



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 2239

Aloha Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, strongly *ssupports* HB 2239, which extends the deposit beverage container program to include dietary supplements. Including dietary supplement drinks (including popular energy drinks) is a logical continuation of the public policy underlying our beverage container law.

Hawaii's bottle law has proven to be an overwhelming success for Hawaii's environment, with over 930 million bottles and cans diverted from Hawaii's landfills annually. Beyond waste diversion, our recycling law reduces litter, creates jobs, and provides opportunities for churches, charities, and schools to fundraise. The recycling program proves that a little change can make a big difference.

Despite its success with redeeming over four billion beverage containers, *the bottle law can be improved*. Energy drinks -- like Red Bull and Monster -- are becoming increasingly popular. One estimate showed this was a \$3 billion industry in 2005, with a 50% increase in growth each year. Because these drinks currently are exempted under the "dietary supplement" categorization, we have an increasing number of beverages sold in Hawai'i that evade our comprehensive recycling law. There is no logical basis for this disparity.

We strongly support HB 2239. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.



Recycled Content

Robert D. Harris, Director