



January 30, 2024

The Honorable Chris Lee
219 State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
senlee@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2579 – Bottle Filling Stations

Dear Senator Lee,

On behalf of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), NSF, and the Water Quality Association (WQA), we want to thank you for introducing SB 2579.

As filed, the legislation aims to expand access to bottle filling stations, promote the use of reusable containers, and reduce waste. To strengthen the legislation, our industry recommends that this legislation be amended to **require filters to be third-party certified**. Many water filtration systems claim to improve drinking water quality. However, not all products serve the same purpose; some remove only aesthetic impurities while others are certified to reduce the presence of harmful contaminants. Having an independent third-party certification mark on a product communicates compliance with voluntary and consensus performance standards, improves consumer confidence and helps eliminate concerns about the purchase and installation of non-complying products.

Therefore, to strengthen the impact of SB 2579, we recommend the following proposed amendment:

SECTION 1. Section 107-27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

(e) Beginning July 1, 2025, for any new state building construction where a drinking fountain is required, there shall also be a bottle filling station or a combined bottle filling station and drinking fountain.

(f) As used in this section, "bottle filling station" means a plumbing fixture connected to the potable water distribution system and sanitary drainage system that is designed and intended for filling personal use drinking water bottles or containers at least ten inches in height. A "bottle filling station" may be separate from or integral to a drinking fountain and may incorporate a **third-party certified** water filter and a cooling system for chilling the drinking water.

We strongly support the intent of SB 2579 and appreciate the opportunity to collaborate on this vital water quality legislation. We are available to work with you and others to answer questions surrounding water treatment.



Sincerely,

Christina Kaeini, Director of Government Relations, IAPMO

Harold Chase, Director of Government Affairs, NSF

Jordan Kari, Manager of Government Affairs, WQA

About IAPMO

IAPMO was founded in 1926 by government officials in the US to protect public health and safety by developing the most progressive and technically advanced plumbing, mechanical and water efficiency codes in the world. A large part of IAPMO's work focuses on product testing for the industry. Our research and testing labs are capable of testing products to more than 400 standards and we provide testing to new plumbing products that enter the market every year. These include such devices as shower heads, faucets, and water filters. Our rigorous process includes following the criteria of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

About NSF

NSF is an independent, not-for-profit organization founded in 1944 in Ann Arbor, MI that develops consensus national standards, provides product inspection, testing and certification, auditing, education, and related services in public health and safety. The core purpose of NSF is to "protect and improve human and environmental health." NSF has a long history of working with the EPA, FDA, USDA, CDC, and health related governmental entities at the state and local levels, as well as international bodies. NSF is a Collaborating Centre of the World Health Organization for Food Safety, Water Quality, and Medical Device Safety. NSF/ANSI 53 and NSF/ANSI 58, American National Standards developed by NSF, allow for the certification of some point of use and point of entry drinking water treatment units to reduce the levels of specified contaminants in drinking water including lead.

About WQA

WQA is a not-for-profit trade association representing the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry with over 2,500 members worldwide. Since its creation in 1974, WQA has worked tirelessly to improve water quality through sustainable technologies and services. Our members are manufacturers, dealers, and distributors who specialize in point-of-use (POU) and point-of-entry (POE) water filtration systems, which treat water at the tap or entry point of a home or building. WQA also operates an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited testing and certification laboratory that certifies water filtration products to nationally accepted industry standards for contaminant removal.