

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

GOVERNOR

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AWARDS \$3 MILLION TO IMPROVE RECYCLING SERVICES

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) announced today that seven awardees will receive a total of \$3 million to help establish new certified redemption centers and improve convenience for the state's Deposit Beverage Container Program.

One awardee, Goodwill Industries will open six additional certified sites (locations to be determined) allowing consumers to redeem deposit beverage containers and donate household items all in one trip. The other recipients (Reynolds Recycling, Maui Disposal Co., Inc, Honolulu Recovery Systems, Aloha Glass Recycling, Inc. and RRR Recycling Services Hawaii) will use the grants to enhance their existing State certified redemption services.

Since redemption centers began redeeming "HI 5" containers January 1st, 2005 certified site operators have been working hard to service their customers, bringing in as many as 60 million containers a month statewide. Act 228, which went into effect last year, made these funds available in an effort to expand and improve redemption service to the public and help raise recycling rates.

Award amounts will vary based on the services being provided. Awardees were selected from competing companies through a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

"Improved customer convenience, customer service, processing improvements and ability to serve high demand areas were some of the criteria used to select awardees," said DOH Deputy Director Laurence Lau. "The goal is more convenient locations for consumers to recycle their containers and get their

nickels back," he said.

Summary of the top 2 awardees and their projects:

Goodwill \$939,432

New Redemption Center Locations

Goodwill plans to open 6 new certified redemption centers located in high demand areas of Oahu. Specific locations have not yet been determined. The centers will include a comprehensive recycling format where the general public can redeem deposit containers and donate used household items. A key focus of the centers will be on customer convenience and service with centers open 7 days a week during retail hours (9 a.m. – 7 p.m.). Some of the centers will provide 24-hour accessibility for redemption through the use of reverse vending machines.

Reynolds Recycling \$1,138,761

Improved Customer Care

Reynolds Recycling will implement an integrated communication system. This will speed up customer refunds and safeguard against site closures. The new technology will link Reynolds' main facility to all certified redemption center sites allowing a faster response to problems such as low funds or full containers and the result for consumers will be fewer site closures. An added community benefit will be improved safety through a direct link to 911 emergency services for fire, police, or medical assistance if needed.

Improved Infrastructure

New base yard equipment will increase the company's capacity to collect and move recyclable materials. This will help to prevent closures from overloaded sites. Reynolds' increased capacity to collect, process and ship deposit beverage containers will help operations run more quickly and allow them to handle more consumers material in a reduced amount of time thereby directly improving customer convenience.

Other Awards:

Maui Disposal Co., Inc.	\$429, 591
Garden Isle Disposal	\$120,000
Honolulu Recovery Systems	\$260,000
Aloha Glass Recycling, Inc.	\$98,616
RRR Recycling Services Hawaii	\$13,000

Improved Infrastructure

These contractors will install new equipment to increase capacity to collect, process and ship deposit beverage containers. This will improve each redemption center's capacity to collect material, improve customer convenience, and expand locations.

For more information on the State's Deposit Beverage Container Program visit <u>www.hawaii.gov/health</u> or <u>www.hi5deposit.com</u>.

For information, contact: Janice Okubo Hawaii State Department of Health Phone: (808) 586-4442 You may also contact each of the Awardees directly for additional information:

Goodwill: Laura Kay Rand VP, Corporate Services Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. Direct: 792-8562 Cell: 551-6612 Email: LKRand@higoodwill.org

Reynolds Recycling:

Jill N. Tokuda Director of Community Relations & Governmental Affairs Cell: 292-9985 Email: <u>itokuda@reynoldsrecycling.com</u>

Maui Disposal:

Greg Apa Executive VP 808-357-5080 Email: <u>gregapa@mauiwaste.com</u>

Aloha Glass:

Todd Reed Vice President 808-871-8544 (office) 808-298-7695 (cell) Email: treed@maui.net

Garden Isle Disposal:

Scott Kouchi (808) 245-2372 Email: snkouchi@verizon.net

RRR Recycling Inc.

Dominic Henriques (808) 682-5600

Honolulu Recovery

Suzanne Say (808) 842-3602

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