

**HB-562**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:16:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joshua DeMello      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Imagine there is a disaster and people need water to drink. Now imagine cans of water being handed out by civil defense to front line workers and victims. The thing is, you don't have to imagine it as it already happens. Big breweries on the mainland have been doing this for years. Why aren't we doing this here if the concerns for WHY it isn't allowed can be addressed safely? Add to it that aluminium cans are produced locally, this supports many businesses and industries here in Hawaii. The only reason I can think why you wouldn't want it to be done is to remove competition with existing water companies. My preference would be not to allow export of Hawaii water out of the islands, but that's not fair if the water bottle industry is able to do that.

I am in support of this bill and please move it forward to crossover. Mahalo



NATIONAL MARINE TEAM

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

February 4, 2021 9:00AM Via Videoconference

**In SUPPORT of HB 562:** Relating to Bottled Water

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

On behalf of our over 1 million members and supporters nationally, the Sierra Club's Marine Team **strongly supports HB 562**, 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, CO<sub>2</sub>-heavy, and expensive practice of importing products from the mainland. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that it's more important than ever to have manufacturing independence and capabilities to avoid reliance on supply and distribution problems.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 562**. I am available to answer any questions you may have or work with you on this bill.

Mahalo,  
Leilei Joy Shih, Ph.D.  
Chair, National Marine Team, The Sierra Club  
joy.shih@gmail.com



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**Charlie Gustafson**, Tamura Super Market, *Vice Chair*  
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**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Beau Oshiro**, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

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TO:  
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 4, 2021  
TIME: 8:30am  
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HB562 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. Many people don't know that 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.

Current statute hurts our beverage manufacturers' ability to can and bottle water. This bill would 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.



**Ball Corporation**  
2111 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22201

February 1, 2021

The Honorable Nicole Lowen  
Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

The Honorable Lisa Marten  
Vice Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

**SUBJECT: H.B. 562 Relating to Bottled Water -- SUPPORT**

Dear Chairwoman Lowen and Vice Chair Marten and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Ball Corporation, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 562, relating to bottled water.

Headquartered in Colorado, Ball Corporation was founded in 1880 and supplies innovative, sustainable aluminum packaging solutions for beverage, personal care and household produce customers. As the world's largest aluminum beverage can manufacturer, we employ 18,300 people globally, 46 people work at our plant in Kapolei.

Today, our Kapolei plant supplies cans for more than 20 locally based businesses including Maui Brewing Company, Hawaiian Sun, Honolulu Beerworks and many others. 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. Lifting this constraint would allow beverage companies in Hawaii to expand their businesses by putting still water in aluminum cans meeting the growing demand for water in sustainable packaging while continuing to invest in the local economy.

Passage of H.B. 562 will not 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.

Aluminum cans are infinitely recyclable with 75% of all aluminum ever produced still in use today. This compares with only 9% of plastic ever having been recycled once. Putting water in aluminum cans gives consumers greater choice, offers a sustainable alternative to single use plastics and takes a step in protecting the Hawaiian Islands against the long-term impacts of plastic pollution.

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The passage of this bill would create positive impact; both supporting local businesses and the Hawaiian economy while also providing a local solution to a challenging environmental problem.

Thanks you again for this opportunity to submit testimony and for your work on this important issue. If you have questions, please contact me at 703-284-5414.

Respectfully Submitted,

*John Campbell*

John Campbell  
Vice President, Government Relations  
Ball Corporation



**Testimony of Sweetie Nelson, Director of Destination Marketing  
Ko Olina Resort Operators Association**

February 3, 2021

**RE: House Bill 562  
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Thursday, February 4, 2021 # 8:30 a.m.**

Aloha Rep. Lowen and Rep. Marten,

My name is Sweetie Nelson. I am the director of destination marketing for the Ko Olina Resort Operators Association, representing the hotels, resorts and commercial businesses at Ko Olina.

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

Ko Olina Resort is in strong support of House Bill 562 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,

With Aloha,

Sweetie Nelson  
Director of Destination Marketing  
Ko Olina Resort Operators Association



**Ball Corporation**  
91-320 Komohana St  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen  
Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

The Honorable Lisa Marten  
Vice Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

**SUBJECT: H.B. 562 Relating to Bottled Water -- SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Martin and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Ball Corporation, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 562, 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, 46 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 H.B. 562 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 and will support local businesses in their ability to grow and thrive.

Aluminum cans are infinitely recyclable as evidenced by the fact that of all the aluminum ever produced, nearly 75% is still in use today. Putting water in aluminum gives consumers greater choice and offers a sustainable alternative to single use plastics so widely used today.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jeff Matthijssen*

Jeff Matthijssen  
Plant Manager – Hawaii Can Plant



LATE

**HB-562**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 2:30:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Russell Adkins      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

In today's manufacturing world, cleanliness is a necessity and all products begin with water. It is an unnecessary restriction to allow bottled water to only run through water lines. The most important factor is quality which can be achieved by other manufacturers such as soda and beer manufacturers. Considering that water is life, doesn't it make sense to improve the access and manufacturing of quality water? Please approve this bill.

Sincerely,

Russell Adkins