

SB2792

Measure Title:
RELATING TO SMOKING.

Report Title:
Smoking

Description:
Allows smoking in properly licensed establishments. Requires collection of smoking establishment licensing fee with proceeds to go towards organ donation education and tobacco education.

Introducer(s):
SLOM, Bunda, Gabbard, Inouye, Tsutsui, Whalen

Current Referral:
HTH, WAM

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Website:
www.ala-hawaii.org

E-mail:
lung@ala-hawaii.org

Lung Helpline
Phone: 1-800-LUNG-USA
(586-4872)

**Improving Life One
Breath at a Time**

Founded in 1904, the
American Lung Association
includes affiliated associations
throughout the U.S.

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

FOR: Hearing scheduled for 1:15 p.m. Monday, February 11, 2008

**RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB 2792,
REALTING TO SMOKING**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Committee Members:

I am Jean Evans, Executive Director of the American Lung Association of Hawaii (ALA of Hawaii.) and strongly oppose SB 2792. Our mission is to prevent lung disease and promote lung health through research, education and advocacy. We are dedicated to fighting for clean air both indoors and outside. Everyone has a right to breathe clean air no matter where they work, dine or are entertained.


When State legislators enacted the 2006 public places smoking ban, they did so knowing there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Some businesses now claim the law has harmed them. Whether or not that's true, the law's overriding public benefit is that smoke no longer damages the health of employees and patrons alike.

I have spoken to several entertainers recently who have shared their experiences performing in smoke-filled venues. One is multi-award winning Keahi Conjugacion who relies on her lungs for her livelihood. Along with her beautiful voice, she also happens to have asthma. On several occasions prior to the implementation of the law, she required emergency room visits immediately following a performance in nightclub that allowed smoking. These experiences proved to be very frightening, because she well knows that people can and do die from asthma.

The ALA of Hawaii strongly disagrees with those who say smoking licenses should be available to willing establishments and that prospective employees would be informed as a condition of employment that smoking is allowed. Employers can never know if their employees agree to work in a smoking environment because they are doing so freely or because they are fearful of losing their job

As a society, we strive to improve working conditions and eliminate threats to health and safety. The no-smoking law has done that for all Hawaii residents and must stay intact to protect everyone ... and everyone means everyone!

Respectively Submitted,


Jean Evans, MPH



CURES | CLEAN AIR | SMOKEFREE KIDS
Improving Life, One Breath at a Time

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

FOR: Hearing scheduled for 1:15 p.m. Monday, February 11, 2008

**RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB 2792
REALTING TO SMOKING**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Committee Members:

I am Debbie Odo the Director of Tobacco Control from the American Lung Association of Hawai'i (ALA of Hawaii.) and strongly oppose SB 2792. Everyone has a right to breathe clean air no matter where they work, dine or are entertained.

As the Director of Tobacco Control for the American Lung Association of Hawaii, I believe everyone has the right to work in safe environments, especially those who work in Bars and Clubs. Workers and patrons should not have to risk their health to earn a living. Bar employees are at particular risk, so to take steps backwards by allowing smoking in selected venues would highlight that Hawai'i, the Health State, does not protect the health and welfare of their people.

I work with many people from various radio stations who have reported to me that the law has helped them to reduce their asthma episodes, headaches and have noticed less sick days.

When the scientific evidence about the health consequences of involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke reports were released by the Surgeon General, the Hawaii State Legislators learned that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Research indicates that smoke-free policies are the most economic and effective approach for providing protection from exposure to secondhand smoke.

I strongly disagree with those who say smoking licenses should be available to willing establishments and that prospective employees would be informed as a condition of employment that smoking is allowed.

I urge this committee not to pass SB 2792 out of committee due to the health consequences.

Respectively Submitted,

Debbie Odo

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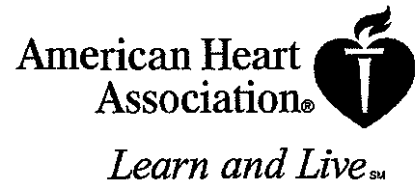
E-mail:
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Lung HelpLine
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(586-4872)

**Improving Life One
Breath at a Time**

Founded in 1904, the
American Lung Association
includes affiliated associations
throughout the U.S.

The American Heart Association mission is:
To reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke.



Serving Hawaii

**American Heart Association testimony STRONGLY OPPOSING
SB 2792 "Relating To Smoking"**

The American Heart Association **STRONGLY OPPOSES** SB 2792, "Related To Smoking."

The body of research on the dangers of smoking has long been acknowledged by health and science experts. However, in recent years, research focus has been extended to the dangers of being exposed to secondhand smoke and that growing body of research has been eye-opening to the point that many, including the tobacco industry itself, have shown that breathing secondhand smoke is not only deadly, but that it is more dangerous than smoking.

The California Environmental Protection Agency released in late 2005 a report on the health effects of secondhand smoke based on a body of more than 1,000 research studies that went through four years of intense scientific, public and independent review. In the report, among other things, the report found a causal link between secondhand smoke exposure and pre-term delivery, asthma induction in adults (the link between asthma induction in children had already been well established), a 70 percent increase in risk for breast cancer in younger, primarily premenopausal women, and altered vascular properties. As a result of the report, in 2006 California became the first state to declare secondhand smoke a toxic air pollutant. The decision by the California Air Resources Board puts secondhand smoke in the same category as diesel exhaust, arsenic and benzene and blamed it for 4,000 deaths each year in California from lung cancer and heart disease alone.

In 2005, a study done at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) found that non-smokers exposed to secondhand smoke are negatively affected in a much higher dose to response ratio. Another UCSF study released in November 2006, showed that Philip Morris Tobacco Company had done extensive animal research on secondhand smoke at a secret laboratory in Germany and found it to be more toxic to non-smokers than inhaled cigarette smoke is to a smoker. The three-year review of Philip Morris documents made public by the multi-state settlement with the tobacco industry showed that the company did experiments on rats, which are less sensitive to smoke than humans. The documents show that Philip Morris scientists learned that secondhand smoke is chemically different than mainstream smoke inhaled by a smoker. The smoke drifting off the lit end of a cigarette releases larger, more poisonous molecules than those inhaled at the filter end. The heating that takes place in the process of smoking a cigarette helps to break down some toxins. Secondhand smoke was found to be three times more toxic to tissue culture cells than mainstream smoke.

The effects of secondhand smoke on the cardiovascular system are substantial and immediate. Within 5 minutes of exposure to secondhand smoke blood platelets become stickier. Within 15 minutes of exposure, scarring of the blood vessel walls occurs causing plaque that leads to atherosclerosis to adhere more easily. Within 30 minutes of exposure, the risk for heart attack doubles. As an EPA Class A Carcinogen, there are no safe exposure levels to environmental tobacco smoke.

Studies done in Helena, MT, and Pueblo, CO, New York State, and Ireland further illustrate the dangers of secondhand smoke to the heart. In Helena, the city council passed comprehensive smoking restrictions on all indoor workplaces. Upon the law's implementation, the lone hospital in the city that treats heart attack patients recorded an immediate 40 percent decline in heart attack admissions. When the state government preempted the city law and allowed smoking to begin again 6 months from the date of the city law's implementation, heart attack admission rates at the hospital climbed 40 percent back to their original levels. The Montana State Legislature recognized its original error and in 2005 became the 12th state to enact comprehensive smoking restrictions. Another study completed in Pueblo in 2005 after implementation of smoking

Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.

Serving Hawaii since 1948

For information on the AHA's educational or research programs, contact your nearest AHA office, or visit our web site at www.americanheart.org or e-mail us at hawaii@heart.org

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Kailua-Kona, HI 96740-3140
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Kauai:
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restrictions there found a 29 percent decrease in heart attack admissions. In New York, the State Department of Health reported a 3,813 drop in hospital admissions attributed to heart attacks, or an eight percent decrease one year after implementation of its comprehensive smoke-free workplace law. Researchers in Ireland studied data at public hospitals in southwest Ireland and showed an 11 percent fall in heart attack admissions at hospitals there the year after that country's comprehensive smoke-free workplace law went into effect. Since Hawaii legislators passed the state's smoking restriction law in 2006, voters in Ohio and Arizona overwhelmingly passed public referendums restricting smoking in all indoor workplaces, including bars and restaurants. In fact, twenty-four states have now passed smoke-free restaurant laws, and 18 states have passed comprehensive smoke-free workplace protection laws that include both bars and restaurants. A growing number of countries have enacted comprehensive smoking restrictions, including England, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Italy, Spain, France, Norway, Australia, New Zealand, Uruguay, Bhutan, the Maldives, Canada and Bermuda. Even in Japan smoking restrictions are becoming the norm, with a number of its larger cities, including even highly populated outdoor areas of Tokyo, being governed successfully by smoke-free laws. And in Hong Kong restaurants and karaoke lounges are 100 percent smoke free, while bars will go smoke free in July 2009.

An estimated 53,000 non-smokers die each year in the United States as a result of secondhand smoke exposure, including over 35,000 from coronary heart disease associated with secondhand smoke exposure. In Hawaii, the costs of smoking and secondhand smoke exposure combined costs the state an estimated \$575,000 annually in healthcare-related costs and lost productivity.

After Hawaii's smoke-free law was implemented in November, 2006 the Hawaii Quitline experienced a four-fold increase in the number of calls that it received from smokers seeking help in quitting. To change the law now would cut short positive health changes that have been successfully modeled in other states and send Hawaii backwards. Our goal should be to free Hawaii taxpayers from having to subsidize tobacco industry profits by paying the exorbitant health bills related to smoking and secondhand smoke exposure. Our goal should also be to eliminate the hundreds of horrible losses that Hawaii families must endure each year due to tobacco use and exposure.

The American Heart Association urges legislators to oppose SB 2792. Please continue to protect all Hawaii workers and the public from involuntary exposure to the deadly health menace that is secondhand tobacco smoke. Providing business a license to again allow smoking in their workplaces would be giving them a license to kill.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Communications and Marketing/Government Affairs Director
American Heart Association

ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE AND HEART DISEASE

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE (ETS)

- ETS contains the same toxic substances as the smoke inhaled by smokers (mainstream smoke). Of the more than 4,000 chemicals in ETS (including nicotine, formaldehyde, cyanide, arsenic, carbon monoxide, methane, asbestos, ammonia and benzene), at least 40 are considered carcinogens. Many of these toxins are actually found in higher concentrations in ETS than they are in mainstream smoke.
[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1992. "Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders."]
- The EPA has classified ETS as a Class A carcinogen (known human carcinogen) containing asbestos and benzene.
[EPA, 1992]
- The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that ETS accounts for an increase in workplace death risk of 7 to 16 per 1,000 workers. This increased risk far exceeded OSHA's acceptable excess risk level of 1 per 1,000 workers.
[U.S. OSHA, 1994; Steenland, 1999]

ETS INCREASES HEART DISEASE RISK

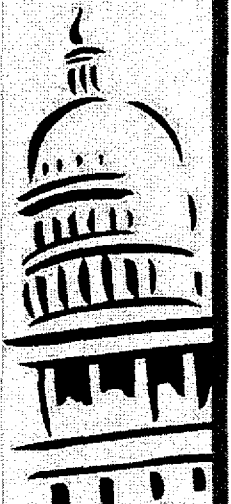
- Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) is a major cause of cardiovascular disease and death.
 - ETS exposure results in about 35,000 deaths from coronary heart disease (CHD) among nonsmokers each year.
[American Heart Association's Council on Cardiopulmonary and Critical Care, 1992; American Heart Association, "Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics – 2003 Update"]
 - ETS increases the risk of coronary events by about 30%.
["Immediate Reduction in Acute Myocardial Infarctions After the Implementation of a Comprehensive Smokefree Ordinance", Presented to the 52nd Annual Scientific Sessions of the American College of Cardiology, March 30 – April 2, 2003]
- Epidemiological evidence linking ETS to CHD, stroke and atherosclerotic disease has been mounting since 1984.
[Glantz and Pamley, 1991]
- Nonsmokers absorb approximately 1% of the nicotine that active smokers absorb and experience as much as 50% of an active smoker's increased risk for heart disease.
[Law et al., 1997]
- Inhaling ETS from just one cigarette actually increases the growth rate of plaque -- the buildup of fatty substances on artery walls that leads to arterial hardening and blockages.
[Penn et al., 1994]
- ETS increases the ratio of total cholesterol to HDL (good) cholesterol by 7% to 9%.
[Feldman et al., 1991; Moskowitz et al., 1999; Mizoue et al., 1999]



- A Clean Indoor Air ordinance in Helena, MT produced a 55% decrease in hospital admissions for acute myocardial infarction over a six-month period.
[“Immediate Reduction in Acute Myocardial Infarctions After the Implementation of a Comprehensive Smokefree Ordinance”, Presented to the 52nd Annual Scientific Sessions of the American College of Cardiology, March 30 – April 2, 2003]
- Women who are exposed to ETS at home have a 23%-24% increased risk of cardiovascular disease.
[Thun et al., 1999; He et al., 1999]
- Exposing a spouse to ETS from 20 cigarettes a day results in a 58% increased risk of heart attack.
[Rosenlund, 2001]
- Exposure to ETS impairs cardiac performance, especially in heart attack survivors.
 - ETS exposure decreases time to exhaustion in aerobic activity and increases post-exercise recovery time for everyone.
[Leone et al., 1991; Glantz and Parmley, 1995]
 - For heart attack survivors, exposure to ETS also results in a 33% decrease in peak exercise power.
[Leone et al., 1991]

EVEN BRIEF EXPOSURE TO ETS IS HARMFUL TO YOUR HEART

- 5 minutes of ETS exposure is equal to smoking one cigarette.
- 20 minutes of ETS exposure does as much damage as smoking a pack a day.
 - 20 minutes of ETS exposure activates clot-forming platelets in non-smokers as much as smoking a pack a day would, increasing the chances of a heart attack or stroke.
- 30 minutes of ETS exposure results in stiffened, clogged arteries.
 - A half-hour of breathing ETS stiffens non-smokers arteries as much as smoking a pack a day would. Thirty minutes of breathing ETS also reduces the body’s ability to manage LDL cholesterol for several hours after exposure.
- 2 hours of ETS exposure produces a greater risk of irregular heartbeat.
 - Two hours of ETS exposure results in an increased heart rate as well as increased chances of developing an irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia) which could be fatal or could trigger a heart attack.
[University of California, www.tobaccoscam.com]



testimony

From: starion [starion06@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 5:47 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony OPPOSING SB2792 set for 2/11/08 @ 1:15 before Senate Health Committee RE License to Kill

Dear Honorable Senator David Ige and members of the Health Committee:

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION

My name is Valerie Chang and I am the volunteer executive director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition. I strongly oppose SB2792 and urge this committee not to pass this bill out as it will significantly undermine the health progress that has been made in our state to date in tobacco cessation and prevention.

COPD is Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis), the fourth leading killer in the US , projected to rise to 3rd in the US & world by 2020. 85-90% of those with COPD are current or former smokers. It is also a major cause of disability, right behind heart disease. For more information about COPD, visit learnaboutcopd.org.

The legislature took a good and progressive in passing the tobacco-free law for the benefit of the health of Hawaii 's people. It would severely undermine the progress made if a permit could be purchased to circumvent the law protecting the health of the Hawaii 's people. Basically, what is being sought is a ***permit to kill***. Testimony in the briefing session in January 2008 (prior to opening day) highlighted the many terrible health consequences of smoking--heart attacks, asthma, COPD, cancer, other increased heart risks and more.



The license fee set in the bill of \$1000-3000 in no way **approaches the cost to the people of Hawaii in allowing smoking in these establishments--health risks to employees and other patrons, as well as to the smoker.** The argument of "individual rights" falls when the individual can't pay for the consequences of exercising his or her rights--the entire extended costs of tobacco exposure to the individual and everyone who comes in contact with him/her--premature disability, illnesses, hospitalizations, and more.

Hawaii has one of the highest rates of asthma in the US . In addition, the American Lung Association of Hawaii estimates that Hawaii has over 50,000 people with emphysema or chronic bronchitis! Smoking is a major cause of and trigger for both of these debilitating conditions. It is ironic that this bill attempts to donate some of the proceeds of the permit to the organ donation fund, since ultimately, people who smoke may indeed need new organs because tobacco destroys what they have.

As an asthmatic who has severe emphysema and mother of asthmatic children and wife of an asthmatic, we are all extremely sensitive to smoke and even inadvertent exposure can trigger a major attack in any of us. Especially for folks like me with emphysema, lung function that can be lost from a severe attack is lost forever.

I urge this committee not to pass this bill out of committee as it is far too costly to the lungs and health of the people of Hawaii . As a state, we cannot afford to allow tobacco to rob our people of their lives, health and breath.

Very truly yours,
 Valerie Chang
 Executive Director, Hawaii COPD Coalition

 *Each day is a gift to love, cherish and spend wisely!* 

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testimony

From: lani.almanza@cancer.org
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 2:14 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB2792

Attachments: pic11662.jpg



pic11662.jpg (12 KB)

(Embedded image moved to file: pic11662.jpg)

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

FROM:

RE: SB 2792 RELATING TO SMOKING

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lani Almanza, and I am an advocate and supporter of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific. I would like to voice my opposition to SB 2792 which would weaken Hawaii's comprehensive smoke free law.

I strongly supported passage of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law and have personally seen the positive impact that it has had on my family and community. Lung cancer remains the number one cancer killer in the United States and in the State of Hawaii where approximately 440 residents die of lung cancer every year. Not surprisingly, second-hand smoke causes the same diseases that smoking does. Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke will ultimately reduce the incidence of lung cancer and the pain and suffering cause by this disease.

The Smoke-free law is one of the best public health measures to pass in Hawaii. I am proud that our legislature has chosen to protect workers and the public from the illnesses caused by secondhand smoke. Our state is smoke-free and even cleaner and more beautiful than ever. Please remember the workers, families and cancer survivors who count on you to protect the public health. I respectfully request that you do not pass SB 2792 out of your committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Lani Almanza
Community Manager - Health Initiatives

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

FROM:

RE: SB 2792 RELATING TO SMOKING

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is Erin Moncada, and I am a cancer survivor and the Health Initiatives Director of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific. I would like to voice my opposition to SB 2792 which would weaken Hawaii's comprehensive smoke free law.

I strongly supported passage of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law and have personally seen the positive impact that it has had on my family and community. Lung cancer remains the number one cancer killer in the United States and in the State of Hawaii where approximately 440 residents die of lung cancer every year. I watched my stepfather die of lung cancer, painfully unable to draw breath at the end of his life.

Because of his smoking habit in and around our home, the family was exposed to second-hand smoke, a proven risk factor for breast cancer and other cancers and respiratory diseases. My mother died of breast cancer, and I was diagnosed with breast cancer eight years ago. I beg you to protect all of Hawaii's employees and citizens from the known dangers of exposure to tobacco smoke.

The Smoke-free law is one of the best public health measures to pass in Hawaii. I am proud that our legislature has chosen to protect workers and the public from the illnesses caused by secondhand smoke. Our state is smoke-free and even cleaner and more beautiful than ever. Please remember the workers, families and cancer survivors who count on you to protect the public health. I respectfully request that you do not pass SB 2792 out of your committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Erin Moncada
200 Kanoelehua Ave. #228
Hilo, HI 96720

testimony

From: Barbara [barbrick@inix.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 8:43 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 2792, HTH, Monday, Feb. 11th, 1:15pm

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

FROM:

RE: **SB 2792 RELATING TO SMOKING**

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is BARBARA NOSAKA, and I am a volunteer advocate and supporter of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific. I would like to voice my opposition to SB 2792 which would weaken Hawaii's comprehensive smoke free law.

I strongly supported passage of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law and have personally seen the positive impact that it has had on my family and community. Lung cancer remains the number one cancer killer in the United States and in the State of Hawaii where approximately 440 residents die of lung cancer every year. Not surprisingly, second-hand smoke causes the same diseases that smoking does. Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke will ultimately reduce the incidence of lung cancer and the pain and suffering cause by this disease.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Barbara Nosaka

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

FROM:

RE: OPPOSE SB 2792, RELATING TO SMOKING

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dawn S. Pung, and I am a volunteer advocate and supporter of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **opposition to SB 2792** which would weaken Hawaii's comprehensive smoke free law.

I strongly supported passage of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law and have personally seen the positive impact that it has had on my family and community. Lung cancer remains the number one cancer killer in the United States and in the State of Hawaii where approximately 440 residents die of lung cancer every year. Not surprisingly, second-hand smoke causes the same diseases that smoking does. Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke will ultimately reduce the incidence of lung cancer and the pain and suffering cause by this disease.

I travel frequently enough that I often end up in an area (state) where the no smoking laws are non-existent or weak and I get engulfed in secondhand smoke. It's difficult to hold my breath as I walk out of harms way. I have to remind myself that I'm not in Hawaii.

The Smoke-free law is one of the best public health measures to pass in Hawaii. I am proud that our legislature has chosen to protect workers and the public from the illnesses caused by secondhand smoke. Our state is smoke-free and even cleaner and more beautiful than ever. Please remember the workers, families and cancer survivors who count on you to protect the public health. **I respectfully request that you do not pass SB 2792 out of your committee.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dawn S. Pung

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

FROM: ANNA MAYEDA

RE: SB 2792 RELATING TO SMOKING

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

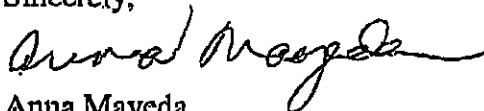
My name is Anna Mayeda and I am a volunteer advocate and supporter of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific. I would like to voice my opposition to SB 2792 which would weaken Hawaii's comprehensive smoke free law.

I strongly supported passage of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law and have personally seen the positive impact that it has had on my family and community. Lung cancer remains the number one cancer killer in the United States and in the State of Hawaii where approximately 440 residents die of lung cancer every year. Not surprisingly, second-hand smoke causes the same diseases that smoking does. Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke will ultimately reduce the incidence of lung cancer and the pain and suffering cause by this disease.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Anna Mayeda
223 Liholiho Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
808-244-5553

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

FROM: Joanne Itano, RN, PhD

RE: **SB 2792 RELATING TO SMOKING**

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joanne Itano and I am a volunteer advocate and supporter of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific and an oncology certified nurse. I am in opposition to SB 2792 which would weaken Hawaii's comprehensive smoke free law.

I strongly supported passage of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law and have personally seen the positive impact that it has had on my family and community. Lung cancer remains the number one cancer killer in the United States and in the State of Hawaii where approximately 440 residents die of lung cancer every year. Not surprisingly, second-hand smoke causes the same diseases that smoking does. Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke will ultimately reduce the incidence of lung cancer and the pain and suffering cause by this disease. The five year survival rate for lung cancer is very low; the best treatment for lung cancer is to prevent it.

The Smoke-free law is one of the best public health measures to pass in Hawaii. I am proud that our legislature has chosen to protect workers and the public from the illnesses caused by secondhand smoke. Our state is smoke-free and even cleaner and more beautiful than ever. Please remember the workers, families and cancer survivors who count on you to protect the public health. I respectfully request that you do not pass SB 2792 out of your committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joanne Itano

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

FROM:

RE: SB 2792 RELATING TO SMOKING

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is Connie Holladay and I am a breast cancer survivor, volunteer advocate and supporter of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific. I would like to voice my opposition to SB 2792 which would weaken Hawaii's comprehensive smoke free law.

I strongly supported passage of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law and have personally seen the positive impact that it has had on my family and community. Lung cancer remains the number one cancer killer in the United States and in the State of Hawaii where approximately 440 residents die of lung cancer every year. Not surprisingly, second-hand smoke causes the same diseases that smoking does. Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke will ultimately reduce the incidence of lung cancer and the pain and suffering cause by this disease.

The Smoke-free law is one of the best public health measures to pass in Hawaii. I am proud that our legislature has chosen to protect workers and the public from the illnesses caused by secondhand smoke. Our state is smoke-free and even cleaner and more beautiful than ever. Please remember the workers, families and cancer survivors who count on you to protect the public health. I respectfully request that you do not pass SB 2792 out of your committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Connie Holladay
Kaneohe, Hawaii

testimony

From: Holt Family [cholt@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2003 8:09 AM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 2792,HTH

To the honorable members of our Senate Health Committee:

Please do not pass SB 2792 out of your committee! As a women's health care provider and volunteer of the American Cancer Society, I strongly oppose this bill. I have been a Physician Assistant for over 34 years. During that time, I have known and heard of many individuals who have died prematurely due to smoking-related diseases. I have had patient's and co-workers who were advised numerous times to quit smoking, but who were unable to overcome the addiction, and then years later, suffered lung cancer or heart attacks. There have been numerous patients who had miscarriages and other complications of pregnancy due to smoking. Many patients have reported that their parents who smoked, died with lung cancer. A research study in Japan published last year revealed that women who were exposed to second-hand smoke regularly had higher incidences of breast and lung cancer. Pregnant women who smoke have a higher risk of miscarriage, low birth weight infant, premature labor, heavy vaginal bleeding and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Passive smoking is related to increased incidence of respiratory infections and asthma flareups in children and SIDS. Our tobacco cessation counselor recently spoke to intermediate students with asthma at Kalama School in Makawao. She discovered that 100% of these students had a smoker in the home! Smoking is now linked to increased incidence of cancers of the breast, cervix, lung, stomach and kidney; aneurysms of the brain and abdomen; early heart attacks and strokes; emphysema, chronic bronchitis, pneumonia and cataracts. There are an estimated 4,000 toxins per cigarette! Smoking is a stronger addiction than alcohol, heroin and cocaine. SB 2792 would erode workplace protection enacted by our Smoke-Free Hawaii Law! With all the overwhelming evidence of the deleterious effects of tobacco, we must not allow exceptions. Those who support this bill are placing economic gain above the health of their employees and patrons. Thank you for supporting the Smoke-Free Hawaii Law! Please do not allow any exceptions to this law!

Respectfully submitted,
Gail E. Holt, PA-C
Kaiser Permanente
80 Mahalani Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

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Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.19.19/1256 - Release Date: 2/2/2008 1:50 PM

HMSA



Blue Cross
Blue Shield
of Hawaii

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 11, 2008

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health

Re: SB 2792 – Relating to Smoking

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 2792 which would allow smoking in properly licensed establishments. HMSA opposes this measure.

HMSA is dedicated to providing Hawaii's community with the provision of quality, affordable health plans. Smoking and involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke are strongly associated with cancer-related illnesses, heart disease, respiratory disease, asthma and other debilitating and costly medical conditions. These diseases cause considerable personal and family suffering and directly contribute to the rising cost of health care.

We believe that the bill before you today would seriously erode the smoking ban which was passed in 2006. A study conducted in Helena, Montana after a smoking ban was implemented in that city, showed that the number of monthly admissions for acute myocardial infarction (AMI or heart attack) for people living in and outside Helena decreased significantly. HMSA data shows since the smoking ban has been in place, admissions of HMSA members for illnesses associated with smoking have decreased.

As such, we would respectfully request the Committee hold this measure and keep Hawaii's smoking ban in place.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Director, Government Relations

From: kawikc@aol.com

To: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Subject: Testimony for Senate Health Comm. hearing on Monday at 1:15--Sen. David Ige

Date: Sat, 9 Feb 2008 9:57 am

The British Medical Journal, James E. Enstrom--"Contrary to popular claims, there is NOT a causal relationship between ETS and mortality in the U.S. responsible for 50,000 excess annual deaths, but rather there is a weak and inconsistent relationship...the popular claims tend to damage the credibility of epidemiology.

Dr. Robert Madden, former president of the New York Cancer Society, writing in the New York Sun, on the Killer Dangers of SHS..."This data is scientifically weak and controversial, as well as probably flawed".

Anti Tobacco Activist, Dr. Michael Siegel..."We don't need the Surgeon General's distortion of the truth to help support smoking bans. In fact, the deception only hurts the anti-smoking cause...it makes those of us who support smoking bans look like liars and it casts all of what we say, even our conclusions about the effects of chronic exposure, into doubt"

Dr. Siegel again, in the Wall Street Journal, as per the deceptive and distorted numbers on the so called killer dangers of SHS..."I never received a membership card when I joined the anti-smoking movement, but if I had, today is the day I'd be sending it back. These are not the ethical standards with which I would like to be associated".

Finally, The German Parliament, Science Department Division---"THERE IS NO VALID PROOF TO FATALITIES CAUSED BY S.H.S."

My friends, for centuries, the world was believed to be flat. For decades now SHS has been believed to be a deadly killer. It took over 100 years for the church and the scientific establishment to stop executing and excommunicating those who believed the earth to be round. In the light of volumes of new enlightening information brought to the forefront over the last few years as per the NON killer dangers of SHS, let's hope that it does not take decades more to accept the TRUTH. SHS is NOT the killer it has been propagandized to be.

Mr. Ige, we thank you for doing what it took to hear this bill today...and we understand your responsibility as members of the Health committee, BUT we also expect you to understand the economic side of this issue, how it has negatively affected thousands of people, jobs, businesses, and tourism. Sam and Ann Kekaula, owners of the world famous Sam's Hideaway in Kona, have been here at the Capitol three times over the last month, pleading their case with 19 lawmakers as per the tens of thousands of dollars lost since the ban. And then our opposition publicly denounces the Kekaula's story, insinuating that they are dishonest liars, saying they are "blowing smoke". How dare they be so cold, arrogant, and callous to the struggles of a small business owner drastically affected by their pitiful agenda...just who is telling the truth...i believe everyone would agree that is a relatively easy answer.

I close with this. Our websites have exploded with statewide support in the last few months, with our constituency number at just over 40,000. Our goal to hit 60,000 Hawaii Smoker Voters by November is now highly achievable. We will make impact at the next election. But we can all avoid a November Showdown with this bill before you today. It's a Win-Win for all parties. Organ Donorship rates in Hawaii are pitifully low...we need to change that with a longrange plan to increase organ donorship throughout the state and the world. 75,000 people die every year on the dreaded waiting list...Hawaii can become the beacon of change for the rest of the nation to follow. The monies for the smoking exemption fees collected every year will go towards a public awarness campaign to achieve this worthy goal. The bill will provide relief for the many businesses affected by the ban...it will help to bring back the Japanese tourist who by the droves are seeking other more friendly destinations, and the bill will save lives here in Hawaii, possibly someday even providing that one crucial life saving organ for one of us in this room.

I thank you all for your time and consideration.

Submitted By :
Kawika Crowley

More new features than ever. Check out the new [AOL Mail!](#)

HAWAII SMOKERS ALLIANCE

Kanoë Kamañao

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com on behalf of Lawrence Gambone [lgambone@boh.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 4:02 PM
To: Sen. David Ige
Subject: NO on SB 2792 - Smokefree Hawai'i Is Working

Dear Senator David Ige:

I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 2792.

Our statewide smoke-free law is working. Businesses are doing well and we are already seeing the evidence of healthier workers.

In January, Paul Ho, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I., Chief-Division of Cardiology at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Honolulu, reported on a study at a legislative briefing.

Kaiser Permanente compared the first quarter of the year in 2006, before the smoke-free workplace law was passed, with the first quarter of 2007 after the law was passed and implemented, and found that acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) admission rates dropped by 30 percent at Kaiser Medical Center in Honolulu.

The smoke-free law is working!

I hope that you will listen to the strong majority in our state who support the current smoke-free law.

As other states around the U.S. and countries around the world are implementing smoke-free laws, I can't imagine Hawai'i going back to smoke-filled public places.

Please oppose SB 2792. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Gambone
3071 Pualei Cir Apt 202
Honolulu, HI 96815-4933

Kanoë Kamañao

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com on behalf of Les Ueoka [les.ueoka@hawaiiintel.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 4:05 PM
To: Sen. David Ige
Subject: NO on SB 2792 - Smokefree Hawai'i Is Working

Dear Senator David Ige:

I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 2792.

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I hope that you will listen to the strong majority in our state who support the current smoke-free law.

As other states around the U.S. and countries around the world are implementing smoke-free laws, I can't imagine Hawai'i going back to smoke-filled public places.

Please oppose SB 2792. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Les Ueoka
1177 Bishop Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2808

Kanoe Kamao

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com on behalf of Lori Kaneshige [l.kaneshige@kuakini.org]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 4:07 PM
To: Sen. David Ige
Subject: NO on SB 2792 - Smokefree Hawai'i Is Working

Dear Senator David Ige:

I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 2792.

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Please oppose SB 2792. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lori Kaneshige
3508 Harding Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816-2413

Kanoe Kamanao

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com on behalf of Michele Kapahua [michele.kapahua@heart.org]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 4:09 PM
To: Sen. David Ige
Subject: NO on SB 2792 - Smokefree Hawai'i Is Working

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I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 2792.

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The smoke-free law is working!

I hope that you will listen to the strong majority in our state who support the current smoke-free law.

As other states around the U.S. and countries around the world are implementing smoke-free laws, I can't imagine Hawai'i going back to smoke-filled public places.

Please oppose SB 2792. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michele Kapahua
677 Ala Moana Blvd
Ste 600
Honolulu, HI 96813-5485

Kanoë Kamañao

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com on behalf of Wesley Nanamori [w.nanamori@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 4:22 PM
To: Sen. David Ige
Subject: NO on SB 2792 - Smokefree Hawai'i Is Working

Dear Senator David Ige:

I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 2792.

Our statewide smoke-free law is working. Businesses are doing well and we are already seeing the evidence of healthier workers.

In January, Paul Ho, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I., Chief-Division of Cardiology at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Honolulu, reported on a study at a legislative briefing.

Kaiser Permanente compared the first quarter of the year in 2006, before the smoke-free workplace law was passed, with the first quarter of 2007 after the law was passed and implemented, and found that acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) admission rates dropped by 30 percent at Kaiser Medical Center in Honolulu.

The smoke-free law is working!

I hope that you will listen to the strong majority in our state who support the current smoke-free law.

As other states around the U.S. and countries around the world are implementing smoke-free laws, I can't imagine Hawai'i going back to smoke-filled public places.

Please oppose SB 2792. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wesley Nanamori
4043A Maunaloa Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816-4538

Kanoë Kamanao

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com on behalf of Deborah Green [dgreen@queens.org]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 4:26 PM
To: Sen. David Ige
Subject: NO on SB 2792 - Smokefree Hawai'i Is Working

Dear Senator David Ige:

I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 2792.

Our statewide smoke-free law is working. Businesses are doing well and we are already seeing the evidence of healthier workers.

In January, Paul Ho, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I., Chief-Division of Cardiology at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Honolulu, reported on a study at a legislative briefing.

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The smoke-free law is working!

I hope that you will listen to the strong majority in our state who support the current smoke-free law.

As other states around the U.S. and countries around the world are implementing smoke-free laws, I can't imagine Hawai'i going back to smoke-filled public places.

Please oppose SB 2792. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deborah Green
1301 Punchbowl Street
the Queen's Medical Center, Qet #5
Honolulu, HI 96813-2402

Kanoe Kamao

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com on behalf of Barbara Ferraro [gilandbarb@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 5:27 PM
To: Sen. David Ige
Subject: NO on SB 2792 - Smokefree Hawai'i Is Working

Dear Senator David Ige:

I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 2792.

Our statewide smoke-free law is working. Businesses are doing well and we are already seeing the evidence of healthier workers.

In January, Paul Ho, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I., Chief-Division of Cardiology at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Honolulu, reported on a study at a legislative briefing.

Kaiser Permanente compared the first quarter of the year in 2006, before the smoke-free workplace law was passed, with the first quarter of 2007 after the law was passed and implemented, and found that acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) admission rates dropped by 30 percent at Kaiser Medical Center in Honolulu.

The smoke-free law is working!

I hope that you will listen to the strong majority in our state who support the current smoke-free law.

As other states around the U.S. and countries around the world are implementing smoke-free laws, I can't imagine Hawai'i going back to smoke-filled public places.

Please oppose SB 2792. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Ferraro
15-682 Puni Mauka Loop S
Pahoa, HI 96778-9551

testimony

From: Barbara A. Hastings [bah@hastingsandpleadwell.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 7:23 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Oppose Regressive SB 2792

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
Aloha. Please oppose SB 2792.

Remember that the law was passed as a workers protection law. We wouldn't allow just certain workers in certain kinds of factories, to work in asbestos-ridden conditions. Why would we allow that for the bartender or serving staff of a bar, lounge or restaurant?

Besides, there is evidence all over the place to support smoke-free places?people like them; it rarely if ever causes economic downturn.

Avoid pressure from minority groups, look at the survey results and experiences of places literally across the globe, and realize you are doing the right thing to kill this bill.

Mahalo,

Barbara A. Hastings
1109 Bethel St., Ste. 410
Honolulu, HI 96813

testimony

From: John Grove [jgrove@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 7:48 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

Smoking tobacco is a major cause of the leading causes of chronic disease and mortality, such as heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, stomach cancer, colorectal cancer, and emphysema. People who are exposed to second hand smoke are also at elevated risk, even though they did not want to be exposed.

Why should customers or restaurant workers have their health endangered because of the addiction of smokers? We might well feel sorry for addicts, but that does not mean that we should endanger ourselves through second hand smoke in public places. It is sad enough that people harm themselves by smoking cigarettes, but why should the rest of humanity also be put at risk?

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

John Grove
2751 Kapiolani Blvd. Apt. 406
Honolulu, HI 96826

956-5742

testimony

From: Anjj Lee [anjj@anjlee.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 6:04 PM
To: testimony
Cc: Rep. Lynn Finnegan; Sen. Norman Sakamoto; Sen. Donna Mercado Kim; Rep. K. Mark Takai
Subject: TESTIMONY: I am in strong opposition to SB 2792

Attachments: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking.doc

Dear Legislators, Please keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. Be wary of attempts by few who weaken and confuse the law. Thank you. angela elbern.

Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking
Committee on Health; Monday February 11, 2008; 1:15pm Room 016
testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov



Testimony in Strong
Opposition...

Dear Honorable Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

Here's why:

1. smoke and 2nd hand smoke IS harmful to everyone's health and having exceptions to the Hawaii-smoke-free law, as this bill is trying to get, will be harmful to people's health
There is no excusable reason to expose our workers and the public to secondhand smoke. Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.
2. one person's rights should end where another's begins (example: noise violations, health violations)
Smokers are inadvertently harming and killing themselves and other non smokers around them. Secondhand smoke is a known *cause* of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight.
Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.
3. I am a musician working in these environments. I have had to expose myself to uncomfortable situations in order to make a living but it is soooooo much easier to sing and play since the Hawaii-smoke-free law has been enacted. I used to cough while I was singing and leave the venue during breaks just to breathe and catch my breath. The smoke made it so difficult to sing, I lost my high range on many nights, developed nausea when the smoke cloud was like a curtain I would peer through and the next morning, all morning would be a hack-a-thon, as if I had been smoking, myself. I am a non-smoker, but I wouldn't doubt that something shows up in my lungs later on in life.
Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Please please please do not let this bill slip by, oppose it by any means possible. It will open up a floodgate of possibilities for exceptions and all the efforts to make Hawaii's establishments and public places smoke-free will have been in vain.
4. I know that Bartenders and waitresses have complained about the smoky environments and the general disregard of patrons who literally "blow smoke in their faces" even as a joke, sometimes.
Enforcement of the Hawaii-Smoke-Free law is still in its infancy. The very people who are asking for this hearing are disregarding the current laws. And I have not seen any policemen

enforcing this law. I ask you to visit these opposer's venues on ANY night. They (bar owners who disregard the law) post a sign by the entrance that states smoking is not permitted by law, but yet, they are serving ashtrays in the venue, musicians still sing in a smoky mist, bartenders and waitresses empty and replenish these ashtrays and no one is saying anything because no one wants to lose their job or get blacklisted.

In fact, one of the opposers of the smoke-free law was a bar owner that I really like. He gave me my start as a musician. I was so thrilled to play there, that I took the smoky environment as a small sacrifice to fulfill my dreams. By writing in opposition to this bill I will probably lose a good venue to play at in the future. Most musicians will not speak out about issues like these because in the music world, it's all about who you know and who your friends are. I really like this bar owner as a person, but this is such an important matter that I am speaking out even though there may be repercussions to my career.

5. selling a license to select bars for smoking permits would open a can of worms that the city can't afford to pay for

- it will be similar to the ridiculous law that tried to regulate smoking in covered / non covered venues (there was an amazing calculation done by a mathematician that would govern and enforce which venues could have smoking and which couldn't

- it will generate complaints by folks who are expecting a venue to be smoke free and come to find out that it's not, exceptions to the rule will end up in more laws governing these permits and cause more headache for everyone, law-makers included

- the liquor commission may get more fees for the state, but it will cost more to regulate, and the city could make more money by just making law breakers of the Hawaii-smoke-free law pay the fines they should have been paying for a year now. They have not stopped smoking in their venues by any means. (That would be a great assignment for freshly graduated policemen who patrol Waikiki and are assigned with "light" crime like making sure people don't violate parking laws.)

6. Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

More people who normally wouldn't go out, do go out because they enjoy going to venues that are enjoyable to be at and are smoke-free.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step backwards.

It is critical that we keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong, especially now, in light of a few outspoken individuals who disregard the public's right to breathe. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment. But there is still so much work to do.

7. Opposers of the law are clearly motivated by the profitability of tobacco - it doesn't matter that they sell products that are proven killers. Bar owners/restaurant owners may claim that they are losing money....but I assure you they are not. They are thriving. Even venues that are abiding by the law are thriving because people that didn't go out before are going out more often now that they can breathe.

Tobacco companies are making desperate efforts to weaken these laws especially since smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending. They are losing a bigger and bigger market share, and they are trying everything they can to prevent healthy progress.

Hawaii is seen by the world as a "healthy" place to be. People come from around the world to "enjoy" a peaceful, relaxing atmosphere. Smoke free laws don't impede on a person's right to smoke, they can still smoke in many areas, and in private areas. The good news is that it makes smokers aware that what they are doing is

harmful to others around them and they in turn will be more considerate.

Dear lawmakers, Please keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong, and do not pass **SB 2792**, it is critical, especially now, in light of a few outspoken individuals who disregard the public's right to breathe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Elbern
Musician known as "anj lee"

www.anjlee.com <<http://www.anjlee.com>>

www.myspace.com/anjlee <<http://www.myspace.com/anjlee>>

www.myspace.com/maxxeffexanjlee <<http://www.myspace.com/maxxeffexanjlee>>

Aloha, anj! :)

<http://www.anjlee.com> (for music)

<http://www.myspace.com/anjlee> (schedule, bio, videos or be my friend :)

<http://www.myspace.com/maxxeffexanjlee> (new hip hop-Dance Hall Reggae site)

<http://www.anjleephography.com> (to view/purchase photos)

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Checked by AVG Free Edition.

Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.19.21/1266 - Release Date: 2/8/2008 10:06 AM

testimony

From: Charles Chelliah [cbonneval@mac.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 8:23 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back. Do not, for the sake of corporate contributions forsake what is right and the best for the health and safety of our kupuna & keiki and the rest of us.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Charles Chelliah
47-417 C Kapehe Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

808-239-4905

testimony

From: Lila Parong [lilapsalm100@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 8:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

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Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,
Lila Parong
Maxi Parong
Jaci Parong
Alora Pacheco
Grace Pacheco
Charles Pacheco
Kahea Cran
Tealia Cran
Christabel Abobo
Kyra Yamada
Shyanne Parong
Shayden Durante

Lila Parong
800 Komomala Dr.
Hilo, HI 96720

testimony

From: Kerri Okamura [kerri.okamura@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 8:30 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

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Sincerely,

Kerri Okamura
344 Kipuni Street
Hilo, HI 96720

testimony

From: Hannah Hedrick [hedrickhneca@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 8:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

Thank you for this opportunity to express my strong opposition to SB 2792.

I am a long-time "smoke free advocate," having worked during the 1980s and early 1990s with Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, MD, and former surgeon generals to spread the word about the devastating dangers of exposure to tobacco products. A decade of advocating for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which affects an estimated 28,000,000 people (only about half know they have COPD), increased my commitment to protecting people with impaired lung function from the dangers of second-hand and residual smoke.

Worldwide, the entire countries of Ireland, Italy, England, Norway, Sweden, New Zealand, Uganda, Malta, Uruguay, Peru, and Bhutan have enacted smoke free workplace legislation that includes restaurants and bars. The State of Hawai'i now has an opportunity to restate its commitment to providing people who work in bars and restaurants with the same right as workers in other public places to breathe smoke free air.

Mayor Kim, who testified 5 years ago in favor of exempting stand-alone bars from the Hawai'i Island ordinance, has since acknowledged that all employees in public places deserve protection from secondhand smoke. Permitting smoking in bars would imply that bar workers are second-class citizen, unworthy of the protection provided to all other residents.

Hawai'i residents have repeatedly stated a preference for smoke free public places. At its first committee hearing on Bill 224 on February 5, 2008, the Hawai'i County Council received almost unanimous support and voted 8 to 1 to make County beaches tobacco free. Only one Council person called for designated smoking places, citing concern for the safety of smokers who might endanger themselves trying to sneak a cigarette.

Please don't allow a small group of vocal individuals, most of whom are unfortunately addicted to nicotine or who fear personal financial losses, to put Hawai'i in the unfortunate position of ignoring public health and equity issues. More evidence emerges daily about the negative health, environmental, and economic impact of second hand and residual smoke.

You may also receive testimony supporting SB 2792 from people who claim that smoke free legislation violates human rights. But the right to breathe clean air trumps the rights of people to pollute shared space with tobacco smoke.

I urge you to fulfill your oath to promote public health by retaining restrictions that reduce exposure to the known hazards of secondhand smoke and by refusing to exempt certain businesses or permit designated smoking areas. This form of "segregation" was not effective; smoke cannot be legislated to stay in one area.

Coordinator, Patient / Family Advisory Council Hannah Hedrick Coordinator, Patient /
Family Advisory Council PO Box 298
11-2338 Kokokahi
Mountain View, HI 96771

808-968-7013

testimony

From: Kathleen Ezaki [kathy.ezaki@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 8:52 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,
Kathleen M. Ezaki

Kathleen Ezaki
227 Nakoia Dr
WAILUKU, HI 96793

8082440227

testimony

From: Maynard Higgins Jr [kuitalia1@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 9:48 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Sincerely,

Maynard Higgins Jr
1137-B Davenport Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

372-415

Kanoë Kamañao

From: advocacy@mylegislators.com on behalf of Marilyn Gagen [MGAGEN@GMAIL.COM]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 5:49 PM
To: Sen. David Ige
Subject: NO on SB 2792 - Smokefree Hawai'i Is Working

Dear Senator David Ige:

I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 2792.

Our statewide smoke-free law is working. Businesses are doing well and we are already seeing the evidence of healthier workers.

In January, Paul Ho, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I., Chief-Division of Cardiology at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Honolulu, reported on a study at a legislative briefing.

Kaiser Permanente compared the first quarter of the year in 2006, before the smoke-free workplace law was passed, with the first quarter of 2007 after the law was passed and implemented, and found that acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) admission rates dropped by 30 percent at Kaiser Medical Center in Honolulu.

The smoke-free law is working!

I hope that you will listen to the strong majority in our state who support the current smoke-free law.

As other states around the U.S. and countries around the world are implementing smoke-free laws, I can't imagine Hawai'i going back to smoke-filled public places.

Please oppose SB 2792. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Gagen
41-926 Laumilo St
Waimanalo, HI 96795-1656

testimony

From: Michael Polzin [mpolzin@maunakearesort.net]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 7:00 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Michael Polzin
62-100 Kauna'oa Drive
64-5228 Ironwood Lane
Kohala Coast, HI 96743

testimony

From: Carol Kotsubo [carolk@kapiolani.org]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 7:13 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

When I go out to eat, I don't need to worry about how close I will have to sit to the smoking area. The entire restaurant is smoke free and healthy.

My mother has severe allergies to tobacco smoke. It leads to asthma attacks. She was almost to the point where she could not go into any restaurant. Now we don't need to think twice before taking her out to eat.

I work as a nurse with young children and always counsel parents to avoid tobacco smoke for the health of the children. The health of all children would be jeopardized by passage of this bill.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Do not let a few people make changes that affect the lives and health of all. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places.
Sincerely,

Carol Kotsubo
2970 Laelae Way
Honolulu, HI 96819

testimony

From: AVELINA PONCE [APONCE@HAWAIIANTEL.BIZ]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 8:56 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

AVELINA PONCE
GENERAL DELIVERY
KAUNAKAKAI, HI 96748

testimony

From: Beryl McClerren [bmcclerren@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 9:15 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back and make Hawaii the laughing stock of the nation and the world.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

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Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one. Study after study have proven that the long term economic effect on restaurants and bars is either null or positive. Funny how the only legislators who have a problem with the law are those who smoke and the only bar owners who claim to be losing money are the scabbers who allow smoking and smoke themselves in their bars. Perhaps if they obeyed the law, their business would improve.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Beryl McClerren
#5 Hookui Rd.
Kilauea, HI 96754

testimony

From: Janice Bond [janbond@hawaiiink.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 10:19 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Sincerely,

Janice Bond
3920 Hunakai St
Lihue, HI 96766

8082460174

testimony

From: Donna Hepp [hepplyon@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 10:04 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

I am in strong opposition to SB 2792. I'm shocked that it is even under consideration!

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one. I am proud of this law and want it upheld.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill! And don't go backward instead of forward. You should be passing more laws against smoking anywhere in public including our beautiful beaches and parks! Don't take away the hard fought and won rights of all the NON-smokers in the state of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Donna Hepp

Donna Hepp
P.O. Box 12184
Lahaina, HI 96761

testimony

From: Mona Maehara [mmaehara@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 1:41 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Sincerely,
Steve Mason

Mona Maehara
4300 Waiialae Avenue
#1403
Honolulu, HI 96816

testimony

From: Holt Family [cholt@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2003 4:02 AM
To: testimony
Subject: FW: Medical Watch: Intimate Partner Violence May Lead To Chronic Health Problems

To our honorable members of the Senate Health Committee:

Please see article entitled, "World Health Organization says one billion may die by 2100 due to tobacco". Please do not pass bill SB 2792! Do not permit exceptions to our great Smoke-Free Hawaii Law!

Respectfully submitted,
 Gail Holt PA-C
 Women's Health Care Provider with Kaiser Permanente, Wailuku Clinic, Wailuku, HI


-----Original Message-----

From: AAPA Member Services [mailto:MedicalWatch@aapa.custombriefings.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 2:59 AM
To: cholt@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Medical Watch: Intimate Partner Violence May Lead To Chronic Health Problems

If you are unable to see the message below, [click here to view](#).

Prepared exclusively for
members of

MEDICAL WATCH



In affiliation with
U.S. News WORLD REPORT

Today's Medical News From Newspapers, TV, Radio and the Journals.

Customized Briefing for GailAnn Holt

February 8, 2008

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[Healthcare technology](#)

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Leading the news

CDC survey indicates intimate partner violence may lead to chronic health problems.

Advertisement

Reuters (2/8, Dunham) reports that a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) survey indicates that approximately "a quarter of U.S. women suffer domestic violence," and a number "of these women have other long-term health risks," according to the Feb. 8 issue of the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. Rita Smith, of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, said that the survey "confirms...that living in a dangerous and stressful environment has long-term health impacts," because "[i]t's like living in a war zone." The CDC said 23.6 percent of women and 11.5 percent of men reported being a victim of what is called 'intimate partner violence' at some time in their lives." The agency defines intimate partner violence "as threatened, attempted or completed physical or sexual violence or emotional abuse by a spouse, former spouse, current or former boyfriend or girlfriend or a dating partner."

Females who had such experiences "were 70 percent more likely to have asthma, 40 percent more likely to have heart disease, and 26 percent more likely to have arthritis, compared with women without a history of abuse," adds Bloomberg (2/8, Randall). After surveying "70,156 people in 16 states" who took part in the 2005 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the researchers also found that "[b]oth men and women who had been abused also were more likely to smoke, binge drink, and engage in sexual activities

such as prostitution or sex without a condom."

But the survey also indicates "that the prevalence of intimate partner violence was significantly higher among women than men," notes HealthDay (2/8, Reinberg). Specifically, "it was more common among multiracial, non-Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska native women, and among women with low incomes." Intimate partner violence, however, "does appear to be on the decline overall, according to U.S. Department of Justice figures." The rate of intimate partner violence in 1993 "was 9.8 per 1,000 women, and 1.6 per 1,000 men." By "2005, both rates dropped, to 3.6 per 1,000 women and 0.9 per 1,000 men."

WebMD (2/8, DeNoon) reports that Peter Sherman, M.D., from New York's Montefiore Medical Center, attributes the declining figures to the fact that "[l]aws have been changed to make it easier to get a response from police, and in many areas, there are more resources ranging from domestic violence services to hotlines and shelters." Still, Sherman said, "if this were an infectious disease, we would have a treatment center in every neighborhood." Sherman added, "There is a huge disconnect between the prevalence of domestic violence, and what is done in the health system."

From the American Academy of Physician Assistants

Next NPI Deadline: March 1

Beginning March 1, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will require health care professionals to include their National Provider Identifier (NPI) in the primary fields (billing, pay-to, and rendering fields) on Medicare Fee-for-Service 837P and CMS-1500 claims. Legacy numbers, in addition to the NPI, will be accepted until May 22. Visit the [CMS Web site](#) for more information on NPI implementation.

Look to Your Professional Association - AAPA - For The Latest Information Affecting Your Ability to Practice

Clinical practice

Research suggests protein may induce cell apoptosis at first sign of melanoma.


The U.K.'s Guardian (2/8, Jha) reports that researchers at the University of Massachusetts say that a protein called insulin-like growth factor binding protein 7 (IGFBP7) "seems to help melanocytes decide what to become, inducing them to enter a programmed hibernation or kill themselves at the first signs of becoming cancerous," according to results appearing in the journal *Cell*. Approximately "70 percent of melanomas are partly caused by mutations in a gene called BRAF." However, "this variant also occurs in benign moles -- though why a melanocyte turns into these as opposed to melanomas has been a mystery until now."

During the study, the research team "identified seventeen genes that were needed by the BRAF protein to cause cell suicide," but they also discovered the "secreted protein" -- IGFBP7, adds Canada's CBC News (2/8). They noted that IGFBP7 "seemed to be released when a melanocyte began expressing BRAF." After the team exposed the protein to rodent melanoma cells, "the growth of their tumor cells was halted."

According to HealthDay (2/8, Preidt), "[i]f this IGFBP7 protein can be produced and delivered to tumors, it may prove effective as a targeted treatment for metastatic melanoma, which is currently untreatable."

Protein that regulates gene transcription may play role in tumor suppression, study suggests. The UPI (2/8) reports that researchers at the Burnham Institute for Medical Research "have discovered a specific gene can suppress skin cancer development," according to a paper appearing in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The research team "found genetic evidence that Activating Transcription Factor 2, or ATF2 -- a protein that regulates gene transcription -- responds to extracellular stresses, such as ultraviolet light and ionizing radiation."

Study suggests gene linked to



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U.S. News & World Report

Advertisement

inflammatory arthritis may boost cardiovascular risks.

HealthDay (2/8, Preidt) reports that HLA-DRB1, a "gene...that's associated with an increased risk of developing inflammatory arthritis," might "also increase the chances of premature death from cardiovascular disease (CVD)," according to a study published in the February issue of *Arthritis & Rheumatism*. Dr. Tracey M. Farragher at the University of Manchester and researchers "looked at 1,022 people with inflammatory polyarthritis, including 751 people with rheumatoid arthritis." Nearly one-quarter of the patients died during the study, "and CVD was the cause of death in 76 (31.4 percent) of those patients." The researchers "found evidence that implicates HLA-DRB1 genotypes...as a predictor of premature death from CVD in patients with inflammatory arthritis."



Environmental toxins may be linked to early onset of puberty, study suggests.

The UPI (2/8) reports that Italian researchers "suggest environmental toxins may be linked to areas where girls have a high incidence of early puberty," according to a paper detailed in the journal *Pediatrics*. After studying participants affected by the onset of early puberty, the team found that the girls had "elevated levels of" mycoestrogen zearalenone, or ZEA, which is "produced by the *Fusarium* fungus species." ZEA "has properties similar to the female reproductive hormone estrogen, and is structurally similar to anabolic growth agents used in animal breeding."

ACOG releases recommendations for managing asthma during pregnancy.

Medscape (2/8, Barclay) reports that the "American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has issued a practice bulletin for management of asthma during pregnancy." According to the new recommendations appearing in the February issue of *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, "[d]uring pregnancy, the main goal of asthma treatment is to maintain sufficient oxygenation of the fetus by preventing hypoxic episodes in the mother." ACOG advises pregnant women with asthma to use "inhaled albuterol," but for patients who suffer from persistent asthma, the organization recommends "inhaled corticosteroids" like budesonide. The bulletin's authors note that "[i]n general, only small amounts of asthma medications enter breast milk," therefore the "use of prednisone, theophylline, antihistamines, inhaled corticosteroids, beta2-agonists, and cromolyn is...not contraindicated." ACOG also says that "[a]sthma self-management" is critical because "[s]evere and poorly controlled asthma may be associated with increased prematurity, need for cesarean delivery, preeclampsia, growth restriction, other perinatal complications, and maternal morbidity and mortality."

Study suggests *Lactobacillus* may decrease HIV load in vaginal tract.

Medscape /Reuters (2/7, Mitchell) reported that researchers at the University of Seattle said that "*Lactobacillus*, a key regulator of the vaginal ecosystem, also significantly reduces HIV-1 load in the vaginal tract, either directly or by suppression of pathogenic bacteria." At study start, "31 women were on antiretroviral regimens, and 22 had undetectable plasma HIV RNA." But after evaluating the "change in cervicovaginal HIV RNA," the team found that the "[a]cquisition of hydrogen peroxide-producing *Lactobacillus* correlated with a...decrease in cervicovaginal HIV RNA levels, while the loss of hydrogen peroxide-producing *Lactobacillus* correlated with a[n] ...increase in cervicovaginal HIV RNA."

Researchers may have identified unrecognized abnormalities associated with Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome.

MedPage Today (2/8, Bankhead) reports that researchers at the National Human Genome Institute say that a "detailed phenotypic evaluation of patients with the rare Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome has revealed previously unrecognized abnormalities that could provide insights into the normal aging process," according to a study appearing in the Feb. 7 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. These newly documented abnormalities included "prolonged prothrombin times, elevated platelet counts and serum phosphorus, reduced range of motion, hearing loss, and functional oral deficits." For the

study, the research team "identified and described clinical characteristics of 15 children with Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome, about half the world's known population of affected patients." The team found "molecular overlap between the syndrome and normal aging and fibroblasts from an older person contain more progerin than fibroblasts from a younger person."

Early antibiotic course may curtail onset of pneumonia in patients with ventilator-associated tracheobronchitis, study suggests.

MedPage Today (2/8, Phend) reports that according to findings detailed at the Society of Critical Care Medicine meeting, researchers at France's Calmette Hospital found that "[t]reating ventilator-associated tracheobronchitis in the ICU before it progresses to pneumonia may improve outcomes." For eight days, the researchers administered "intravenous antibiotics" to 22 patients who were diagnosed with "first-episode ventilator-associated tracheobronchitis (fever, purulent sputum, and positive endotracheal aspirate culture, but no new radiographic infiltrate)." The trial's 36 other participants "receive[d] no antibiotics." The team found that the "duration of mechanical ventilation overall was similar between groups," however, "the number of days alive without mechanical ventilation was substantially greater with antibiotic treatment." Additionally, "the ICU mortality rate was substantially reduced by" the antibiotic therapy, and "[a]ntibiotic-treated patients were also more than three times less likely to go on to develop ventilator-associated pneumonia."

Advertisement



Healthcare technology

Analysis suggests acupuncture may improve IVF outcomes.

The AP (2/8, Marchione) reports that according to findings published in today's issue of *BMJ*, "acupuncture might improve the odds of conceiving if done right before or after embryos are placed in the womb." Lead author Eric Manheimer, M.S., a researcher at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and colleagues, conducted a meta-analysis of "results from seven studies on 1,366 women in the United States, Germany, Australia, and Denmark who are having in vitro fertilization, or IVF." Participants "were randomly assigned to receive IVF alone, IVF with acupuncture within a day of embryo transfer, or IVF plus sham acupuncture, in which needles were placed too shallowly, or in spots not thought to matter." The researchers found that "three of the studies found acupuncture beneficial," another "three found a trend toward benefit, and one found no benefit."

By combining the study results, the researchers found "a 65 percent increase in pregnancy, and an 87 percent increase in the continuity of the pregnancy," AHN (2/8, Duerme) adds. The results also showed a "ninety-one percent increase" in live births.

The analysis indicated that "in studies where pregnancy rates were high, the benefit of acupuncture was small and non-significant," HealthDay (2/8, Reinberg) reports. Manheimer noted that while "[a]cupuncture may be useful adjuvant treatment in the IVF process," he believes "there needs to be more studies to confirm these findings, because they are still preliminary."

Legislative news

Kentucky House committee passes bill requiring HPV vaccinations.

Kentucky's Louisville Courier-Journal (2/8, Ungar) reports that the state's House committee "approved legislation to require girls to be vaccinated against a sexually transmitted virus that causes most cervical cancer." Sponsored by state Rep. David Watkins (D-Henderson), the bill "would allow parents to opt out on behalf of their daughters by signing a 'refusal to vaccinate' statement." The Courier-Journal notes that "[s]imilar legislation passed the House last year, but died in the

Senate."

Access to healthcare

Florida's percentage of uninsured children higher than national figure, study indicates.

The Orlando Business Journal (2/8, Bandell) reports that according to a study conducted by the University of Florida's Institute for Child Health Policy, the "percentage of uninsured children in Florida is increasing, even though most of them are eligible for government health coverage programs." Moreover, approximately "62 percent of the uninsured children in Florida haven't had coverage for more than a year." The study also revealed that "12.6 percent, or 547,984, of the children under 18 in Florida are uninsured," compared to the national figures, which indicate that "10.5 percent of children are uninsured." Specifically, "eight percent of non-Hispanic white children, 19 percent of Hispanic children and 22 percent of black children are uninsured in Florida," and many "uninsured children live with at least one working parent, but they have low income."

Pharmaceutical news

House committee continues to probe advertisements for cholesterol drug.

Advertisement

The New York Times (2/8, C3, Saul) reports that the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, which is "investigating the Lipitor (atorvastatin) advertising campaign featuring Dr. Robert Jarvik, wants information about payments to people who might have served as stunt doubles for the doctor in televised ads." On Thursday, letters from Reps. John Dingell (D-Mich.) and Bart Stupak (D-Mich.) were mailed to "nine advertising firms thought to be involved in Dr. Jarvik's advertising campaign for" the drug. The letters said that the aforementioned committee and its "subcommittee on oversight and investigations were investigating 'false and misleading statements and the use of celebrity endorsements of prescription medications in direct-to-consumer advertising.'" The Times notes that it had reported earlier this week that "Dr. Jarvik does not row and that a Seattle rowing enthusiast and professional photographer...had served as a stunt double in" one ad for the drug.

According to an article on the ABC News (2/7, Owens, et al.) website, "a contract uncovered in the probe has revealed Jarvik was guaranteed \$1.35 million for appearing in the advertisements." The Wall Street Journal's (2/7, Goldstein) Health Blog also covered the story.

Also in the news

WHO says one billion may die by 2100 due to tobacco.

The New York Times (2/8, A6, McNeil, Jr.) reports that "[t]obacco could kill up to a billion people during the 21st century, as cigarette sales soar in poor and middle-income countries even as they drop in wealthier ones," according to a report issued Thursday by the World Health Organization (WHO). New York City mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's (I) foundation financed the study, which "suggests a six-point program for fighting the tobacco industry's influence." The recommended strategies include "raising cigarette taxes, banning smoking in public places, enforcing laws against giving or advertising tobacco to children, monitoring tobacco use, warning people about the dangers, and offering free or inexpensive help to smokers trying to quit."

According to the Washington Post (2/8, A15, Brown), the study "provides the first comprehensive look at tobacco use, as well as smoking control and taxation policies, in 179 countries." The investigators concluded that "[t]obacco use is a risk factor for six of

the world's eight leading causes of death, and causes about one in every 10 deaths of adults now." If current trends continue, the "toll is expected to rise steeply as tobacco companies target new customers, particularly women, in low-income countries, WHO officials said."

The Wall Street Journal (2/8, B4, McKay) reports that the study "represents the WHO's toughest stance in the fight against tobacco." Currently, the WHO "has an antitobacco treaty that requires 152 participating countries to restrict tobacco advertising, impose tax increases on cigarettes, and smoking bans." Furthermore, the "treaty also encourages countries to explore litigation against tobacco firms." The agency "hopes that governments can replicate at least some of the success Mr. Bloomberg has had in New York City with a tough and highly publicized campaign against tobacco." Mr. Bloomberg's campaign "has included bans on smoking in restaurants and workplaces, tax increases on cigarettes, antitobacco advertising, and other measures."

The UPI (2/8) points out that the American Cancer Society says that it "strongly supports" the WHO's stance on tobacco, since the drug "is the leading cause of preventable death in the world, killing an average of one person every six seconds." The AP (2/8, Lederer), Bloomberg (2/8, Goldman, Varner), Time (2/7, Sharples), HealthDay (2/8), and WebMD (2/8, Hitti) also covered the story.

Editor's Note

An item in yesterday's edition of Medical Watch mischaracterized changes in University of College programs as affecting PAs. The changes affect nurse practitioners and other nursing professionals. We apologize for the error.

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12021 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 110 Reston, Virginia, 20190

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

FROM: **Derek Akimoto**

RE: **SB 2792 RELATING TO SMOKING**

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is Derek Akimoto, and I am a volunteer advocate and supporter of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific. I would like to voice my opposition to SB 2792 which would weaken Hawaii's comprehensive smoke free law.

I strongly supported passage of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law and have personally seen the positive impact that it has had on my family and community. Lung cancer remains the number one cancer killer in the United States and in the State of Hawaii where approximately 440 residents die of lung cancer every year. Not surprisingly, second-hand smoke causes the same diseases that smoking does. Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke will ultimately reduce the incidence of lung cancer and the pain and suffering cause by this disease.

The Smoke-free law is one of the best public health measures to pass in Hawaii. I am proud that our legislature has chosen to protect workers and the public from the illnesses caused by secondhand smoke. Our state is smoke-free and even cleaner and more beautiful than ever. Please remember the workers, families and cancer survivors who count on you to protect the public health. I respectfully request that you do not pass SB 2792 out of your committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Derek Akimoto

testimony

From: Clyde Kawakami [clydekk@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 3:55 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Clyde Kawakami
3077 Wailani Road
Honolulu, HI 96813

8085376803

testimony

From: Lisa Maddock [biedy143@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 10:10 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

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Sincerely,

Lisa Maddock
120 Kaelelohi Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96821

testimony

From: Gregory Morris [cadm7@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 6:34 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Gregory Morris
2831 Kalawao St
Honolulu, HI 96822

testimony

From: Charles Hess [chichess@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 7:14 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Sincerely,

Charles Hess
665 N. Kalaheo Ave.
Kailua, HI 96734

testimony

From: Aaron Koseki [akoseki@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 7:27 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Sincerely,

Aaron Koseki
5315 Manauwea Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

testimony

From: John Ambagis [jambagis@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 8:08 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

After 40 years of smoking I contracted C.O.P.D. and now use an inhaler every day. I t will probably kill me someday. Please don't allow this to happen to our next generation

Sincerely, John Ambagis
Volcano, Hi.

John Ambagis
p.o.box 42
Volcano, HI 96785

testimony

From: Camille Chong [ccnal@hotmai.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 8:04 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Camille Chong
1617 Young St., A101
Honolulu, HI 96826

testimony

From: Stacy Haumea [stacytay@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 6:11 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living. My daughter has asthma and smoke bothers her lungs. It is bad enough that we have to walk through the smoking area to get into buildings, PLEASE do not bring the smoke back inside closed spaces.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work. I have seen more people quit smoking as it seems harder to just light up where they are eating.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks. My grandfather died from emphysema and it was not pretty.

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Sincerely,

Registered Dietitian Stacy Haumea
Registered Dietitian
P. O. Box 4182
P.O. Box 4182
Hilo, HI 96720

982-6508

testimony

From: Joan Loke [catnap@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 10:38 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Sincerely,

Joan Loke
5090 Likini St. #1103E
Honolulu, HI 96818

testimony

From: Leanne Logan [leannebeth54@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 10:01 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

I am writing about SB 2792, as I am very concerned about our public places going back to being smoky and dangerous for workers and all the rest of us. As a nurse who has worked with many patients dying from the effects of tobacco smoke (sometimes having not been smokers, but exposed to second hand smoke), I urge you to not roll back the current law, as I believe that doing so will cause great suffering for many.

Please keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong.

Thank you.

Leanne Logan
2916 Date St. #6E
Honolulu, HI 96816

testimony

From: Roxann Rowe [rowek001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 10:55 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Roxann Rowe
121 Pakalana St
Hilo, HI 96720

Ben Villaflor

From: jenny hausler [jenhausler@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 9:55 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony opposing SB 2792
Attachments: Oppose SB2792.doc

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair
DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016
FROM: **Jennifer (Jenny) Hausler**
RE: **OPPOSE SB 2792, RELATING TO SMOKING**

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer Hausler, and as a former smoker and former bar owner I understand the economic impact and social implications of SB 2792 and **oppose** this bill.

As a volunteer facilitator for the last 29 years in a support group Make Today Count, Inc. for cancer patients and the families and as a volunteer advocate and supporter of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific, I have seen how smoking has negatively impacted many, many families in Hawaii, including my own. My husband, also a former bar owner, now suffers one of the many consequences of smoking--Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (emphysema).

The Smoke-free Law is one of the best public health measures to pass in Hawaii. I am proud that our legislature has chosen to protect workers and the public from the illnesses caused by secondhand smoke. Our state is smoke-free and even cleaner and more beautiful than ever. Please remember the workers, families and cancer survivors who count on you to protect the public health. I respectfully request that you do not pass SB 2792 out of your committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Hausler
1429 Kuloko Street
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
Ph. 455 3242

Shed those extra pounds with MSN and The Biggest Loser! [Learn more.](#)

Ben Villaflor

From: Olga Geling [geling@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 9:47 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

I am in VERY STRONG OPPOSITION to SB 2792.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact of the law has on me and people I know.

I and many others STARTED TO GO OUT to bars and restaurants. In the past, we had AVOIDED going out BECAUSE OF THE SMOKE. But now we can go out, enjoy ourselves - and INCREASE revenues of those bars and outlets. For ex., this fall, we went out each game to watch our WARRIORS play and win. In the past, we had stayed at home because of the smoke.

Sincerely,

Olga Geling, Honolulu

Olga Geling
1960 East-West Road
Bio-Med D-104
Honolulu, HI 96822

956-0929

testimony

From: Tracie Yoshimoto [livetobaccofree@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 12:50 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not allow the selfish belliefs of a very few individuals impact peoples abilities to work in smoke free environments. Frankly I think it is outrageous that a few people think their rights to smoke while they eat or drink are greater than someones right to breathe fresh air and work in a safe environment. No one is telling these smokers they can't smoke, we are just asking that they smoke where others health and comfort won't be impacted.

Sincerely,

Donna Chalmers
Keaau, Hawaii

Sincerely,

Neighbor Island Coalition Coordinator Tracie Yoshimoto Neighbor Island Coalition
Coordinator
1097 Pukana St.
Hilo, HI 96720

808-896-1670

testimony

From: Paul Twelker [kambeachbums@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 12:58 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong (read vehement) opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant. MY WIFE IS A CANCER SURVIVOR AND CAN NOT TOLERATE SMOKE. I HAVE ASTHMA WHICH IS AGGRAVATED BY SMOKE. A SMOKEY RESTAURANT WILL MEAN WE CAN NOT EAT OUT.

We got our condo-resort to go smoke-free with eight smoking benches around the parking lot. What a difference that has made! We still have inconsiderate guests who believe they can pollute the air, but living there is much, much better. If you pass this bill, it will have far-reaching consequences.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment. And more pleasant resorts and condominiums as they expand the smoke-free environments.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,
Paul A. Twelker, Ed.D.
Professor Emeritus of Psychology

Paul Twelker
2695 South Kihei Road
#6-404
Kihei, HI 96753

808 270 4136

testimony

From: DELWYN CHING [anndel@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 12:28 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

DELWYN CHING
PO Box 23029
Honolulu, HI 96823

282-3074

testimony

From: Jante Azares [azares@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 1:20 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

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Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Jante Azares
7161 ania pono - wailua, kauai
P.O. Box 2138
Pahi, HI 96766

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

FROM: Judith Godwin

RE: **SB 2792 RELATING TO SMOKING**

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is Judith Godwin, and I am a volunteer advocate and supporter of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific. I would like to voice my opposition to SB 2792 which would weaken Hawaii's comprehensive smoke free law.

I strongly supported passage of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law and have personally seen the positive impact that it has had on my family and community. Lung cancer remains the number one cancer killer in the United States and in the State of Hawaii where approximately 440 residents die of lung cancer every year. Not surprisingly, second-hand smoke causes the same diseases that smoking does. Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke will ultimately reduce the incidence of lung cancer and the pain and suffering caused by this disease.

The Smoke-free law is one of the best public health measures to pass in Hawaii. I am proud that our legislature has chosen to protect workers and the public from the illnesses caused by secondhand smoke. Our state is smoke-free and even cleaner and more beautiful than ever. Please remember the workers, families and cancer survivors who count on you to protect the public health. I respectfully request that you do not pass SB 2792 out of your committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith Godwin

testimony

From: C. Lau [clau@ahfi.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 11:26 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am writing to voice my strong opposition to SB 2792.

Public places and workplaces should be smoke-free. I now patronize places that I never would have stepped in before because they were always filled with smoke.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. Many restaurant and bar workers are grateful not be exposed to secondhand smoke that put their health in danger. They should not have to choose between working and being healthy.

The World Health Organization just came out with sobering statistics about the damage tobacco is doing in Third World countries, especially to children and poor people. Those countries don't have Hawaii's enlightened laws to protect them.

Please help keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. Don't let a few people with narrow interests dictate that we in the general public must breathe their smoke and endanger our health. Smoking is not a victimless activity when it is done around non-smokers. Smokers are free to ruin their own health but they should not be free to kill others.

Thank you for keeping the smoke-free laws in place!

C. Lau
1001 Bishop
ASB Twr 18th floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

testimony

From: Susan Serrano [skherrano@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 1:55 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

As a person with asthma, I strongly urge you to keep Hawai'i's workplaces and public places smoke free. All of Hawai'i's people have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work.

Workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke, which leads to serious health risks. Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight.

We must keep Hawai'i's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Please do not roll back the law and put our health at risk.

Sincerely,

Susan Serrano
1212 Punahou St. #3603
Honolulu, HI 96826

956-6432

testimony

From: George Hieda [ghieda@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 2:38 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

George Hieda
3108 Kaloaluiki
Honolulu, HI 96822

8089884255

testimony

From: Abegail Kopf [kopf@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 8:56 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

I work at the hospital as a respiratory therapist and I see the devastating effects that smoking (first or second-hand) causes both to the patient and to the family members as well.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. I would like my children to grow up and breathe clean air.

Sincerely,

Abegail Kopf

Abegail Kopf
4303 Diamond Head Road
Honolulu, HI 96816

testimony

From: Tuis Taumua [ttaumua@wcchc.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 7:59 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on myself and family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Tusitala Taumua; CHW, Health Educator
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center
696-1528

Tuis Taumua
P.O.Box 1038
87-609 Manuu St.
Waianae, HI 96792

testimony

From: Samuel Evans [samevansmd@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 7:49 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

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Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Samuel Evans
46-348 Hololio st
Kaneohe, HI 96744



Monday, February 11, 2008

The Honorable David Ige, Chair

Senate Committee on Health

1:15 PM, Monday, February 11th, 2008

State Capitol, Room 016

RE: In Opposition to SB 2792, Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. My name is Tina Clothier, I am the Chief Staff Officer, Organization and Development, for the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to express the Society's opposition to SB 2792 which would weaken Hawaii's comprehensive smoke free law.

The American Cancer Society has over 2 million volunteers working to conquer cancer in over 3,400 community-based units nationwide. In addition to its cancer research, prevention, and control initiatives, the American Cancer Society's advocacy initiative strives to promote beneficial policies, laws and regulations for those affected by cancer. Passing and protecting smoke-free laws is a major nationwide priority for the American Cancer Society because of the indisputable dangers that secondhand smoke poses to public health.

This year approximately 650 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed in the State of Hawaii and 440 residents will die from this disease. Lung cancer is caused primarily from smoking and leads to more deaths every year in Hawaii than do breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers combined. In addition to the human pain and suffering associated with lung cancer, tobacco use costs the state over \$644 million in healthcare costs and lost productivity every year. Reducing the public's exposure to secondhand smoke will ultimately reduce the incidence of lung cancer and other diseases. In fact, secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death. As early as 1986 the Surgeon General's Report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Smoking*, concluded that exposure to secondhand smoke caused diseases, including lung cancer. In short, clean indoor laws have been a long-time coming and now that Hawaii is smoke-free we cannot allow a vocal minority to carve out exemptions to this important public health policy.

The vast majority of peer-reviewed studies demonstrate that smoke-free laws do not harm restaurant sales, negatively impact bar revenues, or reduce tourism¹. In fact, smoke-free laws save businesses money and are quickly becoming the norm across the nation and the world. We should strive to uphold Hawaii's global reputation as a clean, beautiful, healthy destination by remaining smoke-free.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Clothier

¹ Eriksen, Michael, Caloupka, Frank. The Economic Impact of Clean Indoor Air Laws, CA, A Cancer Journal for Physicians, 2007. American Cancer Society Hawai'i Pacific, Inc.

2370 Nu'uuanu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817-1714

●Phone: (808) 595-7500 ●Fax: (808) 595-7502 ●24-Hour Cancer Info: (800) 227-2345 ●<http://www.cancer.org>

testimony

From: Buffy Cushman-Patz [buffycushman@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 3:55 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking in Bars and Restaurants

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

One of my favorite things about living in Hawaii is that I never have to worry about breathing someone else's smoke. I don't have to choose my restaurants or my bars carefully, I can go to any of them. I started going out more often once we passed the law that kept bars smoke free. Once, recently, I was in a bar that chose not to enforce the law--and I WALKED OUT and did not give them my business. I will not be in the presence of toxic secondhand smoke.

Please, let's keep Hawaii's air--indoors and out--as wonderful and clean as it can be. Do not take away our safe workplaces and public places.

Sincerely,

Buffy Cushman-Patz
666 Prospect St.
APT 102
Honolulu, HI 96813

testimony

From: Andrea Ballinger [karstagb@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 4:24 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public and children should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment and a great place to visit.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work. I also work in the visitor industry and people comment positively on Kauai, Hawaii being a smoke-free destination.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places.

Sincerely,
Andrea Ballinger

Development Coordinator Andrea Ballinger Development Coordinator P.O. Box 888 P.O. Box 888
Koloa, HI 96756

742-6109

testimony

From: nora usita [nursnora@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 4:50 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

nora usita
170 aikane circle
hilo, HI 96720

testimony

From: Jonathan Cho [jcho@oncarehi.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 4:59 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Jonathan Cho
1329 Lusitana St. Suite 307
Honolulu, HI 96813

testimony

From: mark Olson [blissland@turquoise.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 6:14 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in very strong opposition to SB 2792.

I lived in Hawaii for 8 years and what I enjoyed least about it was that I could not ever seem to escape tobacco smoke. I returned to Hawaii after the anti-smoking bill passed and feel extremely relieved that I can go to numerous public places without having to be exposed to such a toxic substance.

The very fact that there is even a debate about this is amazing. Tobacco smoke is a known toxin, even in small amounts. Giving people the legal right to smoke in public is like giving people the legal right to spray people with mercury or lead. A toxin is a toxin-- no one has the right to force it upon others and harm their health no matter how much they enjoy doing it.

If smoking becomes legal again, I will not visit ANY establishment that allows smoking, both to economically discourage those establishments and also because I have no interest in being there.

If they can make smoking illegal in restaurants in PARIS then how can we do something so backwards as to repeal an anti-smoking law? Anyone who votes for this is out of touch with what the people want and what is good for them.

Please do the right and obvious thing and vote against SB 2792.

Sincerely,

mark Olson
PO Box 782
Pahoa, HI 96778

testimony

From: Steven Pavao [pavaos002@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 6:59 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Steven Pavao
PO Box 33
Hilo, HI 96721-0033

testimony

From: Eva Uran [evauran@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 8:30 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I strongly oppose SB 2792!

Never again should we go back to smoke-filled workplaces and public places. We nonsmokers have a right to breathe clean air in public places and work, and that includes restaurants.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

I truly welcomed the smoke-free law even if it's not always enforced. Please don't even think of rolling it back.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Eva Uran
277 Ohua Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96815

922-4790

testimony

From: Deborah Okamura [bdokamura@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 10:30 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,
Deborah Lau Okamura

Deborah Okamura
2100 Date Street #2504
Honolulu, HI 96826

8089431506

testimony

From: Melissa Schofield [surfgrl4sur@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 5:19 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

I am particularly concerned about pregnant women and anyone with breathing concerns, such as asthma. Before the smoke free law was put into place, my husband found it very difficult to attend functions in many bars and restaurants because the smoke made his asthma worse. We enjoy live music but could barely sit through an entire performance if the venue was closed, as it was too smoky. I often thought that it I think it's too smoky it must be terrifying to him to feel that inability to draw in any clean air. And how scary would that be for a child?? It's not fair to all of the patrons to have to smell smoke and have a difficult time breathing just because a few people want to light up inside. The right to breathe clean fresh air should be extended to everyone. It's disturbing to see this issue get twisted around as if smoker's rights were more important than anyone else's. I support the rights of individuals to smoke if they wish; I do not support the right for them to do it in such a way so that I have no choice but to inhale their secondhand smoke too. We don't allow people to endanger the lives of others haphazardly--that's why we have tests before we allow people to drive a vehicle, why we refuse service and call a cab for those who've had too much to drink and why we should uphold our ban on smoking in restaurants and bars.

We can send a message that Hawai'i is healthy place and sensitive to those with respiratory problems. The air in this environment is some of the cleanest in the world--please help to keep it that way.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Melissa Schofield
47-417 L Kapehe St

testimony

From: Steven Vannatta [Stevenvannatta@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 7:56 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Steven Vannatta
5568 Haleola st.
Honolulu, HI 96821

225-4498

testimony

From: Hazel Nakano [nakanoh005@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 10:25 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

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Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Hazel Nakano
18-4369 Peck Road
Mountain View, HI 96771

testimony

From: Jeri Anne Ngai [jerin@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 12:07 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back!

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and friends.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

As a former employee for a tobacco reduction and education team I know secondhand smoke is a cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight.

Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,
Jeri Anne Ngai

Jeri Anne Ngai
3385 Kaimuki Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

722-6385

testimony

From: Aggie Pigao Cadiz [pigaocada001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 1:58 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

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Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Aggie Pigao Cadiz
94-1050 Hohola St.
Waipahu, HI 96797-4542

testimony

From: Milton Nakagawa [mnakagawa@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 7:21 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

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Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Milton Nakagawa

Milton Nakagawa
P.O. Box 1650
Honokaa, HI 96727



COALITION FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

DATE: February 10, 2008

TO: Committee on Health, Senator David Ige, Chair, Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

HEARING: Monday, February 11, 2008, 1:15 PM, Conference Room 016

RE: Testimony in Strong Opposition of SB2792, Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Health Committee. My name is Deborah Zysman and I am the Executive Director for the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in strong opposition of SB 2792**, which would allow smoking in properly licensed establishments.

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free-Hawaii (Coalition) is a statewide association of nonprofit organizations, large and small businesses, and 2,000 individuals committed to working together to reduce the negative impact of tobacco on the health of Hawaii's children, adults and visitors. The seven founding members of the Coalition are the American Cancer Society, Hawaii Pacific, Inc. (10,000 community supporters); the American Heart Association of Hawaii (30,000 members); the American Lung Association of Hawaii; the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii; the Hawaii State Department of Education; the Hawaii State Department of Health; and the Hawaii Medical Association.

Two years ago, the Coalition, its organizational partners and thousands of individuals from all over the State vigorously advocated for the passage of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law. This law, as it currently exists, provides comprehensive protections to all of Hawaii's employees, residents, and visitors from the hazards of secondhand smoke in both the workplace and public places. The Smoke-Free law is VERY popular among voters. In a 2007 poll conducted by Hawaii Department of Health, 85% of Hawaii's registered voters supported this law.



COALITION FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

After reviewing the provisions of SB 2792, we clearly believe that this is an attempt by a vocal few to bypass Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law. Passing Bill 2792 would once again **expose over 85,000 of our bar and restaurant workers to the toxins of secondhand smoke**. We should not erode the protections we now have in place.

The Health Impact of Secondhand Smoke

I would like to offer some comments on the health science behind Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law. This law was not enacted by the legislature based on "speculation" that this would be a good idea. It was enacted because of the overwhelming health data that had been collected over the past 25 years. The evidence behind the law is staggering and indisputable. As of January 31, 2008, there have been at least 469 scientific studies on the negative health impacts of secondhand smoke.

Two years ago, Dr. Richard Carmona, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a report, titled "The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke." Shortly after releasing his report he visited Hawaii, and while here, Dr. Carmona offered several comments on the efforts to pass Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law, stating that the smoke-free law "**would be one of the most effective and comprehensive ways to protect the public health of the people of Hawaii.**" Quoting from his report he noted, "**An environment free of involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke should remain an important national priority in order to reach the Healthy People 2010 objectives.**"

With regards to the involuntary exposure of nonsmokers to tobacco smoke in the workplace the Surgeon General's report offered the following major conclusions:

- The workplace is a major source of secondhand smoke exposure for adults.
- Exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer.



openings and closings. In 2007, 12 bars closed and 6 opened, for a net loss of 6. In 2006, for the year prior to the smoke-free law going into effect 20 bars closed and 8 opened. Clearly the law did not increase the closure rate.

The results of all credible peer-reviewed studies show that smoke-free laws do not have any negative impact on business revenues. **We would point out that in 2002/03, each of Hawaii's county's passed ordinances prohibiting smoking in restaurants. At that time, restaurant owners complained that they would go out of businesses. This did not happen!** We have for the members of the Health Committee copies of the Executive Summary of the 2006 Surgeon General's Report which discusses economic impact.

Also, covered on the January 9th legislative briefing was a presentation by Andrew Hyland, PhD, who had been contracted by the Hawaii Department of Health to conduct an economic impact study on the Smoke-Free Law. The Honolulu Advertiser reported **"Andrew Hyland, an epidemiologist from the New York-based Roswell Park Cancer Institute, said he will soon submit a report on the effects of Hawai'i's smoking ban, but told lawmakers that the state is not different from other states with similar bans: emotional reaction at the outset, but no negative economic impacts over the long term."**

In closing, I would like to commend this legislature for the passage two years ago of one of the most effective public health measures in the nation. Our Smoke-Free Law is a good one. It is fair and equal to all business owners. It is improving our health, saving lives, and has no impact on Hawaii's economy.

Other States that do not have this law are still paying dearly with lives. **This past Friday (February 8, 2008) Reuters news service reported "A woman in her late teens died of an acute asthma attack triggered by secondhand cigarette smoke shortly after arriving as her job as a waitress in a bar in Michigan...This is the first reported acute asthma death associated with work-related ETS. Recent studies of asthma among bar workers before**



COALITION FOR A TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

- Eliminating smoking in indoor spaces fully protects nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke. Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposures of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke.
- There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

It is the role and responsibility of government to regulate businesses when the health and safety of the public is concerned. Our current law does just that. It is also fair and equitable for all businesses.

On January 9, 2008, this Committee along with the House Health Committee held an informational briefing on the impact of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law one year after implementation. One of the presenters was Dr. Paul Ho, Chief of Cardiology at Kaiser Permanente who noted that heart attack admission for the first quarter of 2007 were down approximately 25% compared to the first quarter of 2006. Preliminary data from HMSA indicates a drop in heart attack admissions at other hospitals in the state. This decline in admissions compares favorably with those of Helena, MT (40% reduction) and Pueblo, CO (27% reduction). **Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is saving lives.**

Economic Impact

One of the tactics that the tobacco industry uses is to create dissent and fear by convincing business owners, usually owners of restaurants and bars, that they will lose business. The vocal few who are attempting to amend the Smoke-Free Law with proposed legislation like SB2792, claim economic harm.

The reality is gross liquor sales have been up every year since 2003. In 2003 gross liquor sales in Honolulu, as reported by the Honolulu County Liquor Commission, were \$592.5 million. In 2007 gross liquor sales were \$773.2 million. In addition, employment is up from 19,323 in 2004, to 20,270 in 2007. The liquor commission also reports on liquor establishment

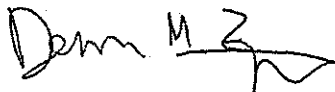


and after smoking bans support this association. This death dramatized the need to enact legal protections for workers in the hospitality industry from secondhand smoke.”

We can not take a leap backwards and give some businesses a license to kill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition, before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,



Deborah Zysman, MPH
Executive Director

testimony

From: Robert Schornstheimer [bigbird@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 2:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,
Robert Schornstheimer

Robert Schornstheimer
1531 Pono pono Place
Kailua, HI 96734

testimony

From: Charles Barton [chbisme@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 1:53 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

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Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

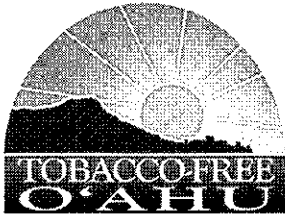
Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Charles Barton
1951 Wilhelmina Rise
Honolulu, HI 96816



1050 Bishop St. #124
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-561-4347

To: Senate Health Committee, Senator Ige, Chair
Date: 2/11/2008
Re: SB 2792

Position: Strongly Oppose
Hearing: 2/11/2008, 1:15 pm, Room 016

Aloha Chair and Committee,

The Tobacco-Free Oahu coalition strongly opposes SB 2792 regarding allowing a new license class for restaurants, bars, and nightclubs that would allow them to have an exemption to the smoke-free workplace law that was put into place in November 2006. DO NOT change the current law, it is accomplishing its purpose – to protect people from secondhand smoke.

This bill would be taking a step backwards while the rest of the world is moving forward to protect workers and the public from secondhand smoke. Not only are more states in the US passing and implementing laws similar to Hawaii, but other countries as well, such as France where workplaces, restaurants and bars recently went smoke-free.

Our current law is working, it is providing workers equal protection, as well as a level playing field for all businesses. It has been shown throughout the country that businesses are not adversely affected over the long term. Such as in

- **Florida:** An analysis by the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research, released in June 2004, found that restaurant sales were up 7 percent one year after state's the smokefree law that made all public places and restaurants 100% smokefree took effect on July 1, 2003.¹
- **New York:** Contrary to arguments of smokefree opponents that smokefree air puts bars and pubs out of business, there was no reported sharp decline in the number of bars following the law's implementation. In fact, the number of bars in the state increased by 3.5%, from April 2002 to May 2004. New York's comprehensive law took effect on June 23, 2003.²
- **California:** According to the California Board of Equalization, the Golden State's hospitality sector continues to grow since the California Clean Indoor Air Act was enacted in 1994. Sales tax data show an increase in annual sales from \$7.16 billion in 1997 for establishments selling beer and wine to \$9.6 billion in 2002. For establishments selling all kinds of alcohol, sales increased from \$8.64 billion in 1997 to \$11.3 billion in 2002. In 2003, the Board's Employment Development Department reported that the number of individuals employed in California's bars and restaurants had about 200,500 more employees than they did in 1995, before the smokefree policy took effect.³

- **Delaware:** An economic impact study presented at the 2004 American Public Health Association's Public Health and the Environment Conference found that, one year after implementation, Delaware's comprehensive smokefree law "increased state revenue from gaming by \$5.7 million. The \$5.7 million is equivalent to a 3% increase in state revenue from gaming."⁴ One year after the state's smokefree law became effective, data showed the number of restaurant, tavern, and taproom licenses in Delaware had increased from 3,291 in November 2002 to 3,323 in October of 2003. Employment within the hospitality industry increased, as well, from 27,900 individuals employed in food service and drinking establishments in September 2002 to 28,100 in September 2003.⁵
- **Massachusetts:** A Harvard School of Public Health report found that the Massachusetts Smoke-Free Workplace Law that made all workplaces, including restaurants and bars, 100% smokefree, has not adversely affected statewide meals and alcoholic beverage excise tax collection. In addition, the law has not affected keno sales or the number of those working in hospitality since the law went into effect on July 5, 2004.⁶

Tobacco-Free Oahu is comprised of concerned individuals, local businesses, the Department of Health, Kaiser Permanente, HMSA, and non-profit health organizations, such as American Lung Association, American Cancer Society, and Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies. Tobacco-Free Oahu's mission is to be a strong community-based coalition committed to eliminating tobacco use by means of policy change through legislative action, community initiatives, education, prevention and cessation programs.

Sincerely,

Beth Kuch
Coordinator

1. Dai, C., et al, "The Economic Impact of Florida's Smoke-free Workplace Law," Bureau of Economic and Business Research, Warrington College of Business Administration, University of Florida, June 25, 2004. Download at <http://www.smokefreeforhealth.org/pdf/economic%20study.pdf>.
2. RTI International, "First Annual Independent Evaluation of New York's Tobacco Control Program," New York State Department of Health, November 2004. Accessed on November 29, 2004. Download at http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/tobacco/reports/docs/nytcp_eval_report_final_11-19-04.pdf.
3. California State Board of Equalization: California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, November 2002; State of California, Employment Development Department, Labor Force Statistics, November 2003.
4. Alamar, B., et al., "Effects of a smokefree ordinance on Delaware gaming revenue," American Public Health Association, November 9, 2004. Download at http://apha.confex.com/apha/132am/techprogram/paper_82919.htm.
5. [n.a.], "Delaware's Clean Indoor Air Act: The 1st Anniversary Story," Delaware Division of Public Health and Delaware Division of Revenue, 2004.
6. Connolly, G.N.; Carpenter, C.; Alpert, H.R.; Skeer, M.; Travers, M., "Evaluation of the Massachusetts Smoke-Free Workplace Law: a preliminary report," Division of Public Health Practice, Harvard School of Public Health, Tobacco Research Program, April 4, 2005. Download at to http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/php/pri/tcrtp/Smoke-free_Workplace.pdf.

testimony

From: LILIANA NAPOLEON [LNAPOLEON@HAWAIIANTEL.BIZ]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 7:52 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

LILIANA NAPOLEON
GENERAL DELIVERY
KAUNAKAKAI, HI 96748

testimony

From: Leslie Woods [leslie_woods@notes.k12.hi.us]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 8:01 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely, Leslie Woods

Leslie Woods
68-101 Waialua Beach Rd. #203
Waialua, HI 96793

testimony

From: Barbra Pleadwell [bap@hastingsandpleadwell.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 8:12 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

My name is Barbra Pleadwell, and I am in strong opposition to SB 2792 which will harm Hawai'i workers and the public.

Our smoke-free law is a shift in social norm. People are upset, especially people who are addicted to tobacco. So upset, that the opposition has personally attacked the director of the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii this time last year and since.

Last year, with the Senate, I saw perhaps the most disgusting intimidation tactics I have seen in my professional life. These attacks were focused on gender and race, and they reflect the desperation of an addicted population. I am hopeful that the Senate displays zero tolerance for this behavior for the duration of the 2008 session.

There's been a great deal of noise regarding whether smoke-free laws are pro-business. In a state where unemployment is low and recruitment and retention of a qualified workforce is a top priority, protection of our workers from environments that are hazardous to their health is a no-brainer.

Amazingly, the folks opposing the law have made statements that secondhand smoke is not actually harmful. Workers who rely on paychecks from people who don't acknowledge the very real threat of tobacco in the workplace are in need of protection.

My family has owned and operated a bar-restaurant in Talofofo, Guam since I was a child. Secondhand smoke and the negative impacts of tobacco on our establishment became more and more apparent over time. A family business required each of us to spend time working, and dealing with temporary and long-term health issues related to a tobacco smoke-filled environment.

Before Guam passed its own legislation, we did our best to minimize exposure by phasing out smoking in our establishment. When my sister, who worked full time at the bar, became pregnant, the mandate became pretty clear and the ashtrays were close to gone. Shortly after, the law was passed and it was a great relief to have the weight of the law behind our philosophy to clean up the air for our family and our fellow workers.

From their intimidation tactics to their earnest promotion of false information, those advocating for exemption to the law have demonstrated clear irresponsibility. This is not pro-business, and it's certainly not pro-health.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so the health of anyone is at risk to earn a living. Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawai'i was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. More states, and countries such as France, have joined the path to a sustainable quality of life for workers and residents.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawai'i's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

As a mother of a child with respiratory health issues, I have been made acutely aware of how important protection from secondhand smoke is for Hawai'i.

The science around the health effects of secondhand smoke continues to evolve. Any lawmaker oblivious to the evidence that secondhand smoke is contributing to rising health care costs and taking a toll on our workforce is out to lunch.

A former staffer for the Department of Health (1990s), I helped perpetuate the nationally known slogan "The Health State." It's time to live that message and protect our law that protects our workers and residents from secondhand smoke. This is a far more appealing and appropriate message for attracting visitors to our state. Any perceived benefit of promoting smoking in Hawaii is made at the expense of our island health.

Partner Barbra Pleadwell
Partner
1702 Kewalo Place
PH2
Honolulu, HI 96822

testimony

From: Cecilia Kramer [kekilia@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 9:38 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

Here is anecdotal info from the state of Maryland. Note near the end of the article that says Montgomery County actually saw restaurant receipts increase 23% after they enacted their smoking ban.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/31/AR2008013103633.html>

Sincerely,
Cecilia Kramer
1717 Ala Wai Blvd. #708
Honolulu HI 96815
944-4257

Cecilia Kramer
1717 Ala Wai Blvd. #708
Honolulu, HI 96815

testimony

From: Charles Roessler [charles.roessler@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 10:18 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

I think it is a travesty that you are considering opening this law up as it has been in effect for such a short time period. To weaken this law now would send a terrible message to our increasingly health-conscious state as well as make the state a laughingstock and a terrible example. Do we really need the bad publicity?

As you know, the costs of treating patients for those affected by tobacco use continues to soar -- as will those sickened by the habit either from their use or from those around them.

A also object to the use of the organ donation section -- it has no place in a bill that would help sicken thousands for a few more pennies in the state coffers.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

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Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight.

Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

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Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don?t give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Neighbor Island Coalition Coordinator Charles Roessler Neighbor Island Coalition
Coordinator
4725 Kuawa Rd.
Kilauea, HI 96754

testimony

From: Katie Heinrich [katiemh@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 8:40 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

Despite what bar, nightclub, and restaurant owners might say, research has shown that smoking bans do not result in significant profit declines. In fact, smoking bans have actually encouraged more people to take their patronage to these places.

This is an issue that is being contested in many states across the US right now. Smoking bans are very important for the health of the public. Secondhand smoke can cause cancer and other adverse health outcomes. Why subject people to the potentially life-ending second-hand smoke of others? That does not show good stewardship of your power as a public official.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Sincerely,

Katie Heinrich

Katie Heinrich
Biomed D104G
Honolulu, HI 96814

956-5765

testimony

From: Jony Conching [conching@hawaii.usta.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 9:48 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Jony Conching
1500 S. Beretania Street #300
HONOLULU, HI 96826

testimony

From: Robert Yoshimura [ryoshi@mail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 7:48 PM
To: testimony
Subject: sb2792 testimony in support

This is testimony for the senate bill to be heard on Monday by the Senate Health Committee.

Support of SB2792

Robert Yoshimura

98-410 Koauka lp.

Aiea, Hi 96701

Dear Chair Ige and committee members,

I am self employed as a photographer for Japanese weddings here on Oahu. My business

continues to decline as a result of fewer Japanese coming to Hawai'i. It is clear that the smoking

ban is at least partly if not significantly to blame. The Star Bulletin stated that Japanese tourism has now reached a twenty year low.

While I don't smoke myself, alot of my clients do and they appear unhappy about Hawai'i

because they don't receive comfortable hospitality here because of the ban. I believe a lifting

of the smoking ban, at least in bars and at the airport would help to make them want to come here more and ease the problem. That is why I support legislation such as sb2792.

We must take steps like this to fix this problem. If this law was intended to punish smokers into quitting, then why must non-smokers also be victims of it's economic effects?

Thank You, Robert Yoshimura

--

Want an e-mail address like mine?

Get a **free e-mail** account today at www.mail.com!

February 10, 2008
Re: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption
Position: Strongly Support

Honorable Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Senate Members of the
Committee on Health:

My Wife and I have spent all of 2007, (when needed), and the last four (4) weeks of 2008 flying back and forth to Honolulu, not trying to change the law but to make one (1) small adjustment. The adjustment being: To exempt stand alone bars, like mine, that do not have a certified kitchen to serve food.

Stand alone neighborhood, mom and pop, type bars have been in existence for many years. People made choices then, why not now?

As for employees, there's no one more concerned or caring for employees than my wife and I. But again, I say "If an employee is not satisfied with the environment, he or she has a choice." If stand alone bars are exempted and signs are posted on the door stating "Smoking Establishment," the public also has a choice.

Like all businesses, expenses are a big factor. These bills must be paid. No terms.

Are we talking just about Smoking? No! We're talking about a business whose foundation is their customers and they have only one (1) concern: "Constitutional Rights!!"

We rely too much on government and not enough on ourselves. Yet most of us don't even vote for those that run our government.

For years our lawmakers have been obsessed with the idea of using tax credits to stimulate the economy. Could it be that most of our Legislators have no idea what it takes to start and run a business in Hawaii? Maybe they believe that if tax credits don't work out, there will be no lost of revenue to the state.

We as individuals must pay heavy taxes and get no special breaks. Businesses that must struggle with the heavy tax burden and government regulation and all of the labor and insurance laws will eventually go out of bussiness.

There are far more important issues our government needs to address than smoking.

Mahalo,



Sam N. Kekaula
Sam's Hideaway
P.O. Box 153
Kailua-Kona, Hi., 96745
808-329-3742

February 9, 2008

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption

Position: Strong Support

Honorable Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Senate members of the Committee on Health:

For over a year, I have spent my personal time, money and energy, (a considerable investment on my part) trying to bring some semblance of sanity back to our Island Home. Contrary to rumors that continue to be spread by some of our opponents, ***I have never received money from any Tobacco organization***, or anybody else for that matter as we, the Hawaii Smokers Alliance, are not a registered non-profit. You will not find a DONATE NOW button on my website. (A website that I personally have paid for and continue to maintain). It is strictly a grass roots effort that now represents via our website, petitioners and supporters over 40,000 members. Many of whom are non-smokers, but agree with our platform.

This is not a smoking issue. It is the very serious issue of governmental intrusion into lifestyle choices, being hidden under the guise of the greater good of the public's health.

We are not children, and the majority of the people, if they could actually connect those dots and see the forest for the tree's, are more likely to agree with our platform than not.

That first line in the highly publicized Surgeon Generals Report of 2006 is ludicrous: "There is no safe level of exposure to SHS". The only time it could be considered as being accurate, is if you were applying it to someone who is extremely chronically ill. Yes, there are people in our society that suffer from horrendous illnesses, and for the most part should truly be living in, a for lack of a better term, a clean air bubble. I have great empathy for those who lack the basic freedom that a normal, healthy individual takes for granted. I have sat here for the past year and listened with an open heart to many of those testifiers on our opposition's side. Their stories are heart breaking in some cases. It is highly unlikely that a person with Chronic CPOD or a serious Heart Condition would be spending much, if any, of their time at a disco or at their neighborhood bar, as their personal health conditions, simply could not allow for that type of activity.

Adults are the ones who should be determining their Businesses Smoking Status, Employment Decisions, and Rights to Patronage any business of their choice (when you are considering consumption and or exposure to LEGAL PRODUCTS). It is our inherent right and responsibility to make these choices, as American Citizens. In this case, the Government and our elected officials are supposed to be there for us in an advisory capacity, not as a dictatorship. This Great Country, the blood, sweat and tears of our Founding Fathers have left us an incredible legacy. They had such vision as to Freedom,

Liberty, Justice and the pursuit of Happiness. I believe they would be devastated at the intrusiveness that our current political playing field and special interest group's, have created, and the level of economic and social havoc that has been allowed to flourish, unchecked and unbalanced *but not unchallenged*.

Common sense has been thrown out the window in the face of the bombardment of Special Interest Groups, who are very well funded (By BIG TOBACCO MONIES), making all kinds of impossible to prove claims as to the Killer Dangers of SHS and HEALTHY PEOPLE. On an almost daily basis, new information is becoming available, from credible sources that completely refute these unproven claims. Ask Dr. Chiyoame Fukino, the Director of the Department of Health what lifestyle choice is the new leading cause of all Male Oral Cancers. That information was just published on Sunday, February 2, 2008 in the Honolulu Advertiser page A-7, and, guess what, it isn't smoking or alcohol consumption.

It's time we took a step back. Yes, BACK! Back to reasonable, common sense and business-wise legislation. SB 2792 is the intelligent vehicle that everyone from Asia to Europe to The America's right down to the little bar on Hotel Street has been desperately waiting for. There are over one billion smokers on this planet. Can we, as a world stage tourist destination, not respect and accommodate that lifestyle choice. I believe, and the DBET, liquor sales, personal revenues lost by owners and employee in the Bar Industry, have proven, that we can NOT AFFORD to *do anything less*.

Please remember that not every bar will want to apply for this license. There will be plenty of venue choices to suit the needs and requirements of the public. There is a need and market for non-smoking bars, absolutely, however there is also a need for smoker friendly establishments. That fact is proven, just and undeniable. Freedom of Choice, it's beautiful, necessary, and the AMERICAN WAY!

I urge you to pass this worthy and much anticipated bill, for the sake of freedom, liberty and you're acknowledgement that "WE, THE PEOPLE, ARE ENTITLED TO PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CHOICES WE MAKE CONCERNING ANY LEGAL PRODUCTS OR LIFESTYLES".

Thank you for your time and consideration of this opinion.

Respectfully,

Jolyn Tenn
Co-Chair of The Hawaii Smokers Alliance
45-934 Kamehameha Hwy C328
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
808-721-8384

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption

Position: **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Senate Health Committee:

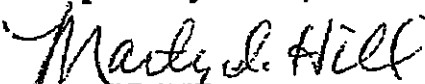
My name is Marty I. Hill , I and my partner Keun Sook Jones own a Bar and Restaurant in Kailua Kona, named Teru's II. We have been in business for over nine years. We allow smoking in our Bar because we were not able to meet our obligations when we tried to abide by the Smoking Ban. So much business was lost because of the No Smoking Law , we had to allow our customers to smoke or not have any business at all.

I believe that we as business owners should have the right to choose whether to be a smoking establishment or to be a non-smoking business. Smokers should not be segregated because of their habit. Some day there will be a non smoking world as more and more people are quitting every day. It should be a choice for them to make and not forced upon them by the government. I myself am a non smoker and have been so for fifteen years but it was my choice to quit-not forced upon me by a law that made me feel as an outcast to society.

We as business owners would appreciate your consideration in passing Bill HB3319 and HB2900 that would let small bars have the choice to be a smoking establishment. We have separated our bar from the restaurant by placing solid doors between the bar and restaurant and the bar and the restrooms. Not any of our dining customers have complained about smoking, however there are many that are happy to be able to come in the bar for a cigarette while dining.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Yours,


Marty I. Hill
74-970 Kealakehe Street
Kailua Kona HI 96740

testimony

From: Mark Levin [mlevin5@juris.hokudai.ac.jp]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 10:55 AM
To: testimony
Subject: SB2792 -Protect Clean Air - no licenses to kill

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE
TESTIMONY RE. SB2792

VIA E-MAIL

HEARING SCHEDULED: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1:15 PM

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

With an odd economic sentiment that entirely ignores health, some folks support having our state government sell special licenses to kill. These licenses would be available to bar, nightclub, and restaurant owners who claim a so-called right to require their workers to breathe tobacco smoke just to make a living.

When women in Hawai'i will die from breast cancers caused by working where smoking became specially permitted or any of us suffer fatal heart attacks weeks after our law would be revised, how should we kindly address the mourners? "So sorry we put your loved one's health aside, but some folk cried the law was unfair and that seemed good enough for us."

As 22 other states in the United States, most Canadian provinces, Hong Kong, Singapore and several other nations have wisely moved beyond this (the latest movers being Turkey and Thailand), we would look like fools to go backwards. But this is not a laughing matter. After all, people cry at funerals.

(*These views are revised from a letter to the editor in the Honolulu Star Bulletin last month, online at <http://starbulletin.com/2008/01/16/editorial/letters.html>.)

Mahalo for your consideration of these thoughts.

Mark Levin
Vice-Chair, State of Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund Advisory Board
Associate Professor, William S. Richardson School of Law

2515 Dole St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

Affiliations provided for identification purposes only / testimony is not on behalf of the above listed entities

testimony

From: Lisa Oshiro [lisayoshiro@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 6:11 PM
To: testimony
Subject: testimony for exemption from the ban

Testimony in TOTAL SUPPORT for SB2792

For the Senate Health Committee hearing on Monday, Feb, 11 2008 in room 016 at 1:15pm.

**Lisa Y. Oshiro
411 Hobron Ln.
Honolulu, HI 96815
lisayoshiro@gmail.com**

Dear Committee, please vote in favor of senate bill 2792. I don't think it's right that some bars loose a lot of business because of the ban. I used to like going to Rosa's Ice Tee, but I can't anymore because they are closed. It said in the newspaper it was because of the smoking ban. I don't think it is fair to do that to people. :(

Mahalo, Lisa Y. Oshiro

P.S. I also think that Deborah lady from the anti-smoking group should resign or get fired. I saw her poster in a bar and I saw her on TV. She is an ignorant, disrespectful, and dishonest person. Please don't listen to her. She is so full of it and so is the health department.

February 8, 2008

Steven Pochop Jr.
Ala Poha Pl.
Honolulu, Hawaii

testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking Exemption for Bar Owners

Position: The strongest of Support for Sensible Legislation

Honorable Senate Health Committee Members:

I am writing to address the issue of the ban on smoking in local restaurants and bars.

When people go out to enjoy the nightlife of Hawaii, they want to enjoy the freedom of the liberties they enjoy at home, in public. Business revenues have been severely affected by this intrusive limitation.

The bill of rights expresses in no uncertain terms the equality of mankind which also implies the equalities of the liberty they enjoy.

Freedom is the ability to choose religion, democracy, the pursuit of happiness, etc.

Allow people the choice to smoke in public places. When I go to a bar, I accept there will be smokers, drunkards, loud music and sometimes, foul language. Singling out smokers is a discrimination. If we are banning those things that are unpleasant, let's entertain prohibition and overturn ROE *V.S.* WADE.

History teaches us not to repeat the past. Do not make the mistake of Government interfering in the personal freedoms of its people again!

Respectfully,

Steven Pochop Jr.

February 8, 2008

Eric Alkyhi
Nuuanu Avenue

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 smoking exemption license for bar owners

Position: I support this Bill

Honorable committee members of Health:

The love of freedom is the love of peace! Pass this bill.

Eric Alkyhi

February 8, 2008

Steven Palmer
Kihikihi Place
Waipahu, Hawaii

Testimony@Capitol.Hawaii.gov

RESB 2792 Exemption for a smoking license.

Position: Strong Support

Honorable members of the Senate committee on Health:

I want the smoking ban to be lifted from the bars that wish to do so.

Respectfully,

Steven Palmer

February 8, 2008

Scott McKnight
E. Eha
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792

Position: Strong Support for a Smoking License Exemption for Bar Owners

Honorable Senate Health Committee Members:

Nobody comes to a bar for their HEALTH! Lift the Ban!!!

Scott McKnight

February 7, 2008

Dean Aity
Waikiki

Dean.aity@gmail.com

Testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Sb 2792 Smoking License exemption for bar owners

Position: Support

Honorable Senate committee members of the Health:

As an Project Engineer, it is my responsibility to oversee construction workers. My business carries certain inherent risks. As a businessman, those risks are freely assumed, as it should be. No unnecessary governmental intrusions!

Businesses as a general rule do not like to exist on government entitlements. It is not their purpose. They innately want to thrive in the free market place, this is and has always been the American way, that was until the new smoking ban laws went into effect.

By passing this bill, you accomplish the righting of a grievous wrong that has been done to the Bar Service Industry. Business people set the standards of an industry, OSHA plays a role in deciding acceptable risk levels. These levels have never been proven to be exceeded by the opponents of this exemption. I urge you to seriously consider giving the free market and the individual's rights and responsibilities as to freedom of choice concerning legal products an adult activities. This all boils down to freedom of choice and individual rights.

Thank you for considering my opinion on this matter.

Respectfully,

Dean Aity

February 07, 2008

Jesse Stecklein
Honolulu, Hawaii

jeseestecklein@yahoo.com

Testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption

Position: Strong Support

Honorable members of the Health Committee:

It is great that there are thinking about giving bar owners a tax credit in the house. They also need to be free to choose which clientele they want to service. I am a construction worker, loads of risky exposure, but I choose to work in that industry and I accept those risks freely.

I am also a smoker. Since the smoking ban was passed, I spend a lot less of my money in the bars. You may think that is a good thing, but it was my means of releasing stress at the end of a hard days work. The bars that I frequent are not adverse to smokers and welcome us. I do not think it was fair that all bars hrd to ban smoking in the first place.

Tobacco is a legal product, just like alcohol. Those of us who choose this lifestyle, are entitled to that choice, so please consider giving us a room, on the inside once again.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,
Jesse Stecklein

February 7, 2008

Joe Felix
Honolulu, Hawaii

JWFELIX@Gmail.com

Testimony@Capitol.Hawaii.Gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption for Bar Owners/Organ Donation Education Fund Bill

Honorable Senate Health Committee members:

Contrary to popular belief, most people I know who work in bars either already possess or are working toward college degrees. We do it for the people we meet and the incredible potential of income earning.

I have worked and enjoyed working in this field for over 18 years. I readily accept any perceived dangers that the establishment is claiming. Personally, I completely disagree with the recent claims as to the Killer Dangers of SHS exposure. This behavior has been going on for centuries and we are all still here.

The exemption gives us all an even playing field in our industry. Prior to November 16, 2006 everyone had a choice. Now no one has a choice. I urge you to really consider the wisdom in allowing adults the choice to accept their own "risk" levels. It is right, it is just, and it is the American Way.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Sincerely,

Joe Felix

February 7, 2008

Kanani Mau
Honolulu, Hawaii

Kananimau@hotmail.com

Testimony@Capitol.Hawaii.Gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking exemption license be included in this bill

Position: Strong Support

I work at a beachside bar in one of the busiest locations in Waikiki. The current smoking ban has affected my personal income, my personal sense of sensibility and ostracizes our very best clientele. We have to ask them to go onto the beach to have a cigarette. Needless to say, the Japanese are very unhappy with the treatment they have been receiving at our hands. Further as an employee, there is no designated smoking area for any of us.

By passing the exemption, you will be insuring continuity and fairness into this extremely discriminatory current law that is driving my bread and butter from the state, very unhappy with their experiences of the lack of Aloha shown them, and possibly, never to return.

Sincerely,

Kanani Mau

February 7, 2008

Kawika Tahere
Honolulu, Hawaii

kawiiika@yahoo.com

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792

Smoking exemption for Bar Owners as additional language in this bill.

Position: Strong Support

Honorable Senate Health Committee Members:

I am a business owner. I cannot express how devastating it would be to one day, wake up and find the government had taken away my client base and left my business to hangout in the wind to dry. If you are removing revenue and the possibility of earning from the head of household income earner of the family, the children will be the ones to pay the price.

Only by passing the smoking exemption license, will there be equity and reason once again in the Bar industry. Whether you like it or not, smokers are the majority of the clientele for this late night business. By cutting off their right to service their preferred and loyal clientele, you have cut their rights to a profitable business at the knee's.

Thank you for your consideration of my humble opinion.

Kawika

February 7, 2008

Lee Yamashita
Honolulu, Hawaii

lyamashita@yahoo.com

testimony@Capitol.Hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking Exemption for bar owners

Position: Strong Support

Honorable members of the Health and EDB Committees:

The only fair and just repair for this devastating smoking ban would be the passage of SB 2792. Business owners should have the right to choose the clientele. As a businessman myself, most of my clientele are smokers and since the inception of the current smoking ban, I lack a acceptable venue to entertain them in.

The world is not a perfect place. A good portion of our society does indeed indulge in the legal experience of tobacco smoking. Early settlers of these United States of America propagated this pleasurable activity. Eons of time have elapsed, and the absurdity of the Surgeon Generals remark about "No safe level to exposure of SHS" is preposterous.

Let the free market decide, and give me a legal option on entertaining my high-end clientele.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion, hopefully you will take this to heart and use your good sense to see through the barriers that have been keeping sensible legislation at bay.

Respectfully,

Lee Yamashita

February 7, 2008

Lori J. Olson

Testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption/Organ Donor Bill

Position: Support

Honorable Senate Members of the Health Committee,

As a bartender or waitress for over 37 years, I have never been adverse to tobacco smoke and do not agree with the overblown claims of the excessive dangers of shs exposure. With that being said, our business has suffered because of the current smoking ban law. If things keep up at this rate, I will be unemployed.

The step to insure my livelihood is the passage of SB 2792 smoking license exemption bill. Every job has hazards. Police, fireman, flight attendants. We make our own choice regarding our careers. I can make my own decisions, it was my choice to work in an environment that involves smoking. My life, my choice.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Lori Olson
lori@ejlounge.com

February 7, 2008

Richard Martin
Keakulike St.
Honolulu, Hawaii

testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption

Position: Support

Honorable Senate Health Chair and Committee Members:

I am a landscaping and hotel maintenance worker. I spend my days mixing all kinds of chemicals, what most people would avoid as a profession. I have chosen that line of work.

This bill is the perfect fix. It will undo the harm caused by the current smoking law and give bar owners the freedom to decide which customers they want to service. Employees and customers will find their own ways as they did before the ban. No harm, no foul.

Thank you,

Richard Martin

February 8, 2008

Erin Harty
Honolulu, Hawaii

Hotmailataoldotcom@Yahoo.com

Testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Support for SB 2792 Smoking Exemption License for Bar Owners

Honorable Health Committee Members:

I am a server in Waikiki. Freedom of choice for smokers and employee's. I do not tell people to smoke, don't try to tell me not to.

No one is forced to work in a bar; if an employee doesn't like the smell of smoke, then don't work at a bar that allows smoking and drinking where people like to hang out and party with legal substances; There are plenty of other places to work.

If a customer doesn't like Tobacco Smoke, they should go to another bar, one that the owners have chosen to designate as a non-smoking bar.

I go to bars to relax, part of that relaxation, for me, is smoking; again I don't tell other how they should relax, so please don't try to tell me how to do the same.

If you were truly worried about your health, you should try reading a label on a bottle of liquor. That stuff is bad for you too! So let's stop this draconic prohibition and bring back some sanity and sanctity to our civilized society.

Thank you for your time.

Erin Harty

February 8, 2008

Greg Wilson
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

ggwinnz@hotmail.com

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Exemption for Bar Owners.

Position: Support

Honorable Members of the Health Committee:

Smoke um if you got um! And while you are at it, pass this bill and make the deal complete.

Peace,

Greg Wilson

Elaine M. Heiby, Ph.D.
2542 Date St., Apt. 702
Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: 808-942-0738
Email: heiby@hawaii.edu

9 February 2008

testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: SUPPORT SB 2792 Relating to smoking license exemption
Health Committee hearing 11 February, 2008, 1:15pm, Room 016

Honorable Senator Ige and Committee Members:

I urge you to support SB 2792 because it would restore the right of business owners, employee's, and customers to chose whether to be friendly towards people who smoke.

Under the current smoking ban, only the rights of people who do not like smokers are respected. SB 2792 would protect the rights of both those who do and do not like smokers.

I do not think the legislature intended to treat smokers as second class citizens or to pass a hate law. But the current ban does just that.

I do not think the legislature intended to ruin small businesses across the state. But the current ban does just that.

SB 2792 would treat all citizens, visitors, and business owners with respect. Most public places would remain smoke free and no one would be forced to enter an establishment where smokers are welcome.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this opinion.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Heiby

testimony

From: corknlyd@ilhawaii.net
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 5:13 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 2792 ,HTH, Monday, February 11th 1:15 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the passage of SB 2792. As a cancer survivor and the daughter of a nicotine addicted father, I now realize the dangers of not only smoking but of being exposed to second-hand smoke. Please keep our work places free of the dangers of smoking.

Sincerely,
Lydia Woerner

February 8, 2008

**Shannon Adler
Honolulu, Hawaii**

Fallenbutterfly2000@yahoo.com

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption

Position: Strongly support

Honorable Health Committee members:

I Strongly support legislation that cures the problem of the past year for bar owners, employees and customers.

I would love to legally sit back, hangout with my friends and enjoy a beer and a cigarette once again.

Thank you,

Shannon Alder

February 7, 2008

David Maguire
Honolulu, Hawaii

Pugatori007@yahoo.com

RE: SB 2792 Smoking license Exemption for Bar Owners

Position: Strong Support

To the Honorable members of the Senate Health Committee:

I have been a bartender for over 15 years, and I work in a smoking bar. I have chosen this line of work, I like my customers, even though they are smokers. They have given me a proven, viable livelihood for many years, and I do not believe the over exaggerated claims of SHS exposure. I have been around smokers my entire life, and I'm still here.

A tax credit, as proposed in the House may help my bosses, but it does not help me directly. The passage of SB2792 smoking license exemption, would allow me to do my job, service my customers and continue to provide me with an income that in Hawaii's high cost of living keeps me off the government entitlement roles.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion of the matter.

Regards,

David Maguire

February 8, 2008

**David Walfish
Honolulu, Hawaii**

haolepono@gmail.com

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Exemption

Position: Support

Members and Chair of the Senate Health committee:

I am an American. I love to smoke cigars. I need a place to go, in public that will allow me to express myself, legally.

Please do the right thing.

David Walfish

February 8, 2008

Craig J. King
King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Exemptions of bar owners

Position: Strong Support

Honorable Members of the Health Committee:

I wouldn't smoke around someone who is ill, or at a restaurant. Proper signage is all that's required to keep the people who are adverse to Tobacco smoke, well away from those who chose to enjoy it. Why shouldn't there be compensation for a business that has suffered financial harm from the current legislation. With that in mind, why not allow businesses to chose which clientele they want to service. It's a small Island, but there is more than enough room and venues to offer diversity in their services.

Sincerely,
Craig King

February 8, 2008

Francois Ponce
Komo Mai Drive
Pearl City, Hawaii

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License exemption for Bar Owners

Position: Strong Support

Honorable Health Committee Memembers:

I think people should have a choice whether to smoke or not in bars. I love the smoking ambience. Smoking should be tolerated.

Not every bar should be non-smoking. This offers no diversity in choice for the citizens of our Island state. The U.S. government are the biggest producers of cigarettes, either directly or indirectly, so they should be responsible for what they have done and what they continue to do.

AMEN!

Francios Ponce

February 8, 2008

Jason Noble, PhD
Nuuanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii .gov

RE: SB 2792

Smoking License Exemption for Bar Owners

Honorable Members of the Health Committee:

Is it not the role of the government to enact and protect the rights of the people? Did the Founding Fathers ever envision a government that would restrict smoking, drinking and other liberties that they risked and gave their lives for?

Allow bar owners to *decide* (author's emphasis). This is the essence of self-determination and the spirit of America.

Respectfully,

Jason Noble

February 8, 2008

Bruce Paternoster
Pacific Heights Rd
Honolulu, Hawaii

Testimony@Capitol.Hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Allowing Smoking license exemption for bar owners

Position: Strong Support

Honorable member of the Health Committee:

I, Bruce Paternoster, a United States of America citizen since 1962, declare that the smoking ban is wrong, unethical and unconstitutional. I believe it is wrong to illegalize smoking in any establishment. If a person wants to smoke, he or she should be allowed as long as the owner of the place, whether that be public or private says it ok. Not the Government.

Sincerely,
Bruce Paternoster

February 06, 2008

Momi Lopes
45-1034 Kamehameha Hwy
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption/Organ Donor into this Bill.

Honorable Health Committee Members:

I am a Bartender, and my income has been seriously negatively affected by the current smoking ban law. My bosses have lost at least half their gross sales. My husband has had to take an additional job to make up for my lost revenue.

I feel the real solution is having a Smoking License available to our business. All of our employees are smokers. 85% of our customers are smokers, and prior to the ban, our non-smoking customers, still were able to enjoy themselves. We feel that each business owner in our industry should be setting their own smoking policies, and employees and patrons can choose their venues accordingly.

Thank you for considering this proposal. Thank you for also considering my opinion on this matter.

Aloha,

Momi Lopes

February 8, 2008

James Jarvis
Honolulu, Hawaii

jamescjarvis@yahoo.com

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 .

Position: Support (Strong support Smoking Exemption License for Bar Owners)

Honorable Committee Member's of the Senate Health Division:

I am an active duty soldier. I firmly believe bar owners/managers; should have the right, not the restriction, to run their business how they feel best suits their target customers. Tobacco shops do not force non-smokers to smoke in their shops, or put them outside if they refuse to smoke. People go to tobacco shops or bars to enjoy their lifestyle choice. Limiting the choices of many to only one option creates frustration to the consumer.

Prohibition was proved wrong. People will smoke regardless of laws/and or regulations. Putting a ban on this lifestyle choice creates criminals of a victimless crime. It causes economic hiccups, anger, and most importantly, FORBIDS FREEDOM OF CHOICE!

America was founded on the belief of "Life, Liberty and the PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS"!

Thank you for taking the time to consider my opinion.

Sincerely,

James Jarvis

February 8, 2008

Kekoa Taliaferro
Box 29971
Honolulu, HI

Testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Exemptions for Bar Owners

Position: Strong Support

Honorable Senate Health committee Chair and Members:

I think the smoking ban in it's current form infringes on the rights of the people of our society to choose their own acceptable risk levels, if any.

For the people who choose to work in smoky environments, I.e. bars or yakiniku restaurants, they can always choose to work somewhere else if they personally believe that this is a health issue. By the way, have any of you been to Camelia's yakiniku house lately? You come out smelling like Kal Bi. But no one seems to mind that stench. In fact, in my entire lifetime, I have never been in a bar that has the level of smoke that is generated from 50 yakiniku grills going full blast. But that SHS is acceptable and still legal? Go figure!

It is simple, Individual proprietors should choose their smoking policies. Not the government.

Aloha,

Kekoa Taliaferro

February 8, 2008

Dewayne McFarland
Alaeloa St.
Honolulu, Hawaii

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption

Position: Strong Support

Honorable Senate Members of the Health Committee:

First and Foremost, people don't go to pubs, taverns, or bars for their health. Smoking has been, is and will always be part of the bar scene.

Secondly, at what point does the city and state stop protecting us from ourselves? It should be left up to each individual to place his or herself in that environment, not the government.

The legal age to drink is 21. That should also mean you, the individual, tax payer, should be able to decide to either smoke or not, or to be around it.

Sincerely,

Dewayne McFarland

February 8, 2008

John Andrew Smith
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792

Strong Support of Smoking license exemptions for Bar Owners

Honorable Senate Chair and Health Committee Members:

It is the right of a business to choose what freedoms customers have. In my opinion, as long as smoking is allowed in bars (Not in restaurants) that only 21 and up are allowed to go, the effects of SHS do not and will not affect children. It is also a customers choice whether to leave or to stay.

It also increases profits in bars because when people are forced to go outside to smoke, they may decide not to go back in. The bartenders and waitresses choose where they want to work, so non-smoking bars are available if they feel a need to protect their health, if they wish to do so, but their pay will suffer. Ever notice that risk, of any type increases profitability?

The extra money being spent in smoking bars will also cause a healthier economy, due to more purchases. This is beneficial to the economy and the people. Remember, obesity is the leading drag and highest costing lifestyle choice.

This amendment gives more freedom, that our country is so proud of, that I proudly serve in the Military because of, instead of unnecessarily restricting it.

Sincerely,

John A. Smith

February 8, 2008

**Shannon Winpenny
Keahole St.
Honolulu, Hawaii**

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Sb 2792 Smoking License Exemption for Bar Owners

Which I strongly support

Honorable members of the Health committee:

I do not believe that it is the State's job to tell proprietors how to run their businesses. If you don't like the establishment, it is your choice to patronize it or not.

Thank you for your consideration of this opinion.

Shannon Winpenny

February 8, 2008

John Lott
WAAF, Hawaii

Testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Smoking License exemption for Bar Owners SB 2792

Position: Strongly Supportive

Honorable Committee Members of the Senate Health Division:

Prohibiting smoking in bars and restaurants inhibits the local businesses to retain their clientele. I would not patronize a bar or restaurant if it was difficult or prohibited to smoke. I believe there are many individuals who feel the same as I do.

Gives us freedom, give us a choice.

John Lott

February 8, 2008

Aaron Steno
P.O. Box 299
Hawaii

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Sb 2792 Smoking License Exemption

Strong Support

Honorable Chair and Committee members of Health:

While I myself, do not smoke, I believe that banning public smoking is detrimental to both local business and to the natural economy. As the current law bans smoking, local businesses suffer from lowered sales as well as opportunity lost due to the new regulations that have been placed on these establishments.

This sales loss multiplied by .03 and passed onto the national scale of economics is the true indicator of actual loss.

As our nation is already in a recession, a boost of sales caused by the exemptions provided in this legislation could be very beneficial.

In fact a vote against this legislation, is a vote against America.

Regards,

Aaron Steno

February 8, 2008

Keaki Fujinaka
Box 73391
Honolulu, HI

Testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: smoking license exemption SB 2792

I strongly support this legislation

Honorable Health Chair Senator Ige and Distinguished Members:

I am borrowing this story from my friend Kekoa Taliaferro, but it just made perfect sense to me. The only other thing I would add is the current smoking ban laws are discriminatory in nature and only afford Choice to those individuals who are adverse to Tobacco.

“I think the smoking ban in it’s current form infringes on the rights of the people of our society to choose their own acceptable risk levels, if any.

For the people who choose to work in smoky environments, I.e. bars or yakiniku restaurants, they can always choose to work somewhere else if they personally believe that this is a health issue. By the way, have any of you been to Camelia’s yakiniku house lately? You come out smelling like Kal Bi. But no one seems to mind that stench. In fact, I have never been in a bar that smoky in my entire life.”

I dare you to go there for lunch and sit among the 50 burning yakiniku grills. See how well those employee’s are being protected from SHS, and let’s not forget the children who are sitting in all that Carbon Monoxide and chemical filled toxic, but oh so *ono* smelling air.

It is simple, Individual proprietors should choose their smoking policies. Not the government.

Regards,
Keaki Fujinaka

February 8, 2008

Joseph A. Calheiros
MCBH Kaneohe Bay, HI

Testimony@Capito.Hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 exemption for smoking licenses

Position: The most strong support possible

Members of the Senate Health Committee:

I think it's total bull**** that they took away the right for people to smoke in bars because some intolerable people have sticks shoved up their a***** and don't want to be around smoke. When I was young there were smoking and non-smoking sections in restaurants. My parents, not wanting to be around smoke, have always sat in non-smoking sections. We have the right to choose to sit in the smoking section; people have the right to choose not to. Don't force us out to the sidewalk and take away our RIGHT to smoke. Bars and Pubs are NOT family establishments; even family restaurants had smoking sections so we wouldn't have to leave our food and drinks to smoke if we so chose. F*** this stupid f***** law. It's bull****. As a service member, a veteran, defending with my life the Constitution of the United States of America and this great Nation of ours I also defend the right to smoke inside, not outside, where it could be raining, or any other sort of weather that may come about and make us uncomfortable to be forced to stand in.

Joseph A Calheiros
Active Duty Marine

February 8, 2008

Lynn Hughs
Kahuhipa St
Kaneohe, Hawaii

Testimony@Capitol.Hawaii.gov

RE: Smoking License Exemption SB 2792

Position: Strong Support

Honorable Senate Members of the Health Committee:

If smoking is legal, then smokers should be allowed to smoke wherever private property owners allow it. This means Bars, Restaurants, or private residences for that matter.

If someone is against that basic freedom, then they can choose to go to like-minded establishments, there are thousands to choose from here in the State.

Not every Bar will be a smoking bar, but then again, not every bar would have to be the completely one-sided desire of the Anti-Smoking Special Interest Groups.

Sincerely,

Lynn Hughs

February 8, 2008

John Leahy
520-241-6501

Testimony@Capitol.Hawaii.gov

RE: Smoking Exemption License SB 2792

Strong Support

Honorable members of the Health Committee:

I chose to smoke. Patrons who enter an establishment that allows smoking also make a choice.

If smoking offends you, then it is your choice if you want to spend your money and time in a place that allows this activity.

It is not the governments place to make these choices for us. Instead of placing a ban on smoking, leave it up to the business owner to decide their own policy.

People are more than capable of deciding for themselves as to what they allow themselves to be exposed to.

Respectfully,

John Leahy

February 8, 2009

Nicole Kuszczak
Ala Nia Pl.
Maui, Hawaii

testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Exemption for Smoking in bars

Position: Strongly Support

Honorable Senate Members of the Health Committee:

The issues surrounding the "BAN" on smoking in private establishment's, take away from private citizens and private business owners freedom of American rights to choice.

This ban should remain in effect for health care facilities, corporate businesses, Schools/Universities, and playgrounds!!

In no way should non-smokers be force to be around 2nd hand smoke in areas where they do not have a choice to have the freedom of clean air.

In private based establishments (Bars/Restaurants), there are thousands of choices for those who wish to enjoy themselves in a smoke-free environment.

Businesses need to have the freedom to keep/lose patron (in the bar and restaurant industries)!

It is the basis of free enterprise and free choices and a free America!

Sincerely,

Nicole Kuszczak

February 8, 2008

Karen Hunnie
Ala Nia Pl
Maui, Hawaii

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Sb 2792 License Exemptions for Bar Owners

Position: Strong Support

Honorable Senate Members of the committee on Health:

I find that smoking at a "Bar" should be allowed as long as the owner of the establishment has chosen to do so.

If people who don't like smoke disagree, they are free to go elsewhere. There should be a choice for establishments that want to allow it.

I believe, if you are a paying customer, and wish to smoke in a smoker friendly establishment, you must be afforded this right.

If anyone feels this atmosphere may hinder their health, they have a choice whether or not to come in.

I feel the law should be overturned. This is America, how about that take on freedom and pursuit of happiness?

Karen Hunnie

February 8, 2008

Melyssa LaBerge
Ohina St.
Kihei, Maui

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking Licenses

Position: Strong Support

Honorable Senate Members and Chair of the Health Committee:

We should have the choice to smoke inside a bar, if the owner chooses to allow it. If people don't want to be around smoke, then they can go to a different bar. Granted direct tobacco consumption is bad for our health, but it is a legal substance and it is also a personal choice.

Drunks are just as hazardous to your health in a different sort of way. Smoking in bars should be the owner's choice.

Stop turning America into a sissy country. We need some guilty pleasures in life, and mine are a Captain and Coke with a smoke at a bar.

We need to protect our freedoms regarding personal issues.

Melyssa LaBerge

February 8, 2008

Lorraine Sureham
Victoria St.
Honolulu, Hawaii

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption

Honorable Senate Health Chair and Committee Members:

If you are going to regulate unhealthy things, you should close all fast-food places, because Heart Disease kills more people than lung cancer.

If you regulate one, than outlaw all of them, alcohol, junk food, cigarettes and sugar.

Now that people smoke outside, it creates litter, destruction of property and noise disturbances.

Keep the cigarette smokers inside the bars that are happy to provide ashtrays, and service with a smile.

Lorraine Sureham

February 8, 2008

Bob Askew
N. Nimitz Hwy
Honolulu, Hawaii

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking Exemption License for Bar Owners

Honorable Senate Health Chair and Committee Members:

How can the State of Hawaii make a law that allows smoking in state prisons, but not Bars. Is it a question of the type of bars? On the windows or a business industry name?

How come bartenders can easily change venues, but prison workers, because of their vocations, could never easily remove themselves from SHS exposure. Is there truly a need or evidence that rises to the level of this insanity in the first place. I do not believe the so called killer effects of SHS on healthy people. Sure if you are chronically ill, smoking would be a problem. But for the majority of the world, this exposure is no different in health effects to any number of other far more lethal exposures that we all have to live with on a daily basis,

Regards and thank you for considering my opinion,

Bob Askew

February 6, 2008

Melissa Jenkins
Email: meconn1977@yahoo.com

Tesitomy@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking Exemption

Position: Strong Support for Smoking Exemption License/Organ Donor Bill

Honorable Senators of the Health Committee:

I support HB2900 as a repair for the financial harm being done to certain Business owners due to the current smoking ban law in the State. I am Bartender, and my livelihood has definitely been negatively affected by the new law.

I am requesting that the SB 2792 be passed into law immediately. People and business owners should have the right to choose which kind of clients they want to service.

At least 70% of my customers are smokers. I am not adverse to the smell of tobacco and am aware of the claims of the dangers of second hand smoke. I personally feel that it is my choice to assume risks, if any, when deciding what I want to do for a living.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Melissa Jenkins

February 6, 2008

Niko Koga
P.O. Box 6068
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Testimony@Capitol.Hawaii.Gov

RE:
SB 2792 Smoking Exemption

Position: Strong Support for Exemption/donor bill

Committee Chair: Senator Ige, Vice Chair Senator Fukunaga Senate Health committee members:

As a bar owner, I am happy that there is an option on the table to allow me to recoup a tax credit on the losses my business has suffered due to the current smoking ban. This has related to a direct loss of 35% of my total gross sales. A tax credit is nice, but it does not solve my problem.

95% of my employees are smokers, 80% of my clientele are smokers. Having them both outside more than inside is a problem, not only to my bottom line, but to other issues like noise control, littering, and just the basic problem of not being able to control what is not on your property.

I believe that having a license available is the solution, although I am not thrilled about having to pay a fee for something that I was allowed to do freely until November 16, 2006, I will then be able to satisfy my customer base and keep my employee's happy as well.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Niko Koga

February 7, 2008

Clay Archambault
Honolulu, Hawaii

fbislandgirl@yahoo.com

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption

Position: Support

Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee:

This country has thrived, when the freedom of individuals and business to make their own choices is honored. This bill is the solution to the problem that was created when the new smoking laws were enacted. They stripped a segment of society the right to public enjoyment of a legal product.

Thank you for your consideration of this opinion,

Clay Archambault

February 6, 2008

Donny Sakamoto
905 Kalaniana'ole Hwy

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Exemption for Bar Owners

Position: Support

Dear Honorable Health Committee Members:

I think that the best fix for this situation would be passing the legislation in SB 2792. That way business owners could then decide which type of business they want to run.

As a smoker, this smoking ban has been very intrusive into my personal enjoyment of my after hour activities. I am a construction worker and am exposed to certain risk levels that many people would not choose to be exposed to. I have chosen this profession and anyone who decides to work in a smoker friendly bar can also choose to assume risk levels, if any.

As an American citizen, I am entitled to my inherent right to assess these risks for myself. The smoking ban has taken away what I feel, is my constitutional right to enjoy a legal product. This is intrusive behavior on the government's part and opens the door for more discriminatory legislation. The government should not just be subsidizing businesses, they should be allowing businesses the freedom to choose their own clientele and with that freedom subsidize themselves through free enterprise.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Donny Sakamoto

February 06, 2008

William S. Allen
Scott.go.insolid@gmail.com

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking Exemption Licenses for Bar Owners

Position: Support

Dear Honorable Senate Committee Members of Health:

As a contractor and business owner, I would be very upset by the government passing a law that would adversely affect my ability to do business with a certain portion of the population, based on a legal product or act.

I am requesting Smoking exemption for bars be included be passed into law. The two part bill is a win, win scenario, both for smokers and for organ donation education. I am a bar patron. As a patron, I have the right to decide where I spend my money. As an business owner, I reserve the right to targeting the clientele I am servicing, and my employee's are hired at their own willingness to work. My industry carries its own levels of risk, and as adults, we freely are allowed to choose our acceptable risk levels.

Businesses thrive when left to work themselves out in the free market. This same rule should apply for adult recreational activities. Owners choose, employees choose, customers choose. It's the American Way.

Sincerely,

William S. Allen

February 7, 2008

Christopher E. Bartobzzi
Honolulu, Hawaii

Chrisb@ejlounge.com

Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB2792 Smoking license exemption

Honorable Health Committee member:

The tax credit being offered in the house is only a band-aid for the real problem that Hawaii's current smoking ban has ripped through our industry. I am a Bartender, I smoke and I work around smoking and smokers, I know exactly what I'm dealing with, when I'm at work, and everyone who chooses to come to our bar is also fully aware of the environment they are choosing to enter.

Let the owners decide for themselves, if their bar is smoking or non-smoking. We never asked you for this across the board law. And we could really use an exemption so the other side can have a place to go, enjoy two legal products, and exist in an equal opportunity environment.

Regards,

Christopher Bartobzzi

February 07, 2008

Kanoa Taylor
Waikapu, Maui
kanoat@yahoo.com

testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB2792 Smoking License Exemption for bar owners.

Position: Strong Support

Bar owners, employees and patrons should be afforded a choice when it comes to how they want to enjoy legal adult entertainment.

I am a merchant marine. I am exposed to all types of hazards on a daily basis. I am paid well for the risks I assume, so do people working in the bar business. There is no compensation that comes to the level of taking away a person's freedom of choice. I ask you to pass this bill and let the free market decide.

Best regards,

Kanoa Taylor

February 8, 2008

Bryan Clark
Lumiauau Street
Waipahu, HI

Testimony@Capito.Hawaii.gov

RE: SB2792 Exemption for Bar Owners to get a Smoking License

Position: Strong Support

Honorable members of the Health committee:

I feel the ban is discriminatory and wrong. It is sad to see business hurt by this law.

B. Clark

February 8, 2008

Jared White
Kupuohi Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemptions for Bar Owners

Position: Strong Support

Honorable Chair Ige and members of the Health Committee:

I believe it is the establishment's choice whether smoking is allowed or not. The government should not mandate it.

Jared White

Matt White
Lumiauau Street
Waipahu, HI

Testimony@Capito.Hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption

Position: Strong Support

Honorable members of the Senate committee:

I believe that smoking in bars should be legal. If you think about it, smoking in bars helps out. Keeps drunk people inside instead of outside being loud. It also will help littering, by smoking inside there will be less cigarette butts and packs thrown away inside instead of being thrown on the streets. It also brings more business to places and helps boost sales, which leads to more sales and helps the economy. By making smoking illegal you are hurting the small businesses and turning us into a corporate America!! It should be up to the bar/restaurant owner, instead of pig-headed suits and the cops. It is very discriminatory.

Matt White

February 8, 2008

**Cherrie Portmann
Cartwright Road
Honolulu, HI**

Testimony@Capitol.Hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking Exemption License for Bar Owners

Position: Strong Support

Honorable Senate members of the Health Committee:

I think the smoking ban should be lifted because people have a right to smoke in public if they want. It's not against the law to smoke if you are of age so it shouldn't be against the law anywhere else. Maybe there should be smoking sections so people can choose to avoid it if they don't like it.

Cherrie Portmann

February 8, 2008

Randi Petrello
Cartwright Road
Honolulu, HI

Testimony@Capito.Hawaii.gov

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemptions for Bar Owners

Position: Strong Support

**Honorable Chair Senator David Ige, Vice Chair Senator Carol Fukunaga,
members of the Health Senator Ron Menor, Senator Rosalyn Baker and Senator
Paul Whalen:**

**Even though I like that I don't smell like an ashtray when I leave the bar, I think
people should be able to do what they want. And this latest ban on the Big
Island at public beaches is ridiculous.**

Respectfully,

Randi Petrello

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption

Position: **Strong Support**

From: **Michael Zehner**

Honorable Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Senate members of the Committee on Health:

It has been well over a year since Hawaii's draconian and failed smoking ban was inflicted against your smoking constituents, certain small businesses, and our tourism industry.

The Senate Health Committee choose to defer the smoking ban problem last Febuary, to "give it time" to see the results and then go from there to see if a fix was needed. So here are the effects. Sad to say that the comprehensive numbers speak of a ban that did little or nothing for the communitie's health as we were promised and had a very negitive effect on bars and on tourism.

<u>Health Promise</u>	<u>Health Reality</u>	<u>Results;</u>
"The smoking ban will cause many smokers to quit." - numerous anti-smoking lobby sources.	2003 17.2% smokers 2004 17.2% smokers 2005 17.0% smokers 2006 17.5% smokers 2007 17.0-17.5% estimate based on Preliminary CDC Data.	Failure

<u>Health Promise</u>	<u>Health Reality</u>	<u>Results;</u>
"The smoking ban will save thousands of lives." - D. Zysman	The average death rate in Hawaii was 797 in 2006 before the ban and 802 post ban throughout 2007 per the DOH "vital statistics" An increase of 0.6% !	Failure

<u>Health Promise</u>	<u>Health Reality</u>	<u>Results;</u>
"Heart Attack (AMI)rate will drop 27-40%." -AHA and others.	Monthly Average Admission for AMI Statewide, not one or two hospitals; 2005 = 104.3 2006 = 103.8 2007 = 105.5 (first half) per the HHIC health group	Failure. Not only a failure but shameless dishonesty. In much larger communities such as California, it actually went up as well. - per the Federal HCUP site.

<u>Effect on Bars Promise.</u>	<u>Bar Business Reality</u>	<u>Results;</u>
That smoking bans "...have a neutral or even positive impact on business". From the brochure the DOH and Tobacco Free Hawaii sent out to the bar owners.	20 bars out of business by the summer of 2007 alone. This is three times the average rate in the past five years. Dispensers loose 8% adjusted. Cabarets loose 37% adjusted and 20% raw for the year in just 8 months.	Failure. I cruel and painful attack these small businesses.

Effect on tourism Promise Tourism Reality Results:

"It's not or will not affect tourism."- Various anti-smoking sources.

-Japanese Tourism hits a 20 year low
-Gov. Lingle travels to Japan to try to fix the problem through "education". I don't blame her for trying her best, but what is really needed is to fix ACT 295.
In the year November 2006 to NOV 2007, total visitors down 1.1% after years of growth. International visitors down 5.1% despite record exchange rates.

Failure. It did in fact harm tourism. It also killed the robust growth of prior years.

As it stands now there are several dozen bars that desperately need an exemption from this ban due to their high proportion of smoking customers. **How many more bars have to suffer or go out of business to satisfy the anti-smoking lobby's monomaniacal extremism?** Is it right to force some of these owners to have to allow smoking in violation of the ban or risk going out of business? It will and has happened before, other communities on the mainland are proof of this. Destroying these small mom and pop places may be the New York City ethic, but is it the ethic of Aloha?

Bars are for consenting adults. Non-smokers have many smoke free venues to enjoy, it is unfair that those who do smoke have none as a result of act 295. Our citizens and visitors deserve to have accommodations that respect the diversity of all legal lifestyles.

Also by passing SB2792, you help to promote life-saving organ donation to those in need with funding from a WILLING SOURCE instead of the general fund. The fees and effort involved in getting this license will insure only those places that really need it would get one.

Please vote in favor of SB-2792 and Mahalo.

Michael Zehner
750 Amana st.
Honolulu, HI 96814
mz9995@hotmail.com

testimony

From: Tim Lemke [timlemke20@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 4:07 PM
To: testimony
Subject: testimony for sb2792

To who it may concern. Please put in this testimony.

Testimony for SB-2792 Smoking License Exemption from Tim Lemke.

Support for Bill SB2792

To Chair Ige and Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Senate health committee on Monday.

Even though I don't smoke and never have I support this bill. I was informed of the existance of Senate Bill 2792 last night at a bar in Waikiki by the bartender. I don't really care for the smell of smoke, but I also don't freak out about it either.

I feel bad for my smoker friends that are upset over their treatment under the smoking law when it comes to bars and disappointed that they don't want to go out and party with me much because of it.

I don't support smoking inside of restaurants, in particular if little kids are there also. Some kids have asthma and have to go in with their family and can't make the choice like an adult can. I don't want this bill to expose other peoples kids to smoke inside a restaurant.

I believe my friends that smoke should have some places where they can be happy. I think at least some bars should allow smoking. Please support SB2792.

Sincerely, Tim Lemke, 785 Kinau Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

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testimony

From: patricia abbruscato [pabbruscato@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 5:02 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB 2792 Relating to smoking license exemption Health Committee hearing 11 February, 2008, 1:15 p.m., Room 016

Re: SUPPORT SB 2792 Relating to smoking license exemption
Health Committee hearing 11 February, 2008, 1:15pm, Room 016

Honorable Senator Ige and Committee Members:

Supporting SB 2792 will help ensure that the rights of all citizens will be honored and protected.

This time the target is smokers, who will be next?
People who eat meat, people who are partially or completely sedentary, who knows? Public Health Education is essential to the welfare of any and all cultures. However, when individuals rights are being negating by a group of their peers who feel they are entitled to do so, this puts all norms and values at risk. This group of individuals are putting themselves at risk for their lifestyle to become negated, as soon as someone finds fault in something they enjoy doing.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

With Regards,

Patricia Abbruscato, M. Ed.
1923 Coyne Street.
Unit B
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808-699-6185
pabbruscato@yahoo.com

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[_ylt=Ahu06i62sR8HDtDypao8Wcj9tAcJ](http://mobile.yahoo.com/;_ylt=Ahu06i62sR8HDtDypao8Wcj9tAcJ)

testimony

From: Freebird [wchuckm1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 9:04 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SMOKERS

I support the Bill that would allow the establishments to apply for a license to allow smoking inside.

R/Walter Miske

We cant turn back the clock, We cant turn back the time, aint that a shame! /s/ Queen

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Testimony of Marci Miyasaki
Senate Committee on Health
February 11, 2008

In opposition to SB 2792 (written testimony only)

Chair Ige and members of the Senate Committee on Health:

I currently work as a bartender in a bar in Honolulu and I strongly support the ban on smoking in bars. Any exception, even an optional one, to this law would be a detriment to me and my co-workers.

Since the law went into effect, I have not noticed any drop in business. The “regulars,” some of which smoke, still come in.

I urge you to hold this bill and continue to support healthy, smoke-free workplaces.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DATE: February 11, 2008

TO: The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair, The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair – Chair and Members of the Committee on Health

FROM: MARCUS Q. MURPHY, M.Ed., CRC, NCC, LMHC
HC 3 BOX 14,009
KEAAU, HI 96749
(808) 982-5526 (H)
(808) 961-5590 (W)
(808) 938-1267 (cell)

RE: SB 2159, Relating to Professions

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I am testifying in strong support of SB 2159.

I received my master's degree in counseling and guidance in 1974 and have worked as a counselor in various settings over the past 33 years. I first obtained my Nationally Certified Counselor credential in about 1984. I have always viewed counseling as a profession and was pleased when the state allowed for licensure for counselors. It validates the important nature of the work that counselors do in many settings. I believe that this license identifies those who are professional Mental Health Counselors. Too often the term counselor is used very loosely as in "Sales Counselor", or "Camp Counselor". I believe that it benefits the consumers to know the degree of training and professionalism possessed by those from whom they seek services. Licensure also requires ongoing continuing education to be sure those with the credential put in the time and effort to continue learning and to remain apprised of changes in the field. The term counselor is very loosely used in common usage so the possession of a license gives the consumers a way by which to judge which counselors have met professional standards.

I strongly support the continuation of the credential/license to assure that a professional level of service is provided by those calling themselves counselors. Please pass SB 2159 out of the Committee on Health.

Respectfully,

Marcus Q. Murphy

February 9, 2008

RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption

Position: Strongly Support

**Honorable Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Senate Members of the
Committee on Health:**

For the past twenty (20) years my husband, Sam, and I have owned and operated a cocktail lounge in Kailua-Kona. I'm sure you're aware that running a business in Hawaii presents a daily challenge.

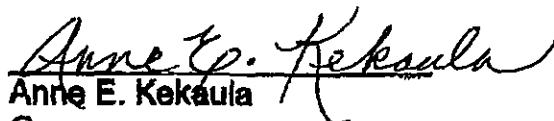
Sam's Hideaway is a gathering place, for a varied clientele, the majority of whom enjoy smoking. We have created a place of friendship, togetherness for sports, parties, fundraisers, receptions, even celebrations of life, sometimes to the point of being considered family.

Since the Smoking Law went into effect we have had a steady decline in revenue. Our sales between 2006 and 2007 dropped considerably. This means we have to borrow against our home to keep the doors open.

We are asking for an exemption or adjustment to have a licensed Smoking Establishment. Let it be the bar owner's choice to have smoking or not. Just as it should be the customer's or employee's choice to be with us.

Hawaii needs business, even small businesses. Sam and I need a livelihood. We want to continue to work, support ourselves, and put revenue back into Hawaii's economy.

Sincerely,


Anne E. Kekaula

Owner

Sam's Hideaway

P.O. Box 153

Kailua-Kona, Hi, 96745

808-328-3742

February 10, 2008
RE: SB 2792 Smoking License Exemption
Position: Strongly Support

Dear Honorable Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Senate Members of the Committee on Health:

Aloha! My name is Kimberly Momilani Kekaula Walker. I am 37 years old. My occupation is an Independent Sales Representative, yet my roots are solid in the Food and Beverage Industry. I am a Graduate of The Kamehameha Schools and a Graduate from The University of West Hawaii. I am a hard worker, a Mother, a Wife, a friend, and a good person. I am also the proud daughter of Sam and Anne Kekaula of Sam's Hideaway in Kailua-Kona, Hi. I am fair and I never judge someone without learning who they are as a person first! I am also a Non-Smoker, who has grown up around loved ones and family friends who smoke cigarettes. I am also physically fit, and in perfect health!!

I pray that YOU, Our Leaders, will sincerely READ FOR YOURSELVES, and feel the heart-felt testimonials from individuals not trying to change the law, but to just have an exemption, in which ALL people can have a choice! I am amazed at how much I have learned about how Politics work, how it's true that media is manipulated, and how people can really be mean when they have a lot of money behind them and are able to finance Lobbyists to be the "squeaky wheel," that drowns out good people just trying to fight for the American way of having individual rights to the Freedom of Choice!

I have spent many sleepless nights wondering how we as The People could have gotten this far and made such a mess. I have been worried, angry, and yet still hopeful, that You, our Leaders will honestly see what's going on here!! Please see the whole picture, not just the one that is backed by huge money and huge crowds (because they can afford it to be that way.) Please know that there would be huge crowds for our side too, but you need to remember that the small establishments in question here, asking to allow smoking, are still trying to run their business. They are running around, running their business, trying to cover all ends with you, still needing to do their lives, and then somehow from somewhere having to find money to travel and pay expenses to see you. Our opposition has Lobbyists whose only job is to fight for their view. That's it. They have big money. We also do not give dirty looks or wish anyone bad. We have heard some smug remarks from the other side, such as, "This is it for you, just wait till the fines take place." All we wish for is to be left alone, to be given a choice. Dear Leaders, You can do this with your own minds and your own hearts! You are in the position and are being entrusted to consider ALL The People, no matter how big or little.

My view on Sam's Hideaway, is that it is much like that t.v. show "Cheers!" We have good people who come to our bar. They are like my Auntys

pg. 2 of 3
ReKaula WALKI
SB 2792

and Uncles. We all care about each other like family. We are a classy bar. We don't have any children in our bar. We don't even have food! We have drinks, both non-alcoholic, and alcoholic, and most of our customers enjoy a cigarette with their drink. We sing, and visit, and talk story with each other, and we take care of a lot of people who don't have families, or who have just arrived from the Mainland. We are good to everyone, whether they smoke or not. We are their family.

I have seen these smokers abide by the changes this past year. I have seen them all over town whether it's office buildings or restaurants or stores. I have seen many listen and do the 20 ft. change. They are not bothering anyone. The customers in our bar are not bothering anyone either. Please give them some place to go, my goodness! They are not criminals. They also pay huge taxes which the government benefits. Mom and Pop type businesses are the backbone of our society. Have we all forgotten that? We are simply asking for an exemption to allow smoking in standard bars. That's not hard. People who just can't stand cigarettes can go somewhere else. At least we're not being nasty about this. That has got to count for something!

Please do not treat this as a nuisance, and "sweep it under the rug!" Please Leaders, don't refuse to see it, absorb it and act upon it, just because it is the easier thing to do. If this really is about the health of every American on this planet, which I believe it is not, then wouldn't you care about the health of the individuals trying to fight for the Freedom of Choice, and all of the stress they are enduring mentally, physically and financially just to be heard and given an exemption? I have known so many older people in my lifetime that have smoked cigarettes their whole lives and lived well into their nineties. Who do people think they are to say "this is how it's going to be, and so be it!" God, or the higher power that each religion believes in, is the only one who has THE Power to say who and how long any of us are here. I have read about how very healthy athletes/people just drop and die, and they are non-smokers. We don't know when it's our time to die. Smoking cigarettes is not killing everyone. My goodness!

I honestly feel, that the reason the opposition is so strong on this smoking ban, is because they and whomever they are connected with, is just avoiding bigger problems that should be addressed. Our Government has far more greater issues they should be spending time and tax money on! We have an on-going War, in which our soldiers are fighting for the very freedom we are trying to tell you not to forget, and they are dying for us too. We have immigration problems and messed up borders. We have mental health issues that should be addressed, so that shootings will stop, corrupt Police can be fixed, so that our precious babies will not fall into the wrong hands and killed. We have domestic violence and abuse and woman getting killed in public. We have a huge tax problem here in Kona and Lamahauna in Honolulu and on

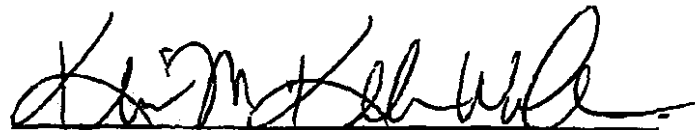
PAGE 4
KJ 2/13
Kekaula Walker
SB 2792

smoke a cigarette in a stand alone bar is being challenged and threatened by the Opposition that "Oh, you just wait. We're coming." They have put together people to go around and give fines. That is nasty!

I feel like we are moving backwards in time! I am scared for the future for my son and other children to think that this is the kind of world we are giving them. I am scared that it will become a world that is controlled by a select few and a world where people can be "bought out." We are a Democracy! I fear that we are on the path of a Communistic or Socialistic kind of Government. This smoking law is just the first step. If you don't pass it where at least there can be a designated place for someone who just wants to have a cigarette, like a stand alone bar, then what's next? Will someone tell me that I can't have a hamburger because "they" think I'm too fat? Will "they" tell me I can't wear my bright aloha shirt, because it's just too bright, and I should be like everyone else? We should all be skinny, non-smokers, who all do the same thing and act the same way! That scares me to death!

Dear Leaders, please remember that Hawaii has embraced the beauty of all kinds of different people, of different nationalities, different lifestyles, different habits and different skin colors. "That" is the beauty of who we are, not just in Hawaii, but as an American citizen. I think people have forgotten that. Everyone is different. There is a place for all of us here, living in harmony with each other. That is what we should be fighting so hard for!

With All My Aloha and Trust in You, Our Leaders,



Kimberly M. Kekaula Walker
P.O. Box 4094
Kailua-Kona, Hi., 96745
808-325-1903

testimony

From: Melissa Pampulov [pampulov@hawaii.usta.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 10:28 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

L A T E

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Melissa Pampulov
6710 Hawaii Kai Drive #1508
Honolulu, HI 96825

testimony

From: Leilani Magee [magee@hawaii.usta.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 10:08 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

L A T E

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

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Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

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Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Leilani Magee
1500 S. Beretania St., #300
Honolulu, HI 96826

testimony

From: Sally Manea [maneat001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 10:02 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

L A T E

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

Please continue to protect clean air for people who work in restaurants, bars and clubs.

Sincerely, Sally Jo Manea
Kapaa, Kauai, HI

Maternal Child Health Coordinator Sally Jo Manea Maternal Child Health Coordinator
6415 Olohena Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

808-822-9447

testimony

From: John Galmiche [j7galmiche@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 4:32 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

L A T E

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

My family has run a bar/restaurant for the past 20 years. A local bar in Nu'uuanu, we have always catered both to local and foreign customers alike, always with respect and "aloha." Recently, as a matter of fact, my mother and I were conversing with a customer who had also previously worked in the bar/restaurant circuit, about the ABSOLUTELY-REMARKABLE, AMAZING DIFFERENCE non-smoking has made in those working in the service arena. The customer, who now has asthma and decreased capacity of the lungs, commented that the smoke was one of her main health concerns. Needless to say, she was a few years senior to my mother and many years older than me. The prospect that we have already damaged our lungs (and subsequent general health) really rang in a first-hand chord with me. The mere thought that the smoking ban could be lifted would seriously affect not only our health, but everyone's health as well. BREATHING UNCIRCULATED SMOKE FOR HOURS IS NOT ONLY A CONCERN FOR THE STAFF, BUT FOR ALL COSTUMERS AS WELL, SMOKING AND NON-SMOKERS ALIKE! Further, it's been suggested that places could have the option of refusing smokers in their establishment. This is something that looks great on paper and even sounds diplomatic in a senate committee. However, the practical implications on the everyday operations of an establishment, especially smaller businesses, would be catastrophic. Many would think it elitist and separatist for a business to ban smoking, i.e. smoking. It would be potential business suicide. The government stepping in to alleviate this responsibility from the individual owner has been such a great relief. PLEASE DO NOT ABANDON US NOW! Caring for the work staff and customer's health should be, and still is I hope, your main concern. Thanks you so much for taking the time to read my letter.

John Galmiche

John Galmiche
2148 Aupuni St
Honolulu, HI 96817

testimony

From: Marilyn Gagen [mgagen@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 10:39 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

L A T E

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight.

Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending. And many countries in Europe and other places are going smoke free.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. The overwhelming majority of Hawaii residents and visitors want to breath smoke free air. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Marilyn Gagen
41-926 Laumilo Street
Waimanalo, HI 96795

(808)543-0791



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Executive Director

February 11, 2008

L A T E

To: Sen. David Ige, Chair
Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senate Health Committee

From: Cynthia J. Goto, M.D., President
Linda Rasmussen, M.D., Legislative Co-Chair
Philip Hellreich, M.D., Legislative Co-Chair
Paula Arcena, Executive Director
Dick Botti, Government Affairs Liaison

PLEASE DELIVER TO

SEN HTH COMMITTEE

Monday
2/11/08
1:15pm
Room 016

RE: SB2792 RELATING TO SMOKING (Allows smoking in properly licensed establishments. Requires collection of smoking establishment licensing fee with proceeds to go towards organ donation education and tobacco education.)

The Hawaii Medical Association is opposed to SB2792.

HMA strongly supported the passage of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law, which is one of the best public health measures the Hawaii legislature has approved.

We oppose SB 2792 because it will weaken Hawaii's comprehensive smoke free law by allowing smoking in bars, nightclubs, and restaurants.

SB2792 will result in no protection from secondhand smoke for the employees of bars, nightclubs and restaurants. Secondhand smoke leading cause of preventable death in Hawaii and it is imperative that we protect employee and individuals from this avoidable health hazard.

In 1982, the Surgeon General reported, "Cigarette smoking is the major single source of cancer mortality in the United States." This statement remains true today and smoking is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths in the United States.

It is important that the Hawaii legislature reject attempts to gain exceptions to Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law.

We urge you to hold this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Hawaii Medical Association
1360 S. Beretania St.
Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96814
(808) 536-7702
(808) 528-2376 fax
www.hmaonline.net

testimony

From: Sheila Kurosu [kurosu@hawaii.usta.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 11:11 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

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A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

Sheila Kurosu
1500 S. Beretania Street
Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96826