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TO:

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 20, 2020
TIME: 10am
PLACE: Conference Room 229

RE: SB2750 Relating to Bottled 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Unfortunately, an outdated and misguided piece of legislation has hindered our beverage manufacturers' ability to can and bottle water easily.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.



February 18, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The Honorable Stanley Chang
Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Reference: S.B. 2750 Relating to Bottled Water
Position: Support

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Ko Olina Resort believes it is our kuleana to malama our ocean and our 'aina, to choose to reduce, reuse and recycle at every opportunity and to be mindful of the importance of the environment to Hawai'i's culture.

I am writing in strong support of **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. Currently, the law discriminates against the most recycled and sustainable package in the marketplace—aluminum beverage cans.

Aluminum is the future for a plastic-free environment. Putting water in cans gives consumers greater choice and supports a transition from the single use plastics widely used throughout the industry today to a more sustainable alternative.

We are aware of the global environmental problems that single use plastics, including plastic bottles, have given rise to and we look forward to doing our part in ensuring a cleaner, viable future for our oceans and Hawai'i's 'aina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony and for your consideration,

Ken Williams
Ko Olina Community Association, Inc.
Ko Olina Resort Operators Association, Inc.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

February 20, 2020 10:00AM Room 229

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

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, 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 existing 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 Hawai'i. As a beautiful island culture, 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 Hawai'i 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



Ball Corporation
91-320 Komohana St
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

February 19, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Dear Chairs Baker and Chang and Members of the Committee,

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

Ball Corporation, founded in 1880, is the world's largest aluminum beverage and aluminum aerosol can manufacturer, supplying innovative, sustainable and infinitely recyclable packaging solutions to customers worldwide employing 18,300 people globally, 40 work at our plant in Kapolei.

Current law does not allow beverage companies 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 S.B. 2750 will in no way jeopardize the health and safety of the end consumer. Using antimicrobial agents such as ozone in the filling process eliminates the potential for microbiological contamination when water is filled in aluminum cans on the same lines as other beverages.

Passage of this bill would give fillers interested in putting water into aluminum cans the same flexibility that currently exists on the mainland.

Aluminum cans are infinitely recyclable. Putting water in cans gives consumers greater choice and offers a sustainable alternative to single use plastics so widely used today.

February 19, 2020
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Thanks you again for this opportunity to submit testimony and for your work on this issue.

If you have questions, please contact me at 808-682-1200

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Matthijssen

Jeff Matthijssen
Plant Manager – Hawaii Can Plant

MANANALU

February 19, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
and Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
and Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Dear Chairs Baker and Chang 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/>



**Written Testimony of
David Thorp
American Beverage Association**

**Before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Support of S.B. 2750 – Relating to Bottled Water
February 20, 2020**

Good morning Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of S.B. 2750 – relating to bottled water.

I am David Thorp, senior director of government affairs for the American Beverage Association (ABA). The American Beverage Association is the trade association representing the non-alcoholic beverage industry.

Beverage industry’s local impact on Hawaii’s economy

The beverage industry is an important part of Hawaii’s economy – and one of the few remaining industries still manufacturing on the Islands. Unlike most consumer products, many of our beverages, aluminum cans and plastic bottles are manufactured and distributed in Hawaii by local workers.

Hawaii is Only State to Require Dedicated Bottled Water Production Line

S.B. 2750 seeks to remove the long-standing local regulation that requires a separate, dedicated production line solely for water produced in PET plastic and aluminum cans:

(3) For optimum consumer protection, in order to minimize the potential for microbiological contamination of the finished product, noncarbonated bottled water shall not be transported, stored, processed, or bottled in or through lines or equipment through which any food product other than water is passed.

There is no federal requirement for a dedicated production line solely for bottled and canned water – and Hawaii is the only state with such a mandate. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP’s) already requires cleaning and sanitizing of all equipment used to process bottled water and other beverages, so there is no need for Hawaii to require a dedicated production line solely for bottled and canned water.

Sincerely,
David Thorp



Meadow Gold Dairies



**Written Testimony By: Glenn Muranaka
SB2750, Relating to Bottled Water
Senate CPH Decision Making Hearing – 10:00am
Thursday, February 20, 2020 – Room 229**

LATE

Position: Support

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Senate CPH Committee:

My name is Glenn Muranaka, President and General Manager of Meadow Gold Dairies. Our company has been in Hawaii since 1897—123 years, providing Hawaii consumers with a variety of milk products and juices. Meadow Gold’s long history has not come without effort. We continually adapt to our customers’ and consumers’ ever-changing needs, and we constantly evolve along with our industry, our community and our market. Over the years, this has required that we struggle, tighten our belts, innovate and work extremely hard, making us a better company in the process. The foundation of this work rests with the 305 employees that are committed to providing superior quality products.

Your support of SB2750 is requested in the removal of language that prohibits noncarbonated bottled water from being transported, stored, processed, or bottled in or through lines or equipment through which any food product other than water is passed. I understand that this is only required in Hawaii. This restricts many of the local bottling manufacturers from making the switch to aluminum cans that can use the same filling equipment, lines and process used for other beverages such as carbonated soft drinks, juices and beer. I also understand that food safety is assured when the appropriate cleaning and sanitizing procedures are conducted between productions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at 944-5911.