



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1607
RELATING TO THE DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINER PROGRAM**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Hearing Date: 2/4/2020 Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities. The Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department will be
4 impacted with a reduction of approximately \$71,210,000 in deposit beverage container (DBC)
5 special funds.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully opposes HB1607. While the Department
7 has faced significant challenges in fully implementing the DBC Program, the Department has
8 recently made measurable improvements towards meeting the letter and intent of the law. This
9 includes actively conducting recruiting activities and successfully filling several key vacancies,
10 comprehensively updating the existing handling fee, and beginning the procurement process to
11 secure independent auditing and compliance assistance, as recommended in the June 30, 2018
12 "Financial and Program Audit of the Department of Health's Deposit Beverage Container
13 Program" by the State of Hawaii Office of the Auditor.

14 In 2019 the DBC Program processed 607,214,820 beverage containers. Since 2002, when
15 the DBC program was established by the Legislature, approximately 9,182,347,382 beverage
16 containers have been recycled that may otherwise have ended up in landfills or as litter.

17 The DBC Program supports staff payroll and administrative costs at both the State and
18 County level. Currently, seven full-time and one part-time State staff, two full-time and one part-
19 time County of Kauai staff, and one full-time and one part-time County of Hawaii staff are

1 funded by the DBC Program. This includes planners, accountants and account clerks, and
2 recycling inspectors. These staff not only perform functions for the DBC Program, but also
3 consult and provide expertise to assist other State recycling programs such as the Electronic
4 Device and Television Recycling and Recovery (E-Waste) Program and the Glass Advance
5 Disposal Fee (ADF) Program. Without additional funds to continue to support these personnel,
6 the State's E-Waste and ADF recycling programs will also be negatively impacted if the DBC
7 Program is repealed.

8 Approximately \$450,000 of DBC funds is provided annually to the counties to
9 supplement their local recycling programs. If the counties opt to establish local beverage
10 container recycling programs, fees or taxes at the county level will be necessary to replace this
11 funding. The time necessary to implement local beverage container recycling programs will also
12 negatively impact waste loads at landfills or otherwise increase litter throughout the State as
13 there would be no financial incentive to customers and no recycling subsidy to recyclers.

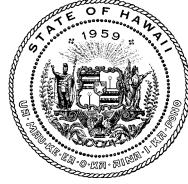
14 A statewide DBC program also makes sense for beverage distributors, given the way
15 importation and distribution of beverages occur within the State.

16 Repealing the DBC Program may create significant unintended statewide consequences,
17 and as such the Department respectfully opposes this measure.

18 **Offered Amendments:** None.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

RONA M. SUZUKI
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION
DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair;
The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair;
and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: Rona M. Suzuki, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: H.B. 1607, Relating to the Deposit Beverage Container Program

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Time: 8:30 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

The Department of Taxation (Department) provides the following comments on H.B. 1607, which repeals the deposit beverage container program. The measure is effective on January 1, 2021.

Section 237-24.75(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), provides a corresponding exemption from the general excise tax for the amounts received as a beverage container deposit. Thus, the Department requests a new section be added to the bill repealing section 237-24.75(1), HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: <http://envhonolulu.org>

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



LORI M.K. KAHIKINA, P.E.
DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY A. HOUGHTON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:
WAS 20-43

February 3, 2020

LATE

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

SUBJECT: HSB 1607 - Relating to the Deposit Beverage Container Program

The Department of Environmental Services (ENV) of the City and County of Honolulu **opposes** HB 1607, which would repeal the deposit beverage container program.

The deposit beverage container (DBC) program has enabled the collection and the diversion of thousands of tons of beverage containers to recycling within the City and County of Honolulu since the program's inception in 2007-2008. The program has also helped the City offset some of the cost associated with its curbside "blue cart" recycling program.

As an alternative to the way the DBC program is currently operated, HB 1607 proposes tasking the counties with the administration of their own county-level programs. Currently, as a statewide program, the state permits certified DBC redemption center operators to redeem container deposits to the consumer in any county. The existence of individual county-level deposit beverage container programs would require that redemption occur in the county to which the deposit was paid (assuming that county elects to have a DBC program). If this does not occur, the number of deposits that are redeemed by counties will likely be disproportionate to the deposits they receive. We are unsure how this system would be fair and equitable for the counties as beverage containers often cross county lines – whether by people carrying them on planes or containers being shipped from one island to another – and may be redeemed for deposit in a county other than where the deposit was paid. We are not aware of a way to track containers by what county the container deposit was paid.

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
House of Representatives
February 3, 2020
Page 2

We urge this committee to preserve the deposit beverage container program and allow its administration to remain at the state level.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lori M.K. Kahikina', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.
Director



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
THE COUNTY OF KAUAI

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

LYLE TABATA
DEPUTY COUNTY ENGINEER

Testimony of Allison Fraley
Acting Solid Waste Chief
County of Kaua'i Solid Waste Division

Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
February 04, 2020; 8:30 am
Conference Room 325

In consideration of
House Bill 1607
Relating to the Deposit Beverage Container Program

Honorable Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i Public Works Solid Waste Division **opposes** the intent of HB 1607 which proposes to repeal the Deposit Beverage Container Program (DBC Program).

The County of Kaua'i Public Works Division **opposes** the intent of HB 1607 which proposes to repeal the Deposit Beverage Container Program (DBC Program).

Counter to the claims of the bill that the program through its physical nature is detrimental to Kupuna, instead we believe the DBC Program is a vital resource for the elderly, disabled, and low income families who rely on the program to supplement their income. Kaua'i Redemption Centers report that 60-75% of their customers are 50 years or older and there have been no complaints about the physical requirements of the program. Along with the elderly, we have fathers and mothers that work multiple jobs that still require the income from redeeming bottles and cans to survive in Hawai'i. If there are any Kupuna that cannot physically bring their material in for recycling there are these struggling families or non-profits and businesses that are willing to pick-up material from others and redeem the funds for their own use.

The bill states that the county has made efforts to expand participation in recycling which have made the deposit beverage container program obsolete statewide. In actuality many counties have had to pull back recycling options on certain material due to low commodity prices and other factors tied to the shutdown of the Chinese recycling market. Without the financial incentive the DBC program offers, much of the HI5 material would be landfilled. The national average for states without a DBC program is approximately 33% of the material is recycled.

The bill also states that each individual county should administer the program as they deem fit. The County of Kaua'i did a cost estimate to run our own version of the DBC program last year



and found that Kaua'i County would have to pay approximately \$600k more than what the program would bring in. The program is not self-sustaining if it is broken up by County districts.

The DBC Program has a redemption rate of approximately 60% and is one of the better diversion programs available in Hawai'i. This program incentivizes the proper recycling of material that may otherwise enter our waste stream. The County of Kaua'i Solid Waste Division finds no reason to repeal this program and instead would propose that the 5 cent deposit be increased to 10 cents in line with other programs such as Oregon's deposit beverage program. In Oregon, the refund increase allowed expansion of services not only in areas of operation, but also the customer service including new technology for redemption such as direct deposit of redemption funds, 24 hour drop off service, and other amenities that the State might benefit from besides the financial benefits to those redeeming their material. An increase in the deposit fee would also guarantee an increase in redeemed material potentially beyond the approximately 80% redemption rate that occurred in 2009. Oregon's bottle redemption rate went from 59% to 82% in 2017 after their increase went into effect and they reached 90% redemption in 2019.

Along with a rate increase, the program would also benefit by reassessing and including many other beverages that are currently not redeemable such as most wines, hard liquors, and milk products. The original bill was created in part to combat litter on our beaches and other public spaces and divert valuable material from our landfills. With the DBC program as it is, you will rarely find a HI5 product sitting for very long, but you may find numerous non-redeemable products left in trash cans or buried in the sand. Landfill space is at a premium on all islands and our pristine open spaces are under constant pressure from multiple sources. All of these factors must be considered when assessing this bill and all future bills.

Again, the County of Kaua'i's Public Works Solid Waste Division **opposes** HB 1607 and the devastating results its adoption would have on our environment, our families, and our Kupuna.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 4, 2020 8:30 AM Room 325

In **OPPOSITION** of **HB1607**: Relating to the Deposit Beverage Container Program

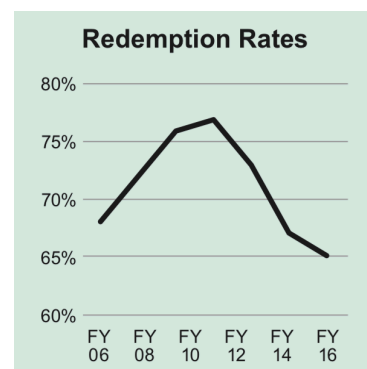
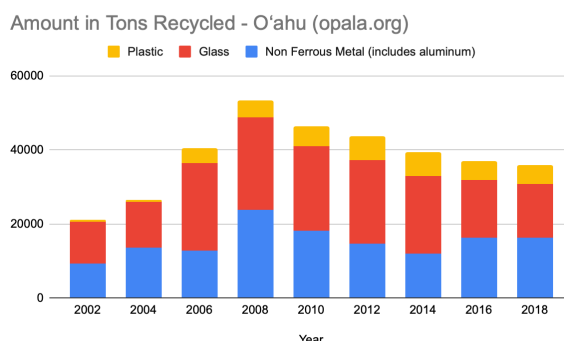
Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **opposes HB1607**, which repeals the HI-5 beverage container recycling program.

While we at the Sierra Club of Hawai'i recognize that recycling is not the best solution to manage waste, studies show that the 5 cent fee on bottles encourages recycling and leads to higher redemption rates.

HB1607 alleges that county efforts to expand participation in recycling have made the HI-5 beverage container recycling program obsolete.¹ However, this claim goes unfounded.

According to data from the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services, recycling has actually decreased since 2008. The following graphs show the decrease of municipal solid waste general recycling (curbside recycling) and the redemption rates at deposit container recycling centers taken from the 2018 Auditor's Summary Financial and Program Audit of the Department of Health's Deposit Beverage Container Program, June 30 2018, Report No 19-08.²



¹ https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2020/bills/HB1607_.htm

² https://www.opala.org/solid_waste/archive/facts2.html
<http://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Overviews/2019/19-08AuditorSummary.pdf>

Looking at these graphs, it is apparent that as redemption rates have decreased, so have curbside recycling rates. Also apparent is the rise of recycling for both programs after the implementation of the HI-5 beverage container recycling program in 2005.

While there is a decline in redemption rates in recent years, there is also a decline in curbside recycling. The decline in redemption participation in recent years is likely due to the lack of proper management by the program's administration.

The 2018 audit has shown that there are numerous program flaws that need to be addressed for the HI-5 beverage container recycling program to function successfully.³ As shown by the general increase in recycling when the program was first implemented, the state can benefit from this program if these issues are properly addressed. It cannot be said that county efforts to increase participation in recycling have made the program obsolete.

As explained in the 2018 audit, the program has several issues that affect the program's ability to best serve the people of Hawai'i that have not been addressed for many years.

1. Fraud including fraudulent reporting by distribution and redemption centers.
2. Monitoring efforts that only detect fraud after it occurs (e.g. 6 years at Whole Foods).
3. Lack of mechanical devices at redemption centers that could reduce human error in preparing transaction logs and receipts.

The program has the ability to actually reduce the amount of waste generated in Hawai'i and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i would like the legislation to consider these issues detailed in the 2018 audit and update the outdated program so that the systematic flaws contributing to the decrease in consumer and redemption center participation might be addressed.

In addressing the concern for kupuna health as stated in HB1607, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i would like the legislation to consider that this issue could also be addressed by amending the current program to account for those who might be disabled.

Personally, the kupuna in my family have used the program and have benefited economically as well as socially. Many kupuna use the program as a reason to reduce waste and litter which improves the health of the environment and encourages physical activity that have social and health benefits.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i opposes HB1607 and encourages the legislation to correct the issues stated in the 2018 audit and support the program through better administration.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **opposition**.

Mahalo,
Kelli Ann Kobayashi
Volunteer, Sierra Club of Hawai'i

³ <http://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2019/19-08.pdf>

HB-1607

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 1:12:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Kahn	Surfrider Oahu	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1607

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 4:29:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Hawaii Youth Climate Coalition	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Youth Climate Coalition stands in strong opposition to HB 1607, as it deincentivizes recycling, which is critical for tackling our wastestream. As a youth-led organization, we understand the importance of looking into the future and planning for it, rather than focusing on the now. Abolishing the HI5 program is a move that fails to look at the long-term impacts of deincentivizing recycling. We respectfully ask that you look at the long-term consequences and do not pass HB 1607.

Sincerely,

Dyson Chee



To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, [Chair](#)
Representative Tina Wildberger, [Vice Chair](#)

February 4, 2020, 8:30 AM
Conference Room 325

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

Re: Testimony in Opposition to **HB 1607**

As Hawaii's largest Beverage Container Recycling company, we are strongly opposed to **HB 1607**. The program is a State program, and handled by the State Department of Health throughout the state as per law, with one governing agency, and one agency to report to. This bill would change the law, making it so that there would be four counties to report to, and four different county rules and regulations to follow, and educate the public about. This bill would also adversely affect the recycling public, recycling industry, and be unneeded for the following reasons:

- 1) Many kupuna/groups clubs and organizations actually depend upon HI-5 Beverage Container Deposit money to supplement income or to support their organizations.
- 2) Since 1981 Reynolds Recycling has had a car door service for customers needing additional assistance. They just need to ask and they will be helped in their turn to ensure that recycling is easy for those needing help in the recycling process.
- 3) The HI-5 Law is a statewide program, as are ALL Bottle Deposit Laws Nationwide. Creating a law that would make the deposits a county program would also require that each county's deposit would need to be marked separately on the beverage container label.
- 4) While the Bottle Deposit Law is statewide, curbside programs are not. Curbside programs are county programs, and only on Oahu is there curbside pickup, and that is not at all curbs anyway.
High- or low-rise structures for multiple families are not serviced with county curbside pickup. Many private residences on Oahu are also not serviced by county curbside programs.

7 % of homes have curbside recycling bins on Maui
0 % of homes have curbside recycling bins on Molokai
0 % of homes have curbside recycling bins on Lanai
0 % of homes have curbside recycling bins on Hawaii
0 % of homes have curbside recycling bins on Kauai
0 % of homes have curbside recycling bins on Ni'ihau

90% of single-family homes have curbside recycling bins on Oahu*(per C & C)

Only 55-60% of homes currently participate in curbside recycling on Oahu

0 % of multi-family dwellings on Oahu have C & C run curbside recycling bins on Oahu

- 10 million Tourists annually do not have curbs.

5) Curbside pickup DOES NOT ADDRESS LITTER, which has always been the biggest reason to have a statewide Deposit Beverage Container Law.

- The current Bottle Deposit Law has done an exceptional job in reducing container waste as litter in the environment and alongside roads, coastal and inland waterways and beaches.
- It has also done an excellent job in reducing containers in the waste stream and ultimately landfills. Landfills fill up by volume not weight, and containers have a high volume to weight ratio, so removing them from the waste stream is critical to maintaining the life of our state's landfills.

For these various reasons and more we are **strongly opposed to HB 1607**. We appreciate the desire to make recycling easier to people on all islands, but think that can be achieved by supporting and increasing the number of certified redemption centers.

HB-1607

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 10:53:07 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Gregory	EcoTipping Points Project	Oppose	No

Comments:



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 4, 2020 8:30 a.m. Room 325

In **OPPOSITION** of **HB 1607**: Relating to the deposit beverage container program.

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **respectfully opposes HB1607**, which seeks to repeal the deposit beverage container program.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is committed to supporting efforts seeking to reduce waste and consumption across the islands, that initiate on-island recycling and processing, and that explore innovative ways to upcycle and reuse various waste materials, notably plastics. Our communities have come so far in their support for recycling programs, and *we should continue moving toward a zero waste Hawai'i in a way that is clean, efficient, and causes minimal harm to the environment.*

Since January 2005, the deposit beverage container program has assisted residents to recycle over 7 billion containers. This program effectively removes these containers from the waste stream and keeps them from ending up as trash in our community.

We urge the committee **NOT TO** pass this measure as this is not the direction the state should be going regarding recycling. We should be innovative with our recycling efforts, leading the way for others to follow. Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **opposition of HB 1607**.

Mahalo,
Lori Mallini
Volunteer, Sierra Club of Hawaii



**Written Testimony of
David Thorp
American Beverage Association**

**Before the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Opposition to H.B. 1607 – Relating to the Deposit Beverage Container Program
February 4, 2020**

Good morning Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition to H.B. 1607 – relating to the deposit beverage container program.

I am David Thorp, senior director of government affairs for the American Beverage Association (ABA). The American Beverage Association is the trade association representing the non-alcoholic beverage industry. ABA represents beverage producers, distributors, franchise companies and supporting businesses across Hawaii.

Beverage industry's local impact on Hawaii's economy

The beverage industry is an important part of Hawaii's economy – and one of the few remaining industries still manufacturing on the Islands. Unlike most consumer products, many of our beverages, aluminum cans and PET bottles are manufactured and distributed in Hawaii by local workers.

Non-alcoholic beverage companies in Hawaii provide more nearly 1,200 good-paying jobs across our state. The industry helps to support thousands more workers in businesses that rely in part on beverage sales for their livelihoods and, such as grocery stores, restaurants and theaters.

HI-5 Program Needs Improved Efficiencies and Oversight, Not Breaking It Up Into Four New County-Specific Programs

The State Auditor's biennial audit of the HI-5 program continually calls for improving efficiencies of the program, including increased oversight to reduce the potential for millions of dollars in annual redemption fraud.

Improving the efficiencies and oversight of the HI-5 program need to be undertaken instead of allowing each of the four counties to administer their own distinct deposit beverage container program. Shifting from one uniform – yet inefficient statewide program – to four distinct county-specific programs will lead to even more inefficiencies, management needs and increased cost to businesses and consumers.

Sincerely,
David Thorp



4361 Keystone Ave. • Culver City, CA 90232
Telephone (310) 559-7451 • Fax (888) 839-3857
www.container-recycling.org
www.bottlebill.org

Representative Roy Takumi
House District 35
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 320

Representative Linda Ichiyama
House District 32
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 426

repichiyama@Capitol.hawaii.gov reptakumi@Capitol.hawaii.gov

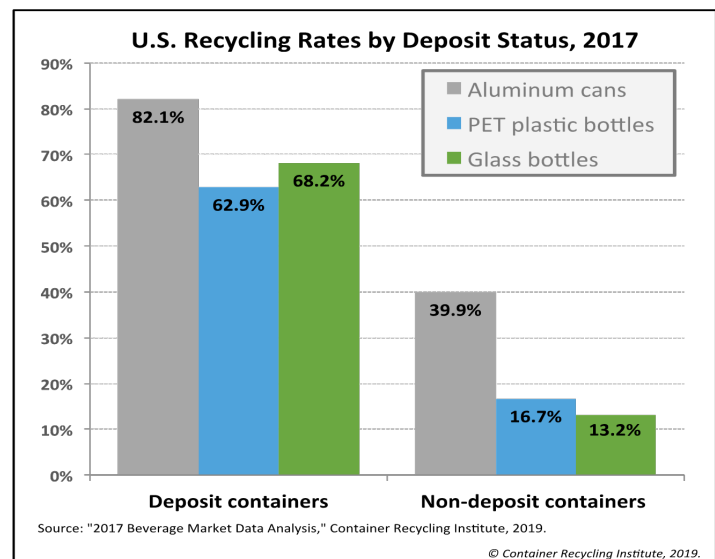
January 30, 2020

Dear Representative Takumi and Representative Ichiyama,

The Container Recycling Institute (CRI) opposes HB 1607 before the Hawaii House of Representatives.

This bill would repeal the state's beverage container deposit law, or bottle bill. Instead, CRI recommends that Hawaii should increase the deposit amount from 5 cents to 10 cents. In fact, in Oregon, their redemption rate surged from 64% to 81% as a result of their deposit amount increasing to 10 cents in 2017. We further recommend that Hawaii expand its container deposit law to include wine and liquor containers.

Hawaii's container deposit law has been a *huge success*, and is supported by a majority of residents, according to the public opinion poll conducted in 2008. **Hawaii's container deposit law has a redemption rate of 66%, twice as much as the national beverage container recycling rate.**



Since the passage of Hawaii's bottle bill in 2005, 21 other states and countries across the globe have adopted new container deposit laws, some of which include Australia, the United Kingdom, Jamaica, and Turkey.

On January 1, 2020, Hawaii celebrated its 15th successful year with a bottle bill.

Over the last 15 years, the bottle bill has recycled 71% of the nearly 14 billion beverages sold, including approximately 118,000 tons of PET plastic bottles, 52,000 tons of aluminum cans, and 450,000 tons of glass bottles.

15 years of **economic benefits** of recycling these bottles and cans include:

- ✓ Jobs in the recycling industry which benefit hundreds of Hawaiians
- ✓ Millions in material revenue in today's dollars, boosting Hawaii's economy

In contrast, repealing the bottle bill would have numerous adverse effects:

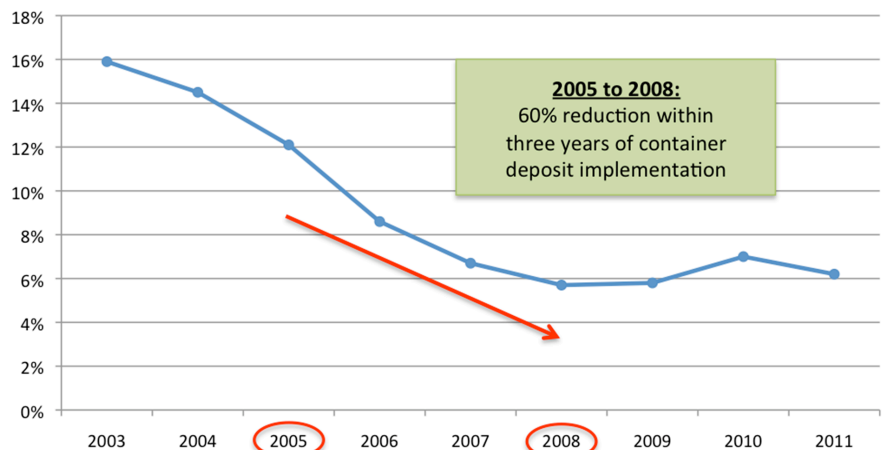
- **Municipalities** would face millions of dollars in new annual costs for additional curbside recycling **and** trash disposal for the 600 million containers formerly recycled through an industry-managed and industry-funded system. It is a myth that PET and aluminum recycling can significantly mitigate the high costs of curbside recycling, and that myth also obscures the fact that the majority of beverage containers, by weight, are glass.

Curbside recycling costs would increase because collecting much higher container volumes requires more equipment and more labor, and because the value of these materials is degraded once they have been collected at curbside and processed in materials recovery facilities (MRFs). In contrast to source-separated, clean deposit material, MRF-processed containers—especially plastics and glass—are typically more broken and contain contaminants such as ceramics, non-bottle glass, non-recyclable metal and plastic, and dirt. They are also often mis-sorted into the wrong bales, and themselves become contaminants. Poor quality material commands lower, and even negative, scrap prices.

- **Littering would increase** if the 5¢ financial incentive to recycle was removed. Due to the implementation of the bottle bill in 2005, Hawaii has seen a significant reduction in litter (see Figure 1).

However, if Hawaii were to repeal the bottle bill, the Department of Transportation, the state park system, municipal governments, and businesses would incur new costs from injuries, farm damage, and cleanup along Hawaii's roadways, parks, and beaches, and other public places and private venues.

Figure 1. Beverage Containers As Percentage of Total Litter Collected in Hawaii



- **Wasting would increase** because curbside collection and public space recycling programs produce lower recycling rates than deposit recycling. In 2018, Hawaii recycled 66% of deposit containers, but nationwide in 2017, only 32% of non-deposit containers were recycled. Specifically, CRI has estimated that **300 million new bottles and cans** would be trashed in Hawaii as a result of repeal: or about **25,000 new tons of container waste** annually (that is, the recycling would be reduced from 600 million containers annually down to 300 million containers recycled annually). The wasting of these additional containers would create more than **25,000 tons of additional greenhouse gas emissions** (like putting almost **5,000 more cars on the road**).

Empty containers weigh less than full containers:

Regarding the explanation that the bottle bill ought to be repealed due to adverse health effects from having to carry empty bottles and cans back to redemption centers:

21.3 empty water bottles weigh 1 pound; 21.3 full water bottles weigh 22.6 pounds.

In other words, it requires more energy and strength to transport bottles and cans at the initial time of purchase compared to taking the empty containers back to a redemption center.

Thank you for giving CRI the opportunity to submit our comments about opposing a repeal of the bottle bill, and our suggestion to update it to keep up with the times. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Susan Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being more legible than the last name "Collins".

Susan Collins
President, Container Recycling Institute

About the Container Recycling Institute: CRI is a nonprofit organization and a leading authority on the economic and environmental impacts of beverage containers and other consumer-product packaging.

www.container-recycling.org

www.bottlebill.org

HB-1607

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 4:34:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Bannister	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:



"Locally Owned & Operated in Hawaii Since 1961"

99 134 Waiua Way, Aiea, HI 96701
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Conference Room 325, February 04, 2020 at 8:30am
415 S. Beretania St.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and members of the committee:

Re: Testimony IN Support of H.B 1607 Repeal of Beverage Container Program

My name is Anthony Borge and I am a lifelong resident of Hawaii. I am submitting testimony as a concerned taxpaying "mature" resident and a small business person **in support** of this bill. RMA Sales is a locally owned, small business manufacturing and distributing louver jalousie windows, storm/security doors, screens and ancillary products here in Hawaii since 1961.

The original intent of the Beverage Container Program was to reduce roadside litter, encourage recycling of reusable materials, and reduce energy consumption and solid waste entering the landfills. A mandated deposit of \$.05 per container and a \$.01 handling fee was assessed on each beverage container paid by the consumer. The \$.05 deposit would be returned when the consumer returns the empty beverage container to approved redemption centers.

Roadside litter respective of beverage containers was reduced along public highways and streets at the inception of the deposit program. All other forms of litter such as paper/plastic cups, paper/plastic containers, diapers, newspapers, cigarette butts etc. continues to proliferate and blight the aina. There has been reduction of beverage containers entering the landfills, however, beverage containers represented less than 10% of solid waste entering the landfills.

The problem with solid waste reduction through recycling and resource recovery continues to be a major problem that needs to be addressed to reduce the demand on our landfills and limited resources. An **equitable** and comprehensive program to address this issue is needed versus a costly temporary patch that was mandated upon beverage consumers of all ages.

The beverage container deposit **unfairly** imposes economic burden upon the elderly, residents with minimal storage, limited means of transportation, living in apartments, condominium, and homes that are unable to redeem the containers at the designated redemption centers for the refund.

The deposit program unfairly penalizes the people economically across all age groups that are unable to redeem the beverage containers for refund and does not address resource recovery solid waste and reduction.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Borge
RMA Sales
99-134 Waiua Way
Aiea, HI 96701

