



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO M.D.
DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-4410
Fax: (808) 586-4444

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**HI-5 RECYCLING PROGRAM REDEMPTION RATE CLIMBS;
NO CONTAINER FEE INCREASE**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) has determined the deposit beverage container annual redemption rate (calculated from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) is 79%. The rate from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008, was 72%.

Karl Motoyama, of the DOH Office of Solid Waste Management, reports, "while beverage sales are down this year over last, it appears more people are recycling beverage containers for deposit refunds." Motoyama believes that the increase in the redemption rate may be a result of the weak economy. Reported beverage sales are down compared with the prior year.

Participation in the HI-5 Recycling Program is strong, with more than 705 million containers recycled last fiscal year compared to 680 million containers last year, helping to significantly reduce litter and conserve resources.

State law requires that the program determine the annual redemption rate by the first of August each year. The redemption rate is a measure of participation in the recycling program and is used to determine the container fee amount. If the redemption rate exceeds 70%, state law requires the container fee to increase from 1 cent to 1.5 cents per container, unless the director of health, in consultation with the state auditor, determines that a fee increase is not needed. The department and auditor must assess whether the redemption rate will deplete the special fund balance to the extent that a fee increase is needed to cover additional program costs.

(more)

After consideration of the fiscal year 2009 redemption rate of 79%, evaluation of the current deposit beverage special fund balance, and consultation with the State Auditor, the Hawai'i Director of Health has determined that the container fee will remain at one cent per container. This means that the deposit plus container fee will continue at six-cents — a five-cent deposit to be returned to the consumer when the container is recycled and a non-refundable one-cent (1¢) container fee for administrative costs.

For more information on the State's Deposit Beverage Container Program visit

www.hi5deposit.com.

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For more information, contact:

Janice Okubo
Communications Office
Phone: (808) 586-4442