



Press Release

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NEW SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM PUTS BOTTLE LAW TO USE

Hawai'i's schools have a new resource on recycling, thanks to an education outreach program implemented by the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program with funding from the State Department of Health. One of the primary goals of the outreach program is to educate schools on the fundraising potential of recycling.

Melody Heidel, School Outreach Coordinator for the Hawai'i Beverage Container Deposit Program at UH Sea Grant, points to the dual purpose of this education outreach. "By bringing our program to schools, there is a two-fold benefit: schools are provided with additional resources on recycling and fundraising opportunities, and at the same time, we raise awareness of the HI 5¢ deposit program—how it operates and how to use it," she stated.

The program's concept is simple: give teachers and students the resources they need to utilize the new HI 5¢ deposit on beverage containers to raise funds for school projects and organizations.

"We want to offer all the resources available, so that schools are aware of every option and have the opportunity to identify what resources will best work for them," continued Heidel. This includes identifying local recycling companies, redemption centers, city programs, and non-profit organizations which are committed to recycling in general, and helping schools in particular. "This is a cooperative effort and we want to involve everyone since we are all ultimately working towards a common goal: to encourage recycling and help our communities," Heidel explained.

Many local schools (and various non-profit organizations) have already held successful recycling drives based on the beverage deposit. The benefit of this type of fundraiser is that it is an unlimited, unrestricted source of funding for the participating schools.

UH Sea Grant hopes to start visiting local schools within the next week, talking to classes and distributing materials on how schools can fundraise by recycling. Reference materials available include a pamphlet for teachers (*Hawai'i Beverage Container Deposit Program: An Educator's Guide*) and a poster for the classroom (*Top Ten Reasons to Recycle*) which includes websites of interest to students. The long-range goal is to develop a more extensive curriculum on recycling for teachers to utilize in class.

To schedule a class visit or request materials, contact Melody Heidel at 956-2697 or heidel@hawaii.edu.

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