

香港食品，飲料及雜貨協會

**THE HONG KONG FOOD
DRINK & GROCERY ASSOCIATION**

March 24, 2020

The Honourable Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-Ngor,
Chief Executive, Hong Kong SAR
Tamar, Hong Kong

Dear Chief Executive,

Re: Proposed amendment of the Liquor Licensing Law

We hope this letter finds you well in this uncertain time of Covid-19. Hong Kong so far, has done a very good job until the recent spike of imported cases. On March 23, the government proposed amending the law to prohibit 8,600 licensed restaurants and bars from selling alcohol in an effort to promote social distancing. We, members of the Hong Kong Beer Coalition, implore you to reconsider.

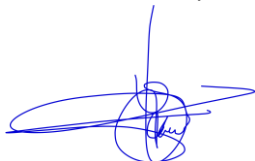
Throughout the epidemic, Hong Kong has made decisions based on science and evidence; and facts and figures. Singling out the sale of alcohol in restaurants and bars is neither supported by science nor evidence. The Hong Kong Beer Coalition understands that Hong Kong may come to a point when it needs to go into lockdown, but until then, there is no difference between drinking beer and eating rice in a restaurant. The distance between people in a group eating or drinking does not change.

The Hong Kong Beer Coalition strongly suggests that the Hong Kong government adopts the following measures:

1. Strengthen monitoring of people under quarantine and prosecution of people who fail to comply;
2. Advise people to stay home as much as possible; and
3. Require restaurants and bars to strengthen their risk management by taking the temperatures of incoming customers and cutting their seating capacity to ensure social distancing.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,



Steven Co
Chairman

The Hong Kong Beer Coalition represents more than 90% of the beer trade in Hong Kong and operates under The Hong Kong Food Drink & Grocery Association.