



4361 Keystone Ave.  
Culver City, CA 90232  
Telephone: (310) 559-7451  
[www.container-recycling.org](http://www.container-recycling.org)

March 1, 2013

Representative Joseph M. Souki  
House District 8  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Senate District 5  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 203  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Hawaii HB 1062/SB 1271 -- Support**

Dear Representative Souki and Senator Keith-Agaran,

On behalf of the Container Recycling Institute, we are writing **to express our support for HB 1062 and SB 1271**. These bills would increase the size of a deposit glass beverage container from sixty-eight to one hundred twenty-eight fluid ounces as well as expand the state's existing beverage container recycling program to include wine, spirits, milk and other dairy-derived products.

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 beverage container recycling rate is one of the highest in the nation, at 76%, while the average rate for the country is only 35%, and in states without container deposit laws, the average recycling rate is only 25%.

However, the existing program can be further improved by passing this legislation. The addition of more beverage and container types can only strengthen the container deposit program, ensuring that more containers are recycled and high material quality is maintained. These bills would also reduce confusion, both for consumers and redemption center operators, by accepting virtually all beverage types into the program.

**Environmental Benefits of this Expansion**

- In Hawaii, 19 million bottles of wine, 10 million bottles of spirits and 26 million containers of milk are sold each year (CRI estimate for 2010), packaged in glass and plastic containers.
- This amounts to 11,981 additional tons of glass and 2,135 tons of plastic (primarily HDPE). At the state's current recycling rate of 76%, approximately 9,105 additional tons of glass and 1,708 additional tons of plastic would be recycled under this program each year.
- The scrap value of this material at today's prices is approximately \$646,000. Adding these containers to the existing program would therefore add approximately \$646,000 per year to Hawaii's economy, and without this expansion, \$646,000 worth of containers will likely be needlessly buried in Hawaii's landfills each year instead.

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Page 2 of 2

- Recycling this material saves the equivalent energy that would be used to power 1,748 homes for a year.
- Additionally, Hawaii consumes, and discards, 62 million containers of milk and other beverages packaged in cartons, which are currently not included in the container deposit program. Successful deposit programs for cartons have been implemented in British Columbia and Alberta, Canada; a voluntary program is underway in Saskatchewan. Further expansion to include cartons could significantly increase landfill diversion of these materials.

**Expanding the Law will Produce Other Benefits that Hawaii has Already Experienced with the Beverage Container Deposit Law**

- Beverage container recycling saves energy, natural resources, and reduces the production of toxic chemical emissions in the manufacturing process. Recycling significantly diminishes all of the inputs needed to make the replacement product from virgin materials.
- With energy savings comes a reduction in greenhouse gas production and other toxic emissions.
- Other recycling programs address the need for recycling, but don't provide a mechanism to reduce litter. Container deposit laws place a value on beverage containers, which encourages the public to pick up the beverage containers and turn them in to receive the deposit refund. Otherwise, beverage container litter fouls the land, waterways and beaches of Hawaii, and ultimately becomes debris in the ocean and a hazard to sea life. These littered items add to the costs of local government, including costs to pick up litter and clean litter out of storm drains. Hawaii has already seen tremendous decreases (of more than 50%) in beverage container litter on beaches, and these improvements have been documented by the State.

CRI is a nonprofit organization that studies and promotes policies and programs that increase recovery and recycling of beverage containers, and shift the societal and environmental costs associated with manufacturing, recycling and disposal of container and packaging waste from government and taxpayers to producers and consumers. CRI has served for nearly 20 years as the only national clearinghouse for information on beverage container sales, recycling and wasting in the United States. CRI plays a vital national role in educating policy makers, government officials and the general public regarding the societal and environmental impacts of the production and disposal of beverage containers and the need for producers to take responsibility for their packaging.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding this bill. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Susan V. Collins  
President  
Container Recycling Institute