



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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HI-5 RECYCLING PROGRAM LAUNCHES MAJOR RATE STUDY

HONOLULU -- The State of Hawaii, Department of Health (DOH) has launched a major effort to analyze the containers recycled through the HI-5 deposit program to ensure that consumers are accurately and properly reimbursed.

"We have a responsibility to make sure that the people of Hawai'i have confidence that they are being properly reimbursed when recycling their HI-5 bottles and cans," said Karl Motoyama with the Office of Solid Waste Management. "Recycling is good for the a'ina and people should feel good about doing their part."

To assist the state in its efforts, DOH has brought in a California-based consulting firm, Capital Pathways, LLC. Capital Pathways' president, Scott Dosick, is the former Deputy Chief of Recycling for the State of California. California's bottle law has been in place for over 20 years. Hawaii is only the second state (after California) in the country to offer consumers the option of redeeming their deposit containers by count or by weight.

"By allowing both consumers and large volume commercial recyclers to redeem containers by weight, you greatly speed up the redemption process and encourage greater participation," said Dosick.

By following the California model, the state anticipates that weight based redemption rates will be accurate within a +/- 2% margin of error with a 95% confidence level – one of the highest, most accurate statistical levels to calculate.

"To achieve this 95% confidence level, we will be sampling over 17,000 redeemed bottles and cans during the course of this survey," said Dosick.

In addition to examining the conversion rates, the department is developing a workshop series for redemption center operators to help encourage them to make changes that will improve customer service and become "goodwill ambassadors" of the program. The Department is also in the process of revising administrative rules to increase the count redemption centers are required to provide customers from 50 to 200.

The Department of Health, Office of Solid Waste Management oversees the state's "Hi-5" beverage container recycling program. Consumers receive 5¢ for each deposit bottle or can recycled. The state conducts regular surveys of redemption centers to ensure that sites are

open, consumers are paid properly, and that the residents and visitors have convenient opportunities to redeem the almost 1 billion bottles and cans sold in the state each year.

For more information, please log on to www.HI5deposit.com.

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