



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96814

Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Program Basic Information for Distributors

What is the Deposit Program?

The Deposit Program is a recycling program that places a value on beverage containers by charging consumers a deposit on each container. You may know it by its common nickname of “The Bottle Bill”. The deposit gives consumers an incentive to recycle containers that may otherwise be thrown away. Consumers get their deposits back when they return their containers for recycling.

Who does the program affect?

All Hawaii beverage distributors are required to register with the Department of Health (DOH). The term “distributor” includes any business that either manufactures or imports eligible beverages into the state. This includes traditional beverage distributors and wholesalers as well as retailers that import beverages directly. This does not include airlines and shipping companies that merely transport the beverages into the state. Military entities are not exempt from the deposit program.

Beverage distributors are responsible for paying the department a container fee on each eligible beverage container that is either manufactured or imported into the state. From October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2004 the fee was $\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ per container and was applied to plastic and metal containers.

Beginning October 1, 2004, the handling fee for the deposit program increased to 1¢ per container. Glass beverage containers formerly covered under the State’s Glass Advance Disposal Fee (ADF) program switched over to the Deposit Beverage Container Program on the same date.

If you are aware of businesses that may need to be registered for the deposit program, please notify the Department of Health.

Payments

Beverage distributors are required to pay the container fee and deposit on all eligible beverage containers either manufactured or imported into the State after October 1, 2002.

From October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2004 a $\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ per container was assessed on all eligible *metal* and *plastic* beverage containers. During this period, glass beverage containers were covered by the separate Glass ADF program (see below for more information). Beginning October 1, 2004 the fee increased to 1¢ per container. At the same time glass beverage containers were transferred from the Glass ADF Program to the Deposit Beverage Container Program.

Payments are due 15 days after the end of each monthly reporting period. For example, the fee payment for containers manufactured or imported during the month of October is due by November 15.

Fee Calculation

Beverage distributors are required to pay the container fee on the net amount of containers that they manufacture or import into the state.

No fee will be assessed on containers that are manufactured in Hawaii that are then exported out of the state for sale.

Effects on the Glass Advance Disposal Fee (ADF) Program

The Glass ADF Program is a glass recycling program that is also administered by the DOH. From September 1, 1994 through September 30, 2004, all glass importers were required to pay a 1½¢ per glass container fee to the department. On October 1, 2004, glass beverage containers transferred out of the Glass ADF Program and into the Deposit Beverage Container Program where a different fee structure is applied (please see above). Non-beverage glass containers remain under the jurisdiction of the Glass ADF program. The fee on those containers remains unchanged at 1½¢ per container.

The two programs are, and will remain, distinct and separate. They have been designed to run parallel to each other. At no time will dual fees be applied to a glass container.

Questions?

This information sheet is intended to provide general program information to businesses. Please contact the Office of Solid Waste Management at (808) 586-4226 with any questions.

Please visit our website for more information on the Deposit Beverage Container Program:

<http://www.hawaii.gov/doh>

Hawaii Department of Health
Office of Solid Waste Management
Ph. (808) 586-4226 Fax (808) 586-7509