

**SB-2125-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 3:05:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steve Haumschild	Lanikai brewing Company	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a current manufacturer in Hawaii as well as a restaurant owner under the same brand, our industry has been completely decimated over the pandemic. Most of the families that own and operate licensees are dedicated individuals doing their best to be compliant with HRS laws and regulations even though there is no education arm available to ask questions to.

Raising the fine amount will not prevent bad actors from acting as they see fit, however it could impact those good actors doing their best and make a difference if they could stay in business or not.

I strongly oppose this bill for the majority consideration of the fragile state of the industry.

**SB-2125-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 7:13:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Garrett W. Marrero	Maui Brewing Co.	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB2125. While we understand the intent of the bill we **STRONGLY** oppose this legislation. Historically the various liquor departments in the State has not been aligned and not provided consistent, fair and equal application of State law. It is extremely concerning to give the departments more incentive to actively seek fines and punishment against Hawaii's small business owners.

Further, Hawaii is grossly behind the rest of the country in liquor administration and modernization. Until there is an efficient, fair and impartial system to administer the laws of the State equally to all counties we cannot support any legislation that further arms the system against liquor licensees.

I would encourage you as our legislators to work towards creating this system and focusing on education to promote a symbiotic existence where licensees can learn from liquor departments and the goal being to minimize any adverse effects of alcohol on the community without the current behavior of directly seeking punishment before any measure of the aloha spirit is exercised.

Lastly, please recall that the budget of LC departments is overwhelmingly funding by fines and fees (fees that oddly are levied as taxes and differently from island to island). There is virtually no accountability and the calculation for the fees basically works out to licensees paying any shortfall that exists. There should be no reason to be seeking increases to fines as a budget filling measure.

Mahalo for your time. Please vote against this legislation.



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**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

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TO: Committee on Finance  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: April 6, 2022  
TIME: 2:45pm  
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB2125 HD1 Relating to Liquor Licenses

Position:

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 opposition to this measure to increase the maximum fine for violation of liquor control laws from \$2,000 to \$5,000. This amounts to an increase of 150% which is excessive and unnecessary. Our local retailers work hard to safely and responsibly supply their customers with age restricted products. Increasing the fine does not create an added deterrent, it just disincentivizes providing these products. Fines in the amount proposed in this measure would disproportionately impact small local retailers. A large chain could easily afford this, a small sole proprietor or family-owned business may be forced to close, which is unfair. Instead of creating arbitrarily high fines, we encourage the legislature to instead work with liquor retailers on positive programs, education, and community outreach in order to decrease violations. We thank you for the opportunity to testify and we encourage you to hold this measure.