



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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DOH WORKS TOWARD JULY 1ST REDEMPTION CENTER DEADLINE

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) is preparing for the July 1st statutory deadline requiring certain large retailers in designated urban areas to become redemption centers as part of the Beverage Container Deposit Program.

DOH believes that there are presently four areas; Aina Haina, Kahala, Waianae and Schofield Barracks, that will require retailers to operate a redemption center after the July 1 deadline.

This requirement has been in effect since the law was first adopted in 2002. The 2004 legislature delayed the deadline for this particular requirement from January 1 to July 1, 2005. Retailers and their associated trade organizations were heavily involved in discussions of the deadline during the 2004 legislative session.

DOH held numerous meetings and phone calls with retailers and recyclers in 2004, in the months leading up to program implementation, and since January 1, 2005 as the program has grown and matured. Meetings and phone calls included those organized by industry trade groups, such as the Hawaii Food Industry Association and meetings with individual stores and recyclers.

(more)

On May 31, 2005, DOH mailed reminder letters and maps to large retailers on the island of Oahu asking for a plan of action should they fall in to one of the “gap” areas.

DOH will continue to work with gap area retailers and recyclers to increase the convenience for consumers to redeem deposit containers. As of July 1, DOH will issue warning letters to any retailer in violation of requirements. The department does not intend to initiate penalties against a store that is actively engaged in setting-up redemption operations. Should an entity fail to work toward compliance, enforcement action could include fines up to \$10,000 per day.

“The department understands that some stores are working on solutions,” said Laurence Lau, Deputy Director of Environmental Health. “We will help as much as we can to bring stores into compliance on time.”

The Department of Health is charged with implementing the Beverage Container Deposit Program. The department sought to avoid strict redemption center requirements that overly restrict flexibility in establishing redemption centers to allow for free market forces to guide service levels. Consumers should talk with their local retailers and communicate their needs in regard to redemption center locations and hours.

The more information on the Hawaii Beverage Container Deposit Program visit the Department of Health’s Web site at www.hawaii.gov/health .

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For more information, contact:
Darcie Yukimura
Department of Health
Information Specialist
Phone: (808) 586-4402