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University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

RL:0260

HB 2337
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND LITTER CONTROL

Statement to
House Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing 13 February 1978

By
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center
Peter J. Rappa, Environmental Center
A. Daniel Burhans, Environmental Center

HB 2337 would amend HRS 339-7 concerning beverage container requirements. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

HRS 339-7 now prohibits the sale of beverages in metal containers with detachable tops or in plastic containers. HB 2337 would delete the prohibition against the use of plastic containers. We understand that the reason for introducing the bill is that a manufacturer of plastic beverage containers proposes to use containers composed of plastic with a high energy content which could be recovered upon the return and treatment of the containers.

To accomplish the purpose of recycling the energy stored in the containers, an effective means must be provided to induce the return of the containers and a plant for the energy recovery will have to be provided. A mandatory refundable deposit scheme for beverage containers proposed in previous legislature would promote return of the containers, but such a scheme is not proposed in HB 2337. A high price paid for returned containers would also promote their return, but we do not know what price would be paid by the proposer of their use. Some assurance should be provided that a plant will be constructed to recycle the energy and that an adequate price will be paid for the return of the containers to justify the passage of HB 2337 if it is not coupled with a mandatory refundable deposit scheme.