



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**HI-5 Recycling Program Redemption Rate Remains High at
76 Percent; No Container Fee Increase**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) announced today the deposit beverage container annual redemption rate for the past fiscal year (calculated from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010) is 76 percent. The rate is down from the previous year (July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009) when the redemption rate hit 79 percent - the highest rate the program has experienced since beginning in 2005.

The redemption rate is calculated by dividing the number of deposit beverage containers redeemed by the sales of deposit beverage containers. The drop in the redemption rate is attributed to the increase in sales accompanied with a decrease in redemption activity in fiscal year 2010.

“The redemption rate is down slightly from last year but participation in the HI-5 Recycling Program remains strong,” said Jennifer Tosaki, of the Department of Health’s Office of Solid Waste Management. “The current rate represents more than 685 million containers recycled during fiscal year 2010, helping to significantly reduce litter and conserve resources.”

State law requires that the program determine the annual redemption rate at the beginning 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.

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If the redemption rate exceeds 70 percent, 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 legislative 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.

After consideration of the fiscal year 2010 redemption rate of 76 percent, evaluation of the current deposit beverage special fund balance, and consultation with the legislative auditor, the 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.

The HI-5 Program redemption rate over the last 5 years:

Fiscal Year	Total Sold	Total Redeemed	Redemption Rate
2010	901,861,628	686,392,140	76%
2009	895,737,097	705,156,511	79%
2008	947,692,357	681,706,599	72%
2007	936,412,347	632,918,382	68%
2006	930,353,658	628,818,330	68%

For more information on the State's Deposit Beverage Container Program visit www.hi5deposit.com.

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