challenge.

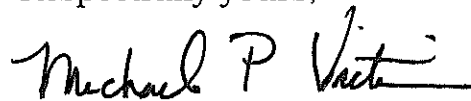
With recycling markets severely restricted, this is the worst possible time to repeal funding for ADF. A better path, from our perspective, would be to incorporate glass and liquor bottles into the HI-5 beverage container deposit

March 8, 2019  
Page 2

program, then re-classify recycling for some local end uses of non-deposit glass, and then repeal the ADF funding. To repeal ADF funding before taking these steps would harm both private recycling businesses and counties that utilize the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P Victorino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

MICHAEL VICTORINO  
Maui County Mayor



To  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair  
March 11, 2019; 1:20 pm  
Conference Room 224

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

Testimony in Opposition to HB630 HD1: Relating to Glass Container Recovery

Aloha Honorable Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

Reynolds Recycling, as Hawaii's largest bottle and can recycler **opposes** HB630 HD1 which proposes to repeal the glass container recovery program. The Advanced Disposal Fee (ADF) Glass Container Recovery Program, provides funds for the recycling of non-deposit glass containers. While the current payment of 1.5 cents per container is not adequate to pay recyclers the actual costs associated with recycling these containers at this time, we do support the intent of the program to encourage recycling of these non-deposit glass containers.

Hopefully this program can be improved and the actual costs covered to encourage consumers to recycle, and allow recyclers to accept this glass material.

While Reynolds Recycling is not currently participating in this recycling program, we do continue to support the program, and would encourage the legislature to investigate what could be done to re-invigorate it.

Because of the above we oppose HB630 HDI.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



## **O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, March 11, 2019

TIME: 1:20 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224 State Capitol

RE: HB 630, HD 1, Relating to Glass Container Recovery

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

My name is Melodie Aduja and I serve as Chair of the O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i ("DPH"). Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 630, HD 1. The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities ("OCCLP") hereby submits its testimony in **OPPOSITION to HB 630, HD 1, Relating to Glass Container Recovery.**

HB 630, HD 1, repeals the Glass Container Recovery Program.

The Democratic Party of Hawai`i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai`i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 17, In. 4-16.*

For the foregoing reasons, to wit, to support best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement including, but not limited to, programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction, OCCLP opposing HB 630, HD 1, and urges that it does NOT PASS out of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com





# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

**LATE**

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 11, 2019      1:20 p.m.      Room 224

In **OPPOSITION** of **HB 630 HD 1**: Relating to glass container recovery

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Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **respectfully opposes HB 630 HD1**, which seeks to repeal the glass container recovery program.

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. 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.*

The Advanced Disposal Fee (ADF) Glass Container Recovery Program, has been running for nearly 25 years. Over this time, the program has effectively diverted thousands of tons of glass from disposal in Oahu's Waimanalo Gulch Landfill. According to the Department of Health, the ADF program brings in approximately \$800,000 of revenue annually, which is used to pay for the operation of county glass container collection programs. While we acknowledge that the current fee of 1.5 cents is not sufficient to cover the entire cost of recycling the glass container, completely eliminating the program would result in a loss of \$800,000 in revenue annually, forcing the state to use other funds to sustainably manage this flow of waste.

We recognize the ADF program is not functioning as great as it should be, per 2014 state audit. A follow-up report (2017) to the 2014 audit revealed that the state has done little to make improvements to the glass recycling program, only fully implementing one of nine recommendations. Rather than repealing the program, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i suggests a number of options to improve the program such as implementing the 2014 audit recommendations, putting the program in county control, or increasing the long-standing fee of 1.5 cents.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII  
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

We have been discussing this issue at the legislature for many years and it's time for action to be taken. We know that undertaking the task of figuring out the best solutions regarding glass recycling in Hawaii is challenging to say the least. Glass is a lower valued commodity, heavy compared to other recycled items, and expensive to ship. Recommendations made by the 2014 audit combined with recommendations made from a state auditor 2014 study, To Identify Local Alternatives to Shipping Non-Deposit Glass out of the State of Hawaii, could help work through some of these issues.

There is a lot of room for improvement within the program and we feel that trying absolutely everything you can first is necessary before eliminating a program as important as the ADF Glass Container Recovery Program, the state's only program that provides for the collection of glass that is not a deposit beverage container.

We urge the committee **NOT TO** pass this measure as this is not the direction the state should be going regarding recycling. We should be innovative with our recycling efforts, leading the way for others to follow. Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **opposition of HB 630 HD1**.

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

**HB-630-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 8:48:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Testifying for Kokua Hawai'i Foundation	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members:

SUBJECT: HB 630, HD 1 Relating to Glass Container Recovery

KÅ• kua Hawai'i Foundation opposes HB 630 HD 1 which proposes to eliminate the glass container recovery program in HRS Sec 342G-82.

For 16 years KÅ• kua Hawai'i Foundation has been serving the Hawai'i community through school recycling programs including recycling bins, educational presentations, signage and direct consultation with schools and recycling haulers. Over 80 O'ahu schools, representing over 30,000 students, participate in recycling programs and ALL of the 176 O'ahu DOE schools rely on school recycling hauling from their campuses. We view the elmination of the ADF glass program as a direct threat to the sustainability of these programs and the 16 years of work spent educating 10s of thousands of students on the necessity of rescuing precious materials from disposal. We teach our students that all materials have embodied value and need to be recovered for the sake of our planet's health. Eliminating the ADF glass program removes necessary funding for our haulers to continue their important work in resource recovery and threatens their ability to continue ALL recycling programs.

As noted in the other testimonies, there is no question that the ADF glass program requires overhaul, including:

- 1) Raising the ADF to reflect the true costs of county resource recovery programs.
- 2) Providing additional oversight and tracking to ensure that all entities subject to the ADF are actually paying into the program
- 3) All other efficiency recommendations offered in the ADF glass program audit reports

We support the reworking of this program to be more efficient and effective, but the complete elimination of the ADF, as written, with no plan for a transitional program, would be a disaster for our counties who would suddenly have the burden of tens of thousands more dollars in hauling and processing costs. No one wins with this bill, not

our State, not our hauling partners, and certainly not our students who would likely see their recycling programs disappear.

We kindly request that this bill be opposed or amended to reflect a comprehensive plan for overhaul including the auditing agency's recommendations for effective improvements.

Mahalo for your time.

**HB-630-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/7/2019 1:07:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**HB-630-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 10:47:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please oppose HB630. Hawaii stands to lose valuable coastline due to climate change which, with sea level rise averaging about 3mm/yr, is already occurring. We need to be leading, not regressing, with respect to recycling.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**HB-630-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 8:20:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: