



NATIONAL MARINE TEAM

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

March 31, 2021      1:30PM      Via Videoconference

**In SUPPORT of SB 348:** Relating to Bottled Water

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our over 1 million members and supporters nationally, the Sierra Club's Marine Team **strongly supports SB 348**, 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.

Furthermore, putting still water into cans is safe and does not jeopardize the health and safety of the end consumer. Standard widespread protocol of 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.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 348**. 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



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

March 31, 2021

**RE: Senate Bill 348 SD1 HD1  
Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 31, 2021 1:30 p.m.**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

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 Senate Bill 348 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.

This change will also allow local beverage companies to expand their business in Hawaii while meeting the increased demand for sustainably packaged water.

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



March 31, 2021

1:30 p.m.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 308

**To: House Committee on Finance**

**Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair**

**Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair**

**From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii**

**Joe Kent, Executive Vice President**

RE: SB348 SD1 HD1 — RELATING TO BOTTLED WATER

***Comments Only***

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on SB348, which would repeal the requirement that noncarbonated bottled water be transported, stored, processed, or bottled through lines or equipment through which only water is passed.

We commend the Legislature for examining ways in which to reduce unnecessary regulation and provide new opportunities for local businesses.

In [“Road map to prosperity,”](#) our report on strategies to rebuild the state’s economy following the COVID-19 emergency and lockdowns, we emphasized the importance of implementing regulatory reforms that would help local businesses innovate, explore different products and services and reach new customers. We also suggested soliciting feedback from local businesses so as to better understand what reforms would be most useful in our current economy.

The reforms envisioned in this bill are exactly the kind of change that we recommend in that report. Testimony from local businesses suggests that this bill will allow them to expand into new products. In addition, any concerns about public health and safety are addressed by the adherence to FDA standards.

In short, SB348 would be a good step towards encouraging economic growth and helping local business.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,  
Joe Kent  
Executive Vice President  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii



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

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
Chair, House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen  
Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

**SUBJECT: S.B. 348 Relating to Bottled Water -- SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

On behalf of Ball Corporation, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 348, 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 S.B. 348 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.

March 22, 2021  
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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



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
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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*  
**John Schlif**, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*  
**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 Finance  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

**LATE**

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 31, 2021  
TIME: 1:30pm  
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB348 SD1 HD1 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.

**SB-348-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 12:33:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The wording is deceptive, Bottled water is bottled water, not canned water, Yes canning water makes sense, but does this mean bottled water -water in bottles will now be contaminated ? I am against the contamination of water in bottles, we need to keep water, water only !! So I am opposed as to the intent / wording of this bill. Will a warning label be applied, like what is used for some food allergy items ? Let's keep our water / food systems safe. Aloha





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

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
Chair, House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen  
Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

**SUBJECT: S.B. 348 Relating to Bottled Water -- SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Ball Corporation, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 348, 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 product customers. As the world's largest aluminum beverage can manufacturer, we employ 18,300 people globally, 46 people work at our plant in Kapolei.

Current law in Hawaii does not allow beverage companies interested in putting still 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. 348 would remove this constraint.

Today, Ball's Kapolei plant supplies cans for more than 20 locally based businesses including Maui Brewing Company, Hawaiian Sun, Honolulu Beerworks and many others. Passage of S.B. 348 would allow beverage companies in Hawaii to expand their businesses while meeting the growing demand for water in sustainable packaging.

Putting still water into cans is safe and passage of the bill 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.

March 30, 2021

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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