



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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DOH SETS NEW WEIGHING RATES FOR RECYCLING HI-5 DEPOSIT CONTAINERS

HONOLULU – Beginning May 1, 2007, new rates for HI-5 beverage containers that are weighed at redemption centers statewide should result in consumers receiving more money back. In addition, beginning June 1, 2007 the HI-5 program will add a new special rate for small plastic containers.

“The rates were calculated through a scientific study to ensure consumers receive as accurate a refund as reasonably possible for containers that are weighed,” Karl Motoyama, of the Department of Health’s Office of Solid Waste Management said. “The latest study determined rates based on specific sizes of containers rather than the previous study which evaluated only the average of mixed container sizes.”

“We hope the new rates will be an incentive for more people to recycle. We will closely monitor and evaluate the impact of the new rates on the program,” said Motoyama. “If it’s successful and the program’s special fund can sustain it, then we will continue to utilize data on container sizes to determine rates.”

The new rates beginning May 1, 2007:

- One pound of aluminum products = 31.6 containers
- One pound of glass = 2.3 bottles
- One pound of plastic bottles = 17.5 containers
- One pound of bi-metal products = 8 containers

Beginning June 1, 2007 the added new rate for small plastic bottles:

- One pound of plastic bottles sized 17 fluid ounce or less = 22.7 containers

Consumers who want to use the small plastic bottle rate must separate their small bottles, 17 fluid ounces or less, from bottles larger than 17 fluid ounces. If consumers

(more)

do not want to separate their plastic bottles then they don't have to and their mixed size loads will be weighed using the 17.5 containers per pound rate.

Aluminum and glass containers do not have to be separated by size. The 12 ounce rate will be used for all aluminum and glass containers.

While weighing is quick and convenient, requesting a count is still the most accurate way to get your refunds back. The department recently announced an increase in the minimum count requirement from 50 to 200 containers.

"The count increase and segregated rates revisions are the result of the department listening to consumer concerns and making changes to improve the HI-5 program," said Motoyama.

Breakdown and history of conversion rates:

Material Type	2005 Average Number of Containers Per Pound	2007 Average Number of Containers Per Pound	New Rates Beginning	Added New Rate Beginning
			May 1, 2007	June 1, 2007
Aluminum	30	30.5	31.6	
Aluminum 12 oz.				
Glass	2.4	2.2	2.3	
Glass 12 oz.				
Plastic	16.6	17.5	17.5	
Plastic Bottles 17 oz. or less				22.7

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