

**SB-893**

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 10:11:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bruce Iverson	Testifying for Reynolds Recycling	Oppose	No

Comments:

Testimony in opposition to SB893

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 are for 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. In large quantity there might be a market, but not with the foreseeable quantity created in Hawaii, even if every bottle cap was captured.
- 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, and likely cause unnecessary cost to the recycling industry.

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

Bruce Iverson, Director of Marketing and  
Development,

Reynolds Recycling, Inc.

**SB-893**

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 1:29:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Ways & Means Committee,

This is perhaps the most ludicrous legislation proposing a 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 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 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 empty beverage container) explicitly.

**LATE**

**SB-893**

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 9:24:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

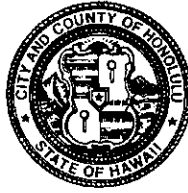
Comments:

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

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: <http://envhonolulu.org>

**LATE**

KIRK CALDWELL  
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 19-79

February 25, 2019

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means  
State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 211  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

SUBJECT: SB 893  
Relating to Recycling

The Department of Environmental Services of the City and County of Honolulu (ENV) opposes the subject bill.

Hawaii Administrative Rules Section 11-282-61 effectively requires that bottle caps of all deposit beverage ("HI-5") containers be removed prior to their being weighed for redemption and recycling purposes. As currently worded, this bill appears to conflict with this section.

It is also neither practical nor efficient for recyclers to accept containers adjoined with and/or accompanied by caps. Capped plastic bottles (where air or contents are contained within the bottle) skew weights and significantly limit bale compaction rates. Given that all recyclables, including HI-5 containers, are baled and shipped overseas for recycling, this bill would result in inefficiency and increased costs for recyclers. Even if caps accompanied the containers and were not adjoined, there is no practical way to bale them independently of the containers to ensure they will not fall out of the bale and potentially become litter.

Further, there are currently 27 privately owned and operated HI-5 redemption centers on Oahu that accept and recycle hundreds of millions of HI-5 containers annually. The Hawaii State Department of Health administers the HI-5 program and certifies these centers. It is neither practical nor appropriate that the counties be assigned the responsibility for enforcing this requirement.

Testimony for SB893  
February 25, 2019  
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori M.K. Kahikina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a horizontal stroke at the end.

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

**SB-893**

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 1:15:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:30:00 AM



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, Hawaii



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

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

**LATE**

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 25, 2019 10:30 a.m. Room 211

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

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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB 893**, 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**.

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