



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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NEW DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINER RULE TO ALLOW HAND COUNTS UP TO 200 CONTAINERS PER LOAD

HONOLULU -- Consumers who recycle their empty HI-5 bottles and cans for deposit refunds may request hand counts for up to 200 containers when they visit a certified redemption center beginning Saturday, April 21, 2007, under an administrative rule change signed by Governor Linda Lingle on April 11, 2007.

Redemption center operators previously were only required to count loads of up to 50 containers. Any loads over 50 containers were weighed, with refunds based on a standard conversion rate. With the new rule, operators are required to count up to 200 containers upon request by the consumer. The rule change received support during a public hearing in March.

“The public wants and deserves accuracy when they recycle their empty beverage containers,” said Karl Motoyama of the Department of Health's Office of Solid Waste Management. “Our goal is to make it easier for those consumers who prefer to get their refunds based on a count. From experience, increasing the count requirement to 200 is a more reasonable limit than 50. The majority of consumers have more than 50 containers when they visit a redemption center.”

Consumers who want to save time may still request that their containers be weighed, Motoyama said.

(more)

The redemption rate remains 5 cents per container.

Under the new rule:

- Operators are required to count loads up to 200 containers, upon customer request.
- Operators are not required to count loads larger than 200. Operators have the choice to either count or weigh the containers.
- Reverse vending machines are based on count.

Each year, approximately 900 million beverage containers are sold in Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Deposit Beverage Container Program was put into effect on January 1, 2005 to encourage recycling. The program places a 5¢ redeemable deposit on each eligible beverage container that the consumer gets back when they return the containers to a certified redemption center.

For more information, visit www.hi5deposit.com.

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