



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2727 SD1
RELATING TO DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINERS**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: 2/20/2020 Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown. This measure may impact the priorities identified in the
2 Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department)
3 appropriations and personnel priorities if the Department and counties are required to establish
4 significantly more redemption centers funded by the Deposit Beverage Container Special Fund.
- 5 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports SB2727 SD1 to amend Hawaii Revised
6 Statutes (HRS) Section 342G-113, subsections (b)(1) and (d) to exempt dealers (retail
7 establishments that sell deposit beverage containers) that are within one mile of a certified
8 redemption center in a high-density population area from having to operate their own certified
9 redemption center and for the Department to partner with the respective County to establish
10 certified redemption centers within a one mile radius. This will reduce the distance between
11 certified redemption centers from two miles to one mile. Increasing the number of certified
12 recycling centers should make it more convenient for the public to participate in the recycling
13 program, improve the State's recycling rates, and help reduce litter.
- 14 **Offered Amendments:** None.
- 15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 20, 2020
TIME: 10am
PLACE: Conference Room 229

RE: SB2727 SD1 Relating to Deposit Beverage Containers

Position: Oppose

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 that would change the redemption center exemption distance for a retailer in a high-density area from 2 miles to 1 mile. The bill does not provide reasons for why this change would be necessary or beneficial. Forcing retailers in our urban core to give up space to be used as a redemption center when there are already plenty of other redemption centers close by is not the right choice. This can mean having to eliminate parking for customers or making other changes that adversely impact businesses and consumers. We ask that his measure be held, and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 20, 2020; 10:00 am
Conference Room 229

From: Bruce Iverson, Director of Marketing and Development,
Reynolds Recycling, Inc.

Testimony in **Support of SB2727** Relating to Deposit Beverage Containers

Aloha Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

Reynolds Recycling, as Hawaii's largest bottle and can recycler, **supports SB 2727.**

This bill would encourage the creation of new certified redemption centers to enable consumers to more easily redeem their HI-5 Deposit Beverage Containers (DBC).

While it was many years ago, Reynolds Metals previously conducted a survey about recycling, and found that convenience was the number one requirement for people to regularly recycle. As more Certified Redemption Centers (CRCs) were developed within the state of Hawaii the redemption rate also increased, and from 2008 onward that rate was over 70%. When various CRCs closed due to the lack of financial viability (due in part to low world market prices for recycled commodities, and lack of increases in DBC Handling Fees from the State) the total number of CRCs dropped from over 100 to the current 67 locations, and the redemption rate correspondingly dropped to the current 63.8%.

This bill would encourage beverage dealers to either develop CRCs of their own, or to work with the recycling community to create new CRCs on their properties to fulfill their legal requirements. This would ensure that it is just as easy to recycle a beverage container as it is to purchase a beverage in the first place.

Because of the above we **support SB 2727.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.