

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



**Testimony COMMENTING on SB 2750
RELATING TO BOTTLED WATER**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Hearing Date: 2/3/2020 Room Number: 224

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) appreciates the opportunity
- 3 to provide comments on this measure.
- 4 A review of current U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Current Good Manufacturing
- 5 Practices (cGMP's) for bottled water (21 CFR 129 and 165) found no requirement for bottled
- 6 water manufacturers to use only dedicated production lines to further minimize potential for
- 7 microbiological contamination of the finished product. Hawaii bottled water manufacturers are
- 8 required to comply with these cGMP rules, which require cleaning and sanitizing of all
- 9 equipment used to process bottled water.
- 10 Similar cGMP rules for cleaning and sanitizing equipment lines are required for the
- 11 manufacturing of soda, juice and other beverages.
- 12 The Department has no objections to a beverage manufacturer utilizing the same production
- 13 equipment to process bottled water in addition to other beverages as long as all appropriate
- 14 cleaning and sanitizing procedures are conducted between productions.
- 15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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Executive Officers

Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Chair*
Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Vice Chair*
Eddie Asato, The Pint Size Corp., *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
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Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:

Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 3, 2020
TIME: 1:30pm
PLACE: Conference Room 224

RE: SB2750 Bottles Water

Position: Support

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 is in support of this measure. A lot people don't know that many of the canned and bottled drinks that they enjoy here in Hawaii are local products. Internationally and locally known drinks are bottled and canned right here on Oahu.

Unfortunately, an outdated and misguided piece of legislation has hindered our beverage manufacturers' ability to can and bottle water easily. This bill would remove an unnecessary piece of legislation and pave the way for more local beverage manufacturing. The piece of statute removed by this bill is not law in any other state and there is no reason to keep it on the books. We urge you to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



January 30, 2020

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
SB2750 Relating to Bottled Water
Monday, February 3rd, 2020 at 1:30pm. Conference Room 224

Re: **IN SUPPORT OF SB2750**

Aloha Chair Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Senator Russell E. Ruderman, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

My name is Garrett W. Marrero, I live in Kula, HI. Maui Brewing Co. has locations on Maui in Lahaina and Kihei, and on Oahu in Waikiki and Kailua. We distribute across the Hawaii, 23 other States, and 13 countries. We began in 2005 with 26 team members and have added more than 500 to our team. My wife and I were selected as the National Small Business Persons of the year in 2017 for our work at Maui Brewing Co. I am writing on behalf of myself and our local family-operated business in support of **SB2750** which amends the current unnecessary restrictions on packaging water into bottles and cans.

Hawaii is currently the only State that requires water bottles or cans be filled on a dedicated filling line. Not only is this enormously expensive (minimum \$3,000,000 – \$5,000,000) but also highly unnecessary. Additionally, water carries some of the lowest, if not the lowest, margins in the beverage industry making investments such as this a ludicrous business decision.

Why is this important? Plastic! We have far too much plastic being generated from single-use bottles. It is never too late to do the right thing. I believe this applies here because we absolutely need to address the plastic pandemic. This starts by reducing and hopefully one day eliminating single use plastics. Hawaii has an aluminum can plant that can meet the needs of packaged water in the State. There are several fillers here that would be able to fill water into these cans provided they have made the appropriate investments in the right equipment. We are prepared to commit to the environment and the State to launch a Filtered Canned Water line to help in this pursuit.

The Maui Brewing Co. family of brands is built on sustainability and this past year we became nearly grid-independent for electrical energy. Our manufacturing processes always take into account how we can lead by example in responsible manufacturing and sustainability. We will be proud to lead the charge into canned water.

Mahalo for your consideration. We urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **SB2750**.

Mahalo,

Garrett W. Marrero
CEO/Founder

Handcrafted Ales & Lagers Brewed with Aloha
605 Lipoa Parkway, Kihei, HI 96753
808.213.3002

MANANALU

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Russell Ruderman, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 216
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: S.B. 2750 Relating to Bottled Water -- SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Ruderman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Mananalulu, I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 2750, relating to bottled water.

In 2019 I launched Mananalulu, a sustainable canned water brand to raise awareness about a crucial issue of our time and eliminate single-use plastics around the world. Mananalulu represents the unstoppable wave of change that is coming, a change of consciousness that won't allow the perpetuation of plastics to litter and suffocate our oceans and damage the environment any longer. Today, more than 8 billion tons of plastic are dumped into the oceans each year. Together with you, Mananalulu can help rid the world of plastic water containers by allowing our purest water be packaged in aluminum, one of the most recyclable materials in the world.

Current law does not allow beverage companies like Mananalulu interested in putting water into aluminum cans to use the same filling equipment, lines and process used for other beverages such as carbonated soft drinks, juices and beer. This is unique to Hawaii. No other state imposes this restriction.

Passage of this bill would give companies like mine, interested in putting water into aluminum cans, the same flexibility that currently exists on the mainland, reduces our reliance on single-use plastics and support industry growth on the island in a sustainable way.

Aluminum cans are infinitely recyclable. Aluminum is the future for a plastic-free environment. Putting water in cans gives consumers greater choice on the island and supports a transition to sustainable alternative to single use plastics so widely used today.

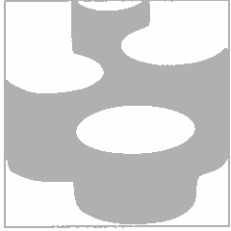
I was born in Nānākuli and it is my mission to clean up our oceans and protect our beautiful Hawaii for generations to come. I believe passage of this bill gets us one step closer to achieving that goal and supporting a plastic-free future.

Thanks you again for this opportunity to submit testimony and for your work on this issue.

Aloha,
J

Jason Momoa
Founder, Mananalulu
<https://www.mananalulu.com/>

Can Manufacturers



Institute

January 31, 2020

Sen. Mike Gabbard
Chairman, Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee

Sen Russel Ruderman
Vice Chairman, Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

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Washington, D.C.
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T. 202-232-4677
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Aloha Chairman Gabbard and Vice Chairman Ruderman,

The Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI), the national trade association of the can industry and its suppliers, strongly supports SB 2750 which repeals the requirement that noncarbonated bottled water be transported, stored, processed, or bottled through lines or equipment through which only water is passed. Current law has the effect of discriminating against the most recycled and sustainable package in the marketplace—the aluminum beverage can. SB 2750 not only levels the playing field between cans and plastic, allowing for more consumer choice, but also directly benefits the state's only can manufacturing plant located in West Oahu which employs nearly 40 highly skilled workers at relatively high wages. This Ball Corporation can plant is a model manufacturing facility that should be nurtured and emulated by government and businesses throughout the state.

As the bill correctly points out, the aluminum can's recycling rate is nearly double that of plastic or glass containers. As you know, Hawaii's recycling facilities are economically constrained by the added transportation cost associated with shipping recyclable materials. Many facilities are only accepting a few highly valued commodities and aluminum cans are one of those materials. Recent studies on the mainland show that while aluminum represents only 3% of the waste stream by weight, it can account for between 35% to 60% of the revenue of a recycling facility. CMI is certain that the added costs associated with handling and transporting potentially recyclable materials generated in Hawaii make recycled aluminum cans even more essential to the financial viability local recyclers.

On a personal note, I am from Hawaii Island and am disheartened by the amount of used and degraded plastics I find on Hapuna and Manini O'wali beaches on my frequent visits back home. I applaud your recognition of our collective *Kuleana* in addressing plastic pollution and are willing to assist you further as you take up this *Pono* cause.

Mahalo and Pomaika'i,

Rbudway@cancentral.com

SB-2750

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 5:24:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Kahn	Testifying for Surfrider Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2750

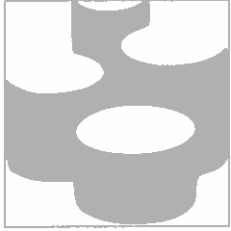
Submitted on: 2/2/2020 7:00:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simi leo	Testifying for Ball corporation	Support	Yes

Comments:

Can Manufacturers



Institute

January 31, 2020

Sen. Mike Gabbard
Chairman, Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee

Sen Russel Ruderman
Vice Chairman, Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee

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Mahalo and Pomaika'i,

Rbudway@cancentral.com

February 3, 2020

Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment and Commerce,
Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang
Senator Russell E. Ruderman
Senator Laura H. Thielen

February 3, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

RE: In support of SB 2750 - Relating to bottled water

Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the committees. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2750 – relating to bottled water.

My name is Leighton Horiuchi, and I am Vice Chairman of ITO EN (Hawaii) LLC. We are a local beverage manufacturer and distributor of soft drinks doing business in Kalihi since 1987. We currently employ 85 local workers. Our product line includes Aloha Maid fruit drinks, iced teas, and Royal Mills iced coffees. We also distribute many other soft drinks throughout the state, including our Aloha Wai brand bottled water which is manufactured for us here on Oahu.

I am in favor of, and strongly support SB 2750. The beverage industry is a very important part of Hawaii's economy – and one of the few remaining industries still manufacturing in the Islands. Unlike most consumer products, many of our beverages, aluminum cans and plastic bottles are manufactured and distributed in Hawaii by local employees. In our production facility in Kalihi, we only manufacture can beverages, and SB 2750 will allow us to can non-carbonated still water as well as the other beverages that we currently produce. From a business and sustainability standpoint, along with the uncertain future of plastic bottles, permission to can non-carbonated water with our existing manufacturing line would be sensible as well as beneficial. We are keenly aware of the global environmental problems that plastic bottles have given rise to and we look forward to working with lawmakers and doing our part in creating a more sustainable future for our environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Leighton Horiuchi



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

LATE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

February 3, 2020 1:30PM Room 224

In **SUPPORT** of **SB 2750**: Relating to Bottled Water

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 **strongly supports SB 2750**, which would repeal the requirement that noncarbonated bottled water to be transported, stored, processed, or bottled through lines or equipment through which only water is passed, thereby necessitating separate equipment for canning water separately from infrastructure in place for other canned beverages.

Plastic bottles are rarely recycled, and plastics pose a dire threat to our oceans, to our marine life, and contributes to our *opala* problem and reliance on unsustainable disposal practices. Less than 10% of plastic bottles are ever recycled. The rate is considered to be even lower in Hawaii, a beautiful island culture and place where we must consider everything we put into the environment. Aluminum cans are 100% recyclable, infinitely recyclable without losing integrity, recycled at over twice the rate of other materials, and 75% of aluminum ever put into production is still in use. Aluminum is a far more environmentally friendly alternative to petroleum-based plastic.

Importantly, as the country and world moves away from plastics, and plastic bottled water becomes more and more obsolete, it will be imperative for Hawaii to have the practical infrastructure in place to can our own water, lest we remain reliant on the excessive, CO₂-heavy, and expensive practice of importing products from the mainland.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 2750**. I am available to answer any questions you may have or work with you on this bill.

Mahalo,
Leilei Joy Shih, Ph.D.
joyshih@hawaii.edu
Oceanographer
Sierra Club, National Marine Team
Volunteer, Sierra Club of Hawai'i

SB-2750

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 8:08:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-2750

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:41:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Matthijssen	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: