



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1993
RELATING TO BEVERAGE CONTAINERS**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: January 30, 2024 Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department's) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities. If implemented as proposed, the Department will require additional
4 positions to be established and funded.

5 **Department Testimony:** This measure removes a number of exemptions and requires all deposit
6 beverage container dealers to operate a redemption center. The Department offers the following
7 comments.

8 Upon the measure's effective date, hundreds of dealers, including vending machines and dealers
9 that are located near existing redemption centers, will immediately be required to be newly
10 certified redemption centers. While we believe that this proposal will significantly increase
11 consumer access to redemption centers, we also recognize that this requirement could be a
12 financial or logistical hardship for some businesses, as equipment, space and labor will be
13 required to operate a redemption center. This statutory change may also result in an over-
14 saturation of redemption centers.

15 With the increasing number of redemption centers, the Department will require additional
16 resources to issue permits and certifications, conduct inspections, issue and manage contracts,
17 and pay invoices from the redemption centers.

1 In addition, as the measure becomes effective upon approval, and no implementation date is
2 provided in the measure itself, we recommend that the Legislature allow time for dealers to
3 develop a plan for a redemption center, negotiate leases, enter contracts with recyclers, obtain
4 necessary permits and certifications, purchase equipment, and hire staff.

5 **Offered Amendments:** None

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.