

# F.A.Q. Consumers

## Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Program



### **Will this law cause my beverages to be more expensive?**

A 5¢ deposit per beverage container will be charged to your purchase. You can get the deposit back when you take the container to a redemption center to be recycled. Distributors are required to pay a non-refundable 1¢ container fee per beverage container, which they have the option of passing on to consumers as part of the product cost. Therefore, you could see an additional 1¢ per beverage container, or a total of 6¢ per six-pack. If you choose not to redeem the 5¢ deposit, the added cost would be 6¢ per beverage container or 36¢ for a 6-pack.



### **Will it cause an increase in the price of my other groceries?**

No. The 1¢ container fee has been assessed to cover the costs of supporting redemption operations, collection, handling, transportation and administration. There may be additional funding available from unredeemed 5¢ deposits to provide further assistance to recyclers or grocers that operate redemption centers.

### **When will I start to be charged the deposit?**

You may be charged the deposit as early as November 1, 2004 for containers labeled with the Hawaii deposit. By January 1, 2005 you will be charged the deposit on all deposit beverage containers.

### **When can I redeem the container for the deposit?**

You may redeem your deposit containers at a redemption center beginning January 1, 2005. Containers that do not have the deposit value marked on them will not be eligible for refund of the deposit.

### **How can I tell if the beverage container is a deposit container?**

Look on the top or side of the container for a deposit label that reads "Hawaii 5¢" or "HI 5¢".

### **How will I find a redemption center?**

The law requires all retail establishments that sell deposit beverages to place signs identifying the nearest redemption center.

**How far will I have to go to find a redemption center?**

The law requires the establishment of a redemption center within 2 miles for high-density population areas. The State will work with the counties and recyclers to help with set up redemption centers in rural areas.

**Will I get a deposit for all of my beverage containers?**

No. Redemption centers will only refund a deposit on containers that are:

- Labeled as a deposit beverage; and
- Empty and clean of free flowing liquid or foreign matter

**Will I be charged a deposit on beverages I consume at bars or restaurants?**

No. Since the containers will remain on the premises, the bar/restaurant will pay the deposit and be eligible to redeem it.

**For more information contact:**

Department of Health  
Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch  
Phone: (808) 586-4226  
Visit: [www.hawaii.gov/doh](http://www.hawaii.gov/doh)