

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2008

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PRESS RELEASE

PROJECT I-RECYCLE TO DISBURSE OVER \$21K TO GUAM SCHOOLS

May 22, 2008 – Dededo, GU—

Want to know the difference recycling can make for our schools?

How about:

- 30 computers
- 5 playground sets
- 125 text books
- 750 notebooks and
- 1,250 pens and pencils

These are just some of the much needed supplies and equipment that can be purchased with the \$21,251.50 that will be disbursed to our island's schools – a benefit to schools – and not from tax to the locals - ALL from the *i-recycle* Program.

The Guam Business Partners for Recycling, under project *i recycle*, held a press conference today at Finegayan Elementary School cafeteria in Dededo to present the first of thirty three checks to schools totaling \$21,251.50. Anheuser-Busch Recycling Corporation, one of the largest aluminum recyclers in the world, purchased the shipment from Guam at \$0.98/lb. If aluminum had been purchased on Guam only \$0.35/lb. would have been received. Total weight from the first container shipped by Matson Navigation was 23,280. The disbursements to the schools will be based on the volume each school has generated. The schools will receive the net proceeds earned from the aluminum cans for their use. Thirty three schools will be receiving checks ranging from \$182.00 to \$2356.00, the highest amount, going to Finegayan for their recycling efforts.

The *i-recycle* program was an idea that began in 2005 when August Busch III, retired CEO and Chairman of the Board of Anheuser-Busch Companies, made a visit to Palau. In a meeting with Frank Shimizu Sr., CEO & President of Ambros Inc., and Busch, Shimizu mentioned that one of the top issues the island is facing is the growing litter problem. Busch said with the help of Anheuser-Busch and Ambros Inc. something can be done. "August then sent a representative of Anheuser-Busch Recycling Corporation and we now have the makings of a true curbside recycling initiative, starting with aluminum," said Shimizu. In 2007, Anheuser-Busch Recycling Corporation (A-BRC), formed in

1978 and now one of the largest recyclers of used aluminum beverage containers in the world, recycled more than 803 million pounds of aluminum cans. Annually, this amounts to more than 27 billion cans, more cans than their breweries package.

What started as a vision between Anheuser Busch Recycling Corporation and Ambros Inc., is now the mission of eight businesses that have donated money, time and their services to making the *i recycle* project a reality. Among the businesses participating are Ambros Inc., Anheuser Busch Asia Inc., Coca-Cola/ Foremost/ Subway/Glimpses, South Pacific Petroleum Corporation, Matson Navigation Company, Perez Brothers Inc., Guahan Waste Control, and Ernst & Young. Peggy Denney dba Denney Environmental Consulting Services, is the program administrator of the "I-Recycle" project.

J. Lee Babb, president of the *i recycle* program went on to say, "Guam imports over 79 million aluminum beverage cans annually which translates to approximately 2.2 million pounds. Our ultimate goal is to recycle every can imported into Guam and expand to glass and plastics in the near future."

When asked how she and the partners feel about the money received to date, Peggy Denney, program administrator of the *i recycle* program, stated, "The partners would like to thank the students, faculty, parents, and the community as a whole for their commitment to this program – and we've only just begun! Our hope is that this first disbursement of funds will further build excitement and momentum in the program and motivate everyone in the community to remain actively involved or get involved. We're very close to filling a second container - imagine what another \$20k can do for our schools!"

Forty eight-cubic-yard bins have been placed island wide since the first bin was placed at St. John's School on September 5, 2007. The participating schools include 11 private schools, GCC and UOG, and 27 public schools, including all the high schools, middle schools and 16 elementary schools. Two additional 3 cubic yard bins, provided by NAVFAC, have been placed at the Navy DODEA schools in order to allow them to participate in the program as well. Additionally, two public elementary schools are now participating in the program without an 8-cubic-yard bin. There is no excuse for the community NOT to recycle with sites this easily accessible all over the island.

"We want to continue to educate the community by incorporating the 3R's in our lives—reducing the amount of trash we create in the first place, reusing the items as much as possible, and recycling everything that can be recycled thus far on Guam," said Denney.

The objective of the *i recycle* program is to educate and promote the recycling of aluminum beverage containers on an island-wide level. The GBPR's plan is to utilize private and public schools as sites for the aluminum can bins,

giving access for the entire community to recycle all over the island. The ultimate plan is to have local businesses, agencies and organizations get involved by adopting a school - being strong advocates and supporters of the schools' efforts in recycling. The Guam Business Partners for Recycling is in the process of soliciting sponsors for their *Adopt-A-School* program. Please contact Peggy Denney at 483-9415 to learn how you can get involved.