

**SB662**

**TESTIMONY**



Written Testimony of  
David Thorp  
American Beverage Association

Before the Hawaii Senate Committee on Health  
S.B. 662 Relating to Health  
February 4, 2013; 1:15 pm

Good afternoon, Chair Green and members of the Committee. Thank you very much for the opportunity to present comments in support of S.B. 662, which appropriates funds for the Hawaii Health Corps.

I am David Thorp, senior director of government affairs for the American Beverage Association (ABA) in Washington, D.C. The American Beverage Association is the trade association representing the non-alcoholic beverage industry. ABA represents hundreds of beverage producers, distributors, franchise companies and supporting businesses that employ more than 217,000 people across the country, including over 1,100 beverage jobs in Hawaii.

The American Beverage Association supports the comprehensive approach of the Hawaii Health Corps Program. The program's goal of providing educational loan-repayments to encourage health care professionals to practice in the most underserved areas in the state is sure to have a lasting impact on the health of Hawaii residents.

All of us – parents, policymakers, educators, industries and community leaders – have a responsibility to do our part to promote a healthy lifestyle. ABA member companies have voluntarily removed full-calorie soft drinks from schools nationwide and replaced them with low- and no-calorie options – as well as smaller portion sizes. The beverage industry has also placed calorie labels on the front of every bottle, can and pack we produce to put easy-to-use calorie information right at your fingertips when choosing a beverage.

The beverage industry is proud of the steps it has taken to help address obesity as part of a comprehensive approach to this problem. The Hawaii Health Corps program can also play an important part of that comprehensive approach for a healthy lifestyle by providing citizens across the state with vital medical care as well as lifestyle and nutrition counseling that is all too often lacking.

ABA supports the Hawaii Health Corps program to help make it easier to recruit and encourage more medical care providers to commit to improving the health and well-being of all Hawaii residents.

For these reasons, we encourage the Committee to support S.B. 662.

Sincerely,  
David Thorp  
David Thorp  
Senior Director, Government Affairs  
American Beverage Association