



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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NO INCREASE IN HI-5 FEE THROUGH JUNE 2007

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) announced today there will not be a half-cent increase in the "HI-5" deposit beverage container fee through August 1, 2007. The Hawai'i Deposit Beverage Container (DBC) Program's container deposit and fee will continue at six-cents — a five-cent deposit to be returned to the consumer when the container is recycled and a one-cent (1¢) fee for administrative costs.

The program's annual redemption rate from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 is approximately 68 percent, according to the latest analysis.

State law requires that, if the annual redemption rate is above 70 percent, the deposit beverage container fee shall be increased by a half cent to cover additional costs. The law requires the determination be made August 1 each year.

"The goal of the program is to recycle containers," said Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D., Director of Health. "We've come a long way in a short time. The objectives for the upcoming fiscal year are to work with the recyclers to improve service at redemption centers and establish more sites and/or expand hours," Dr. Fukino further stated.

(more)

Based on redemption center reports, more than 620 million containers were redeemed, keeping them out of landfills and helping to reduce litter.

The five-cent deposit and one-cent container fee are applied to beverages in specified glass, plastic and metal containers. Milk, wine and other alcoholic beverages are exempt. DOH manages the funds and works with counties and recycling companies statewide to set up and run redemption centers.

For more information on the State's Deposit Beverage Container Program visit www.hawaii.gov/health or www.hi5deposit.com.

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