



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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HAWAII DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINER PROGRAM FEE INCREASE

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Health announces the next stage of implementation for the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Program. Beginning Friday, October 1st, Hawaii consumers may see a one-cent (1¢) handling fee added to their beverage container purchases.

The law creating the program was enacted in June 2002. Since October 2002, beverage distributors statewide have been paying the department a one-half cent ($\frac{1}{2}$ ¢) container handling fee on all eligible metal and plastic containers made or imported into the state. Beginning October 1st, the fee will increase to a full penny (1¢) per container and will also apply to glass beverage containers.

The 1¢ handling fee on each beverage container holding 64 fluid ounces or less, includes all those containing nonalcoholic drinks (e.g. soda, water, juice, tea, coffee) and limited alcoholic drinks (e.g. beer, malt beverages, mixed spirits, and mixed wine). Included containers are made of metal, glass, or recyclable plastic.

The collected fees are designated for program start-up costs, which include administration, outreach/education, and redemption of containers. A public education campaign is scheduled to start in November.

The intent of the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container program is to recycle as many beverage containers in the State of Hawaii as possible. Every year, approximately 800 million beverage containers are sold in the state. The majority of these containers end up discarded in the waste stream, or as litter in our community. The program will place a 5¢ redeemable deposit on each beverage container; the deposit works as an incentive for people to recycle their empty containers. Certified recycling centers around the state will begin providing deposit refunds on January 1, 2005.

Information on the deposit program is available at www.hawaii.gov/health.

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