

BILL059(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 508

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Nov 7, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 0

Oppose: 2

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Donald Sakamoto	Email: cylonone@aol.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Nov 6, 2024 @ 03:25 PM
Testimony: Oral testimony by videoconference only		
Name: David Thorp	Email: dthorp@americanbeverage.org	Zip: 20036
Representing: American Beverage Association	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Nov 6, 2024 @ 07:43 PM
Name: Natalie Iwasa	Email: iwasajunk@mail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Nov 6, 2024 @ 10:04 PM



**Written Testimony of
David Thorp, American Beverage Association**

**Before the Honolulu City Council
Opposition of Bill 59: Relating to Plastic
November 7, 2024**

Good morning, Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia‘āina, and members of the city council. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition of Bill 59 – relating to plastic bottles.

I am David Thorp, Vice President, State Government Affairs West for the American Beverage Association (ABA). The American Beverage Association is the trade association representing the non-alcoholic beverage industry across the country and here in Hawaii.

Beverage industry’s local impact on Hawaii’s economy

The beverage industry is an important part of Hawaii’s economy – and one of the few remaining industries still manufacturing on the Islands. Unlike most consumer products, many of our beverages, aluminum cans and plastic bottles are manufactured and distributed in Hawaii by local workers.

Non-alcoholic beverage companies in Hawaii provide 1,200 good-paying jobs across the state. The industry helps to support thousands more workers in businesses that rely in part on beverage sales for their livelihoods and, such as grocery stores, restaurants and theaters.

Hawaii beverage companies are taking bold actions to reduce their use of new plastic and make sure their bottles do not end up in nature or wasted in landfills. We are carefully designing our bottles to be 100% recyclable, even the caps.

What is PET?

Our bottles are made of a specific type of plastic - polyethylene terephthalate or PET, a durable lightweight plastic that is the most recyclable and recycled plastic in the US. Unlike other types of plastic, PET is NOT single use but is made to be remade. That's why America's beverage companies use it for beverage bottles.

Setting the record straight about plastic bottles in the environment

There's a lot of misinformation about the value of our fully recyclable plastic bottles. Here are things you may not know.

1. PET beverage containers are collected and recycled under the state’s HI-5 program and Honolulu’s curbside recycling program. The state recognizes that these bottles are valuable and much different from other plastics that have no value because they are not recyclable. The state places a deposit on our bottles because it wants to encourage consumers to bring them back and be remade into new bottles as intended.

2. Our recycled bottles are valuable and in high demand. Recycled PET can be used to make new bottles and is also highly sought after by producers of other products to reduce their use of new plastic.
3. Our bottles comprise only 1% of municipal solid waste in the U.S., according to an analysis of U.S. EPA data. Other plastics make up more than 10 times that.
4. Our industry is leading to educate consumers on the value of our plastic bottles. That's why we are placing a uniform message on bottle caps, so consumers understand that our bottles are fully recyclable: "*Recycle bottle...with cap on.*"
5. We are working with environmental groups, such as World Wildlife Fund, to advocate for modern collection policies that have worked elsewhere to raise recycling rates and keep plastic out of nature.

Our commitments are meant to serve as a catalyst for other industries to do more to reduce our plastic footprint. We are eager to work with those who share the goal of using less new plastic. Government and industry should come together to develop new, innovative ideas that will help us use less new plastic and ensure our bottles and caps don't wind up in places they shouldn't.

Sincerely,

David Thorp

David Thorp
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TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

DATE: Thursday, November 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Bill 59, Ban Sale Single-Use Plastic Bottles - **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair Waters,

Thank you for allowing testimony on Bill 59, which would ban the sale of plastic single-use bottles less than 1 liter in city facilities or at functions permitted by the city. I oppose this bill.

First of all, I think there are many more important issues that the Council should be working on.

Second, litter is a human behavior issue, not an item-specific issue. Fix the behavior and the problem goes away.

Please vote "no."