



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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Office of the Director

RL:0385A

SB 2292
RELATING TO LITTER CONTROL

Statement for
House Committee on
Ecology and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - 21 March 1980

SB 2292 would exclude plastic containers from the ban prescribed in Section 339-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Environmental Center statement (RL:0385) made before the Senate Committee on Ecology, Environment and Recreation is attached for your information. We hope you will take our comments into consideration.



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SB 2292
RELATING TO LITTER CONTROL

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Ecology, Environment and Recreation
Public Hearing - 5 March 1980

By
Pamela Snavelly, UH Student
Jamuna Ramakrishna, UH Student
Elizabeth Cunningham, UH Student
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center

SB 2290-80 would amend the definition of beverage containers to exclude plastic containers from the ban prescribed in Section 339-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

There is a two-fold rationale to the control of beverage containers--to encourage the recycling of containers or the material of which they are manufactured and to reduce the contribution of discarded containers to the problem of litter. Neither plastic containers nor the plastic of which they are manufactured are recycled. The only benefit that may be derived from them after their original use is the recovery of energy from their combustion if energy is recovered from solid waste. However, the large beverage containers, with capacities of 32 oz. or larger, are used mainly by households, and are seldom discarded promiscuously, and do not contribute significantly to the litter problem. There is reason, therefore, to exempt the large plastic containers from the ban.

The small containers, however, would contribute significantly to the litter problem if they were widely used. It has been argued that the small containers should be exempted from the ban if they are sold for use only under controlled conditions, such as luaus. Considering the litter implications, we consider that the exemption proposed should be restricted to plastic containers of 32 oz. or larger, or if it is extended to the smaller containers, only if they are to be used under controlled conditions.