

HB 1175

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TOBACCO, Increase tax on cigarettes

BILL NUMBER: HB 1175, SD-1

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Health

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 245-3 (a) to increase the tax on cigarettes from 11 cents to 20 cents per cigarette on July 1, 2009.

Amends HRS section 245-15 to provide that on July 1, 2009, and prior to October 1, 2010: (1) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited into the Hawaii cancer research special fund; (2) 0.75 cents per cigarette shall be deposited into the trauma system special fund; (3) 0.75 cents per cigarette shall be deposited into the community health centers special fund; (4) 0.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited into the emergency medical services special fund; and (5) _____ percent of the remaining revenues shall be deposited into the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

After September 30, 2010, and prior to October 1, 2011: (1) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited into the Hawaii cancer research special fund; (2) 1.0 cent per cigarette shall be deposited into the trauma system special fund; (3) 1.0 cent per cigarette shall be deposited into the community health centers special fund; (4) 1.0 cent per cigarette shall be deposited into emergency medical services special fund; and (5) _____ percent of the remaining revenues shall be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

After September 30, 2011, and thereafter: (1) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited into the Hawaii cancer research special fund; (2) 1.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited into the trauma system special fund; (3) 1.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited into the community health centers special fund; (4) 1.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited into the emergency medical services special fund; and (5) _____ percent of the remaining revenues shall be deposited into the credit of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009

STAFF COMMENTS: The legislature by Act 316, SLH 2006, provided for a staged increase on the tax on cigarettes and provided that any moneys collected in excess of what would have been collected at the tax rate of 7 cents per cigarette is to be distributed to various special funds. While Act 316 also provided staged increases up to 2011 in the distribution of such revenues for the various funds, it provides that between 9/30/08 and 9/29/09: 2.0 cents to be deposited into the Hawaii cancer research fund; 0.5 cents paid into the trauma system special fund; 0.25 cents deposited into the community health centers special fund, and 0.25 cents deposited into the emergency medical services special fund.

This measure increases the tax on cigarettes from 11 cents to 20 cents and provides that a percentage of the revenue generated from the increase would be deposited into the Hawaii tobacco prevention and

control trust fund.

It should also be remembered that the rising cost of the product may, in fact, jeopardize funding of these programs. In addition, the federal government's newly adopted increase brings the federal tax to \$1.01 per pack, the tax per pack of cigarettes in Hawaii will rise to more than \$5. As the product becomes more expensive, there will, no doubt, be a reduction in consumption or more untaxed product purchased. This, in turn, will jeopardize the funding of the specified programs making this resource less and less dependable as a funding mechanism for the earmarked programs.

While anti-tobacco advocates might like to see the tax on cigarettes go even high as they believe forcing people to quit smoking is in the best interest of the community, lawmakers must remember that this is a source of revenue that helps to pay the bills. Thus, there is a point of diminishing returns. Consumption has already declined from a high of 54 million packs sold when the tax was a \$1.60 per pack to 50.5 million packs as the tax rose to \$1.80 per pack. It has now leveled off at that level of consumption. Where the revenue line and consumption line will cross is anyone's guess, but at some point, enough people will quit or reduce their consumption of this product where the state will actually realize less revenue even though the tax rate has increased. Caution should be exercised in raising this tax so dramatically at a time when the state general fund is in dire need of resources.

The notion that the state general fund can be balanced with an increase in "sin" taxes on tobacco and alcohol products is ludicrous. First, as noted above, the higher one pushes the cost of these products, the greater the possibility of actually seeing a decline in consumption as consumers moderate or eliminate consumption. Second, much of the consumption of these products, in particular alcoholic beverages, is made by visitors which, as hotels have reported, are dwindling in numbers. Thus, the base for both of these tax resources will begin to shrink until the visitors return. Thus, these tax resources cannot be counted upon to raise revenues to balance the state budget. Thus, legislators will suffer great angst in raising these taxes and will have very little to show for their political risk. In fact, as was evidenced in the states of New Jersey and Maryland, lawmakers there counted on an increase in the cigarette taxes to help balance their budgets only to learn that collections actually went down below their prior levels. Thus, care should be exercise in targeting these resources for a quick fix to the state's financial woes.

Finally, lawmakers need to remember that the amount payable to the state under the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) with the tobacco companies is dependent on the amount of product purchased and consumed nationwide. With the rise in the federal tax and potential state tax increases, there is no doubt that it will affect consumption of this product and, therefore, the amount of money the states receive under the MSA.

Digested 3/31/09



COALITION FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

To: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Trisha Y. Nakamura, Policy and Advocacy Director
Date: April 1, 2009
DM: Senate Committee on Ways and Means; April 2, 2009; at 9:30 a.m.
Re: **Strong Support for HB 1175, HD 3, SD 1 Relating to Taxation**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in strong support of HB 1175, HD 3, SD 1 which would increase the cigarette tax from 10 cents to 20 cents per cigarette beginning July 1, 2009 and earmark some of the revenues for Tobacco Prevention and Control.

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is the only independent organization in Hawaii whose sole mission is to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our organization is a small nonprofit organization of over 3,000 partner organizations and advocates that works to create a healthy Hawaii through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts.

Increased Revenue, Cost Savings from Fewer Smoking-Related Health Issues, and Lives Saved
Hawaii has the second-lowest number of smoking-related deaths in the nation. Still, tobacco use remains the number one cause of preventable death. Tobacco is responsible for over 1,200 deaths per year in Hawaii and costs over \$330 million dollars in direct medical related costs.

Numerous studies have shown that increasing cigarette taxes is effective at preventing kids from becoming regular, addicted smokers. Price was found to have the greatest impact on preventing youth from becoming daily and relatively heavy daily smokers, with youth being two to three times more sensitive to price changes than adults. Price increases have also been shown to reduce the smoking rates of pregnant women, thus reducing the risk factors for neonatal mortality and other smoking-related complications. We project that with a 20-cents/cigarette tax increase, 8,200 adult smokers will quit and 7,500 residents will be saved from premature smoking-caused death. These declines will ultimately lead to savings from fewer smoking-related and smoking-caused health issues:

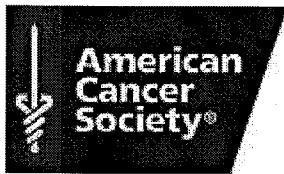
- \$2.4 million saved over 5 years from fewer smoking-affected pregnancies and births; and
- \$3.3 million saved over 5 years from fewer smoking-caused heart attacks & strokes.

Some may argue that a tax increase will decrease revenues. However, failure to increase cigarette tax rates results in a revenue loss over time due to inflation and smoking declines. The State ultimately stands to save in smoking-related health costs as smoking rates decline. With a tax of 20-cents/cigarette, we project an additional revenue of \$33.8 million in the first year.

A Portion of the Revenues Must Be Earmarked for Prevention Programs

We support the SD1 in that it provides an earmark for prevention programs that will help those who are trying to quit smoking or using smokeless tobacco. We urge you to dedicate a portion of the revenues from cigarette taxes to funding tobacco prevention and control programs.

Like the tax increase on smokeless tobacco, increasing the tax on cigarettes is a win-win for our State during this difficult economic time. Please pass this measure out of Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of this matter.



April 1, 2009

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Hearing:

3:00 P.M., Monday, March 16, 2009
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016

RE: HB1175, HD3, SD1, Relating to Taxation

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members of the Committee on Way and Means. Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in strong support of HB1175, HD3, SD1, which increases the cigarette tax from 10¢ per cigarette to 20¢ per cigarette beginning July 1, 2009.

Three years ago, the American Cancer Society strongly supported legislation that raised the cigarette tax in Hawaii which allocated a portion of the new revenues raised into the Hawaii Cancer Research Center Special Fund for a new research facility in Kakaako, and operating expenses.

We would also like to take this opportunity to briefly note for the committee that **numerous economic studies in peer-reviewed journals have documented that cigarette tax or price increases reduce both adult and underage smoking. The general consensus is that every 10% increase in the real price of cigarettes reduces overall cigarette consumption by approximately three to five percent, reduces the number of young-adult smokers by 3.5%, and reduces the number of kids who smoke by 6 or 7%.** Also, in filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission the cigarette companies have publicly admitted to the effectiveness of cigarette tax increases in deterring smoking.

We believe that this bill will have substantial impact on Hawaii's adult and youth smoking rates. In addition, from what we can determine, it will also generate between \$70 and \$85 million of much needed revenues for our state.

Mahalo for giving us the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure here today.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George S. Massengale".

George S. Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations



American Heart Association | American Stroke Association

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Testimony In Strong Support of HB 1175, HD 3, SD 1

The American Heart Association (AHA) of Hawaii strongly supports HB 1175, HD 3, SD 1. A one time sizeable tax increase would have a greater impact on reducing smoking rates in Hawaii, especially on the lower income and youth markets, which are more price sensitive, and which are the most highly targeted by tobacco company marketing and advertising.

Because smoking levels are highest among people with low incomes, the cigarette companies try to argue that cigarette tax increases are regressive taxes that fall disproportionately hard on lower-income families and communities. But this argument turns reality upside down. These are the same companies that have been preying on low-income and poor communities for decades. In fact, from 1998 to 2002 the cigarette companies increased the prices they charge for their cigarettes by more than \$1.00 per pack (and by more than two cents for every cent needed to cover all of their costs from the state tobacco lawsuit settlements). The cigarette companies have no problem with levying new charges on low-income smokers when it increases their own profits. They only oppose the new charges when someone else (like a state government) gets the new revenues, instead. In fact, even though the federal government's new increase on cigarette taxes is only this week being implemented, the cigarette companies wasted no time immediately after the law passed months ago in hiking the prices on their products to profiteer on the increase during the interim period.

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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677 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 600
Honolulu, HI 96813-5485
Phone: 808-538-7021
Fax: 808-538-3443

Maui County:
J. Walter Cameron Center
95 Mahalani Street, No. 13
Wailuku, HI 96793-2598
Phone: 808-224-7185
Fax: 808-224-7220

Hawaii:
400 Hualani Street, Ste. 15
Hilo, HI 96720-4333
Phone: 808-961-2825
Fax: 808-961-2827

Kauai:
(Serviced by Oahu office)
Phone: 808-538-7021
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***"Building healthier lives,
free of cardiovascular
diseases and stroke."***

The fact that smoking rates are highest among lower-income groups means that lower-income families and communities currently suffer the most from smoking and will, consequently, benefit the most from any effective new measures to reduce smoking, including increased state cigarette taxes. Their health problems caused by tobacco use also disproportionately affect Medicaid costs to the state.

Smokers who do not reduce their smoking because of a cigarette tax increase will also still benefit economically, along with every other state taxpayer. Right now, smoking produces a "hidden tax" that totals more than \$40 billion per year to pay for smoking-caused state and federal healthcare costs. Smoking declines caused by state cigarette tax increases directly reduce these smoking-caused tax burdens for all taxpayers.

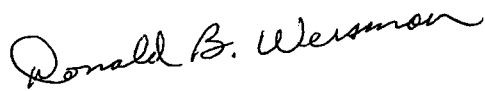
While tobacco tax increases that raise cigarette prices prevent and reduce smoking among all income groups, they work most powerfully to prompt lower-income smokers to quit or cutback and to stop lower-income kids from every starting. As a result, low-income families and communities will not be the victims of any cigarette tax increase but its biggest beneficiaries.

The cigarette companies' regressivity argument fails to account for each of the following facts:

- Increases to state cigarette tax rates will not place any new financial burdens of any kind on the 85 percent of Hawaii adults who neither smoke cigarettes nor buy them.
- While new cigarette tax increases will raise cigarette prices, many current smokers will avoid the higher prices by quitting, cutting back, or switching to cheaper cigarettes – and lower-income smokers are much more likely than higher-income smokers to quit or cut back in response to price increases. In fact, all of the smokers who quit and many of those who cut back because of cigarette tax increases would actually save money by spending less on cigarettes.
- Those who stopped smoking in response to cigarette tax increases would greatly improve their own health, which could also significantly reduce their healthcare costs. Because of their higher rate of illness and disability, smokers have substantially higher annual and lifetime healthcare costs than nonsmokers or former smokers (despite living shorter lives). Healthcare expenditures caused by smoking total more than \$96 billion per year nationwide, with billions being paid directly by smokers, either through direct healthcare payments or increased health insurance premiums. Tobacco use costs all Hawaii taxpayers and businesses an estimated half-billion dollars each year in smoking-attributable direct medical expenditures and smoking-attributable loss of productivity.
- Any significant state cigarette tax increase also would bring in millions of dollars per year in new government revenues, thereby reducing pressures for other, broader-based tax increases. **Smokers who quit would likely spend the money saved from paying for cigarettes on other products or services that would benefit the state tax coffers without adding to healthcare costs.**
- The smoking declines produced by significant cigarette tax increases save lives, reduce human suffering, promote the public health, and prevent more kids from becoming addicted to smoking or ultimately dying from it – and these results are disproportionately experienced among low-income persons, families, and communities. Even those low-income smokers who do not change their behavior because of tobacco tax increases still benefit from having fewer family members, friends, and neighbors falling victim to tobacco use.
- **The tobacco companies and their front groups will argue that too steep an increase in cigarette prices could negatively impact tax revenue to the state. What they fail to acknowledge is that those who might quit smoking as a result of a tax increase would then have additional money to spend on taxable products that don't result in over a \$500 million in costs to the state. The money doesn't go up in smoke; instead it will likely be spent on more productive things that can benefit our families and our state. Over 5 years, there will be a health savings of \$2.4 million in fewer smoking-affected pregnancies and births, and \$3.3 million from adult and youth smoking declines.**
- **Low-income smokers and their communities disproportionately benefit when the new revenues from cigarette tax increases are directed to programs to help people quit smoking and prevent kids from starting** – both because smoking is more prevalent among low-income persons and because they may have much less access or exposure to any such programs than people with higher incomes.
- Not surprisingly, in poll after poll low-income Americans – along with all other Americans – strongly support higher cigarette taxes in order to prevent and reduce youth smoking.

The American Heart Association of Hawaii strongly urges you to support HB 1175, HD 3, SD 1 and to use the increased tax revenue to increase funding to tobacco prevention and control programs in our state.

Respectfully submitted, -

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald B. Weisman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

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

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Fax: (808) 537-5971
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1-800- LUNG-USA
(586-4872)

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TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**FOR: Decision Making Scheduled for 9:30 am
Thursday, April 2, 2009**

**RE: COMMENTS IN STRONG SUPPORT HB 1175, HD 3, SD 1
RELATING TO TAXATION**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

The American Lung Association in Hawaii strongly supports HB 1175, which increases the cigarette tax from \$0.10 per cigarette to \$0.20.

Some say that increasing the tax on cigarettes will result in a decreased income stream from this source, however most are not concentrating on how much this action will reduce annual smoking-related health care costs. **THIS IS ACTUALLY WHAT WE WANT TO SEE!**

As we know, most smokers begin in their youth also a time when they have access to fewer disposable dollars. Raising the cost of cigarettes makes is much less attractive to buy them.

ALA in Hawaii believes adoption of HB 1175, HD3, SD 1 is an important step in leading to a smoke-free, healthy Hawaii.

Respectively submitted,

Jean Evans, MPH
Executive Director
American Lung Association in Hawaii

Improving Life

One Breath at a Time

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



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street | Suite 601 | Honolulu, HI 96813-4718 | Tel: 808.536.8442 | Fax: 808.524.0347
www.hawaiipca.net

To: **The Senate Committee on Ways & Means**
The Hon. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Hon. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1175, HD 2, SD 1 Relating to Taxation

**Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO
April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m. agenda, Room 211**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association urges your support for this measure that would increase taxes on cigarettes. We believe that this is good public health policy and will result in a decrease in smoking. Until it does, it will also contribute additional general funds for essential State purposes.

We also ask your support for adding the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund to the list of beneficiaries that serve critically important public and personal health functions in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.

WAIMEA HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

P. O. Box 6753

Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

April 1, 2009

M KANANI KAPUNIAI
Pu'ukapu-Pastoral '90+
Director- **President**

N DUKE KAPUNIAI
Honokaia
Director - **Vice-President**

SHARON MEDEIROS
Puu Pulehu
Director - **Secretary**

A HOPPY BROWN
Puukapu Pastoral '90+
Director - **Treasurer**

DOROTHY/BRUCE
NISHIE
Kamoku/Nienie/Waikoloa
Director

KENNETH/LAVERNE
KANIHO
Pauahi
Director

BERNARD ALANI, JR
Puukapu-fARM>'85
Director

BETTY LAU
Kuhio Village
Director

JOSEPH KEALOHA
Pu'ukapu-Agricultural'85+
Director

FRED LAU
Kuhio Village
Director

HENRY "SOLI"NIHEU"
Pu'ukapu-Farm '85+
Director

DERRICK HONDA
Pu'ukapu-Pastoral <90
Director

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

FROM: M Kapuniai, President

RE: **HB1627, HD2, SD1**
RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE
REVENUE BONDS

Authorizes special purpose revenue bonds for Carbon Diversion, Inc.
for development of non-fossil fuel energy production.
Takes effect July 1, 2009

Date/Time: Thursday, April 2, 2009 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211
State Capital, 415 So Beretania St

We write to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Carbon Diversion, Inc. will be utilizing a patented technology, developed at the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) University of Hawaii, to reduce various waste streams to useful, high-yield marketable products; the thermal fluid to be processed will greatly contribute to the standards projected for co-generation facilities by the "*Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative*".

Carbon Diversion, Inc. has identified at least two project sites on Hawaiian Home Lands on Hawaii Island, one of which has feed stock **ready to process, today**; equipment and qualified personnel ready.

Your favorable support will convert an invasive plant into useful, marketable products; will restore unproductive Hawaiian Homes Trust Lands for beneficiary stewardship; will provide employment opportunities; and, will contribute towards self-sufficiency for our island economy.

We write to **request full support for passage of this bill** to issue a Special Purpose Revenue Bond for Carbon Diversion, Inc. to be effective July 1, 2009.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this process!

Phone: (808) 890-2311 (Res) 936-0157(Cell)
Email: duke@sandwichisles.net

kim2 - Arline

From: Uri Pasaoa [upasaoa@hcf-hawaii.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:40 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Uri Pasaoa
PO Box 4025
Lihue, HI 96766

kim2 - Arline

From: Andrea Siu [asiu@keolamamo.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:50 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Andrea Siu
1505 Dillingham Blvd.
Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96817

kim2 - Arline

From: Marilyn Gagen [mgagen@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 2:40 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Chair Marilyn Gagen
Chair
41-926 Laumilo Street
Waimanalo, HI 96795

kim2 - Arline

From: Sally Jo manea [keahimanea@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 1:43 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes.

The best way to decrease use of tobacco products is to increase their cost. please vote to increase taxes on all tobacco products.

Mahalo!

Sally Jo manea
6415 Olohena Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746

kim2 - Arline

From: Caroline Thomas [cmtlcsw@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 12:06 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Caroline Thomas
438 Hobron Lane #301
Honolulu, HI 96813

8082951740

kim2 - Arline

From: Gigliola Baruffi [baruffig001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 11:18 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Gigliola Baruffi
1560 Thurston ave, # 1106
Honolulu, HI 968223722

kim2 - Arline

From: Stephanie Martin [stephaniemartin@live.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:48 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Stephanie Martin
1519 Nuuanu Avenue #79
Honolulu, HI 96817

kim2 - Arline

From: Kathleen O'malley [Kathleen.Omalley@kapiolani.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:45 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Kathleen O'malley
55 Merchant St
Employee Wellness, 26th Flr
Honolulu, HI 96813

535-7888

kim2 - Arline

From: Megan Inada [minada@kkv.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:44 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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Megan Inada
437 Pau Street #704
Honolulu, HI 96815

225-3039

kim2 - Arline

From: Alan Mogi [alanm@crch.hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:44 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

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Alan Mogi
1236 Lauhala St
Honolulu, HI 96813

kim2 - Arline

From: Janis Carman [janis.carman@doh.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:10 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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Janis Carman
HCR-1 Box 4625
Keaau, HI 96749

kim2 - Arline

From: Anna Mayeda [anna.mayeda@cancer.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:07 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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Patient & Community Resource Specialist Anna Mayeda Patient & Community Resource Specialist
95 Mahalani St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

808-244-5553

kim2 - Arline

From: Mary-Jean Shiroma [mshiroma@isi-hawaii.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:03 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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Mary-Jean Shiroma
3465 Waialae Ave. Ste. 400
Honolulu, HI 96816

kim2 - Arline

From: Steven Vannatta [stevenvannatta@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:52 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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Steven Vannatta
5568 Haleola st.
Honolulu, HI 96821

225-4498

kim2 - Arline

From: Colleen Welty [colleen@mfss.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:12 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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Colleen Welty
328 Hololani Str.
Pukalani, HI 96768

kim2 - Arline

From: Marion Lobre [diane@tobaccofreehawaii.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:12 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

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Marion Lobre
1204 Elizabeth Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

kim2 - Arline

From: Kara Saiki [kara5282@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:17 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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Kara Saiki
2208A Liliha St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

kim2 - Arline

From: nora usita [nursnora@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:37 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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nora usita
170 aikane circle
hilo, HI 96720

kim2 - Arline

From: Charles Roessler [charles.roessler@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:34 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

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

kim2 - Arline

From: Andre Johnson [aajohnson@hhsc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:31 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

In accordance with the global initiative for chronic obstructive lung disease COPD is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality world wide and results in an economic and social burden that is both substantiating and increasing. The burden of COPD is projected to increase in the coming decades due to continued exposure to COPD risk factors and the changing age structure of the world's population. COPD can be prevented by avoidance of risk factors, the most notable being tobacco smoke. With a increase in tobacco tax's, it will off set the high medical bill that comes with tobacco use. My name is Andre' A.

Johnson, RRT, CPFT, PDGT, HBOT, AE, Supervisor of the Respiratory Department at West Kauai Medical Center?KVMH, Waimea Kauai, Mahalo nui loa. Malama Pono A hui hou.

Andre Johnson
PO BOX 361
Waimea, HI 96796

8082465472

kim2 - Arline

From: Valerie Chang [copd.hawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:08 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Many smokers (and former smokers) have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, COPD (more commonly known as emphysema and chronic bronchitis), which is the fourth leading cause of death in the US and projected to rise to third by 2020! The Hawaii COPD Coalition is working hard to improve the lives of the over 30,000 people in our state who have been diagnosed with COPD. Quitting smoking is the best thing they can do. They can also benefit from information, support and effective treatments.

Thanks again for this opportunity to testify on this important measure. Increasing cigarette taxes is vital to the health of our people and community!

Valerie Chang
5639 Kawaikui St.
Honolulu, HI 96821

kim2 - Arline

From: Erin Moncada [erin.moncada@cancer.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:40 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Because I am a cancer survivor who lived as a child in a smoke-filled home, I particularly and personally urge Lawmakers to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Erin Moncada
200 Kanoelehua PMB 228
Hilo, HI 96720

kim2 - Arline

From: Natalie Yanez [roxyny2708@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:48 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

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Natalie Yanez
2420 10th ve
Honolulu, HI 96816

kim2 - Arline

From: Kimberly Cochrane [hawaiikimber@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:45 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

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Kimberly Cochrane
2452 Tusitala St. #810
Honolulu, HI 96815

kim2 - Arline

From: Diane Brenessel [dbrenessel@queens.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:00 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

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Diane Brenessel
2992 Pacific Heights Road
Honolulu, HI 96813

kim2 - Arline

From: Andre Johnson [aajohnson@hhsc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:12 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

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Andre Johnson
po box 361
waimea, HI 96796

8082465472

kim2 - Arline

From: Delwyn Ching [anndel@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

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Delwyn Ching
PO Box 23029
Honolulu, HI 96823-3029

282-3074

kim2 - Arline

From: Thomas Wills [twills@crch.hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:15 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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Thomas A. Wills
5079 Maunalani Circle
Honolulu , HI 96816

kim2 - Arline

From: Kalei Seki [kaleisato@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 3:43 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Sen. Donna Mercado Kim; Sen. Shan Tsutsui; Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Carol Fukunaga; Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Gary Hooser; Sen. Michelle Kidani; Sen. Russell Kokubun; Sen. Jill Tokuda; Sen. Fred Hemmings
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax increase

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am in strong opposition of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, **any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question**. The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

We have just had to bear the brunt of a 156% percent Federal Tax increase to pay for the SCHIP program equaling only 5 cents per cigarette. You are already collecting double that amount. And now you want 4 times that amount? Smokers across the country were already outraged by SCHIP but that seems like a "bargain basement deal" compared to this proposal.

I sincerely urge you to reconsider this action and put a stop to the fleecing of your citizens immediately. Remove all proposed amendments from HB1175 and leave section 245-3 in it's original state until the year 2011 as originally agreed and voted upon. Do not abuse your powers and continue to stuff your coffers by inflicting any additional and unjustifiable taxation on your constituents. Passage of this legislation will amount to the tyranny of the majority, and the over-burdening of fiscal responsibility onto the shoulders of the minority of your citizens. This my friends does not constitute a democracy.

Respectfully,

Kalei Seki
kaleisato@gmail.com

kim2 - Arline

From: Nadine Newlight [naia96708@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:32 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Nadine Newlight
320 Waipalani Road
Haiku, HI 96708

808-244-6119w

kim2 - Arline

From: Stuart Hirotsu [stuart@IsseiProductions.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:48 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes.

mahalo
Stuart Hirotsu

Stuart Hirotsu
385 North Market #5
Wailuku, HI 96793

kim2 - Arline

From: Daniel Gluck [dan_gluck@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:42 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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Daniel Gluck
Kamehameha Heights
Honolulu, HI 96817

kim2 - Arline

From: Mark Levin [mlevin5@juris.hokudai.ac.jp]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

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One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Associate Professor of Law Mark Levin
Associate Professor of Law
2108 Hunnewell St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

kim2 - Arline

From: holley weeks [holleyweeks@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 7:26 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

While I have growing concern for the state becoming dependent on tobacco generated tax revenue, I applaud policies that decrease smoking.

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you to be reflective and careful allocating money thus generated in a way we the state does not become dependent on tobacco itself

Aloha,
Holley Weeks

holley weeks
27 elm dr.
hilo, HI 96740

808 981-2442

kim2 - Arline

From: Caroline Kunitake [ckunitak@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 6:21 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Caroline Kunitake
808 Kahuna Lane
Honolulu, HI 96826

782-2150

kim2 - Arline

From: Joseph Pedro [josephf.pedro@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:42 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Joseph Pedro
250 Waiehu Beach Rd.
Wailuku, HI 96793

kim2 - Arline

From: Abegail Kopf [abcough@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:10 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Abegail Kopf
P.O. Box 159191
Honolulu, HI 96830

kim2 - Arline

From: Jim Boyd [frompastorjim@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 8:05 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Jim Boyd
430 Keoniana St. Apt 903
Honolulu, HI 96815

778-6916

kim2 - Arline

From: Cori Sussman [surfingsussmans@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 8:05 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Respiratory Therapist Cori Sussman
Respiratory Therapist
3024 Wawae Rd.
Kalaheo, HI 96741

332-7089

kim2 - Arline

From: Estelle Wilkerson [estelle@ccmaui.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 3:28 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Estelle Wilkerson
po box 880233
Pukalani, HI 96788

kim2 - Arline

From: Faith Rossman [alfaith@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 7:54 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma, emphysema and heart disease. Lawmakers can take an important position to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. It has been shown that with every increase in cigarette tax, there has been an increase in the number of calls to State Tobacco Quit Lines.

In addition, a tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term savings, because less will be spent on tobacco-related health expenses.

I also ask you to ensure that a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Clinical Process Specialist Faith Rossman Clinical Process Specialist
73-1176 Kahuna Ao Road
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

322-4572

kim2 - Arline

From: Donna Hepp [hepplyon@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 7:37 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

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

kim2 - Arline

From: Olga Geling [geling@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 7:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: EXTRA STRONG SUPPORT-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

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

956-0929

kim2 - Arline

From: Gerald Lelesch [jerryl@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 7:00 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Gerald Lelesch
44-160 Kou Pl. Apt. 2
Kaneohe, HI 96744

kim2 - Arline

From: Leslie Hayashi [leslie@lava.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 6:48 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Leslie Hayashi
1645 Ala Wai Blvd. #1201
Honolulu , HI 96815

808-955-4293

kim2 - Arline

From: Hazel Nakano [nakanoh005@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 6:38 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Hazel Nakano
18-4369 Peck Road
P. O. Box 223
Mountain View, HI 96771

kim2 - Arline

From: Debbie Dupire-nelson [ddd-n@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 6:16 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

From:
Debbie & Bob Dupire-Nelson, 808-295-7755
4999 Kahala Avenue, Suite 410
Honolulu, HI 96816
ddd-n@hawaii.rr.com

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Debbie & Bob Dupire-Nelson, 808-295-7755
4999 Kahala Avenue, Suite 410
Honolulu, HI 96816
ddd-n@hawaii.rr.com

Debbie Dupire-nelson
4999 Kahala Avenue
Suite 410, Kahala Beach
HawaiiHonolulu, HI 96816-5421

kim2 - Arline

From: Catherine Fekete [cfekete@mauimedical.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 5:58 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Catherine Fekete
2180 Main St
Wailuku, HI 96793

April 01, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I am writing in strong support to increase Hawaii's tobacco tax and to dedicate generated revenues to help smokers quit their addiction and keep our keiki from becoming addicted.

It is critical that our state take proactive measures to lower health costs through prevention. Since 1998 when Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention Trust Fund was founded, smoking rates have been slashed, down to 15% of adults and less than 10% of teens. These reductions in smoking rates have resulted in lower health costs and healthier kama'aina. Yet, our state's program is not even at the Centers for Disease Control's recommended minimum level. The revenue from the tax increase would help our state move closer to the recommended funding levels.

Some might say that increasing the tobacco tax will decrease consumption to the point it decreases revenues from the tax. If that somehow were the case, that's a good thing because the reduction in tobacco consumption would create health savings to the state and former smokers could generate tax revenues spending their money on other locally-produced products.

Tobacco remains our state's no.1 preventable cause of death and disease and costs Hawaii taxpayers over \$336 million in healthcare each year. Please support this significant increase in the price of tobacco by raising our state's cigarette tax.

Sincerely,

Gregg Robertson
1862 Halekoa Dr
Honolulu, HI 96821-1029

April 01, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I am writing in strong support to increase Hawaii's tobacco tax and to dedicate generated revenues to help smokers quit their addiction and keep our keiki from becoming addicted.

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Some might say that increasing the tobacco tax will decrease consumption to the point it decreases revenues from the tax. If that somehow were the case, that's a good thing because the reduction in tobacco consumption would create health savings to the state and former smokers could generate tax revenues spending their money on other locally-produced products.

Tobacco remains our state's no.1 preventable cause of death and disease and costs Hawaii taxpayers over \$336 million in healthcare each year. Please support this significant increase in the price of tobacco by raising our state's cigarette tax.

Sincerely,

Jamie Kopera
855 Makahiki Way
Apt 402
Honolulu, HI 96826-2668

April 01, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I am writing in strong support to increase Hawaii's tobacco tax and to dedicate generated revenues to help smokers quit their addiction and keep our keiki from becoming addicted.

It is critical that our state take proactive measures to lower health costs through prevention. Since 1998 when Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention Trust Fund was founded, smoking rates have been slashed, down to 15% of adults and less than 10% of teens. These reductions in smoking rates have resulted in lower health costs and healthier kama'aina. Yet, our state's program is not even at the Centers for Disease Control's recommended minimum level. The revenue from the tax increase would help our state move closer to the recommended funding levels.

Some might say that increasing the tobacco tax will decrease consumption to the point it decreases revenues from the tax. If that somehow were the case, that's a good thing because the reduction in tobacco consumption would create health savings to the state and former smokers could generate tax revenues spending their money on other locally-produced products.

Tobacco remains our state's no.1 preventable cause of death and disease and costs Hawaii taxpayers over \$336 million in healthcare each year. Please support this significant increase in the price of tobacco by raising our state's cigarette tax.

Sincerely,

Heather Geer
1253 Kina St
Kailua, HI 96734-3723

April 01, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I am writing in strong support to increase Hawaii's tobacco tax and to dedicate generated revenues to help smokers quit their addiction and keep our keiki from becoming addicted.

It is critical that our state take proactive measures to lower health costs through prevention. Since 1998 when Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention Trust Fund was founded, smoking rates have been slashed, down to 15% of adults and less than 10% of teens. These reductions in smoking rates have resulted in lower health costs and healthier kama'aina. Yet, our state's program is not even at the Centers for Disease Control's recommended minimum level. The revenue from the tax increase would help our state move closer to the recommended funding levels.

Some might say that increasing the tobacco tax will decrease consumption to the point it decreases revenues from the tax. If that somehow were the case, that's a good thing because the reduction in tobacco consumption would create health savings to the state and former smokers could generate tax revenues spending their money on other locally-produced products.

Tobacco remains our state's no.1 preventable cause of death and disease and costs Hawaii taxpayers over \$336 million in healthcare each year. Please support this significant increase in the price of tobacco by raising our state's cigarette tax.

Sincerely,

Michele Kapahua
677 Ala Moana Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96813-5419

kim2 - Arline

From: Kanani Kilbey [kapuahou@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 9:21 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Kanani Kilbey
53-567 Kamehameha Highway #203
Hauula, HI 96717

kim2 - Arline

From: Rachel Heckscher [raypublichealth@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 10:27 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Rachel Heckscher
149 Uhiwai Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

kim2 - Arline

From: Iwalani Else [iwalani_else@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 10:55 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Assistant Professor Iwalani Else
Assistant Professor
509 University Avenue, 908
Honolulu, HI 96826-5002

955-0477

kim2 - Arline

From: Michele Nihipali [nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 11:00 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Support-HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Ways & Means Committee,

Comments in Support of HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of an increase in the tax on cigarettes. Tobacco use is still the number one cause of preventable death and disability in Hawaii. Smoking cigarettes causes cancer, asthma and heart disease. Lawmakers can take important stands to address this problem.

One way to reduce cigarette smoking is to increase the tax on cigarettes. A tobacco tax increase will not only bring in significant revenue, it will lead to long-term money saved as less will be spent on health-related costs that are smoking-related.

I ask that you ensure a portion of the revenues are dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs so that people who will try to quit smoking will be able to get the resources and support they need.

Michele Nihipali
54-074 A Kam Hwy
Hauula, HI 96717

293-1522

kim2 - Arline

From: Blaine Enoki [enokibb@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 11:03 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax increase

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

You make it very hard for people to participate in the process. I am not comfortable with having such short notice about something that is going to drastically effect my finances.

I am in *strong opposition* of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, **any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question**. The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

They have just had to bear the brunt of a 156% percent Federal Tax increase to pay for the SCHIP program equaling only 5 cents per cigarette. You are already collecting double that amount. And now you want 4 times that amount? Smokers across the country were already outraged by SCHIP but that seems like a "bargain basement deal" compared to this proposal.

I sincerely urge you to reconsider this action and put a stop to the fleecing of your citizens immediately. Remove all proposed amendments from HB1175 and leave section 245-3 in its original state until the year 2011 as originally agreed and voted upon. Do not abuse your powers and continue to stuff your coffers by inflicting any additional and unjustifiable taxation on your constituents. Passage of this legislation will amount to the tyranny of the majority, and the over-burdening of fiscal responsibility onto the shoulders of the minority of your citizens. This friend does not constitute a democracy.

Respectfully,

Blaine Enoki

kim2 - Arline

From: Robert Ueshiro [rueshiro@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 10:56 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax increase

I do not support this bill. I am in fact in strong opposition to it.

Find your solution somewhere else, like maybe allowing the free market to recover itself. Stop nannying use to death and then taxing us for our troubles. Fix the real problem of lack of hospitality to smokers in the first place and watch your tax base recover. I mean the biggest spenders are the biggest smokers you know Japan, China any foreign country. Its not rocket science ladies and gentlemen.

Robert Ueshiro
Honolulu

kim2 - Arline

From: Bobby Evans [bevans808@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 10:38 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: testimony in opposition to hb1175 tax increase on Tobacco

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am really tired of all the "legal" pick pocketing that you are musing over. I already pay more than enough taxes and am disgusted by the governments inability to clean their own house instead of trying to ream mine.

I am in *strong opposition* of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, **any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question**. The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

They have just had to bear the brunt of a 156% percent Federal Tax increase to pay for the SCHIP program equaling only 5 cents per cigarette. You are already collecting double that amount. And now you want 4 times that amount? Smokers across the country were already outraged by SCHIP but that seems like a "bargain basement deal" compared to this proposal.

I sincerely urge you to reconsider this action and put a stop to the fleecing of your citizens immediately. Remove all proposed amendments from HB1175 and leave section 245-3 in its original state until the year 2011 as originally agreed and voted upon. Do not abuse your powers and continue to stuff your coffers by inflicting any additional and unjustifiable taxation on your constituents. Passage of this legislation will amount to the tyranny of the majority, and the over-burdening of fiscal responsibility onto the shoulders of the minority of your citizens. This friend does not constitute a democracy.

Respectfully,

Bobby Evans
Ewa Beach

kim2 - Arline

From: ruth groves [tuturuthie@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 10:26 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Oppose HB1175

Dear Legislative committee members for Ways and Means,

My name is Ruth Groves and I am a non smoker.

I can not believe that once again you are looking to intensify the tax burden on a small segment of the public. I have my own lifestyle issues that thankfully you are not yet taxing. But I know it is only a matter of time. The "fat soda/oreo tax" is coming soon to a minimart near you.

This tax and spend style of governing is not right. You already get over a hundred million dollars with the current tax rate base and the thought that you are trying to double this payment to yourselves is ridiculous. I read the Star Bulletin editorial yesterday and obviously they do not know what they are talking about. This measure is calling for a doubling in taxation, not what they represented in their article. Makes one wonder if they are on someones payola roll. Learn to live within your means, like the rest of us are required to do and keep your fingers out of the pockets of your tax payers.

Do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Ruth Groves
Wahiawa, Hawaii
tuturuthie@gmail.com

kim2 - Arline

From: Larry Moore [moorelm@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 7:51 AM
To: Rep. Maile Shimabukuro; Rep. Karen Awana; Sen. Colleen Hanabusa
Subject: Cigarette tax

Dear Sen Hanabusa and Reps Shimabukuro and Awana

Please if u have a moral fiber in your body, vote no to the increase in cigarette taxes. You as legislators have already mugged us with increases of taxes on these items. As u know the state is the recipient of millions of dollars that they won in court from the tobacco companies. The State sued ON BEHALF OF THE SMOKERS IN HAWAII. As u also know the SMOKERS IN HAWAII never received a dime form this law suit that was filed on our behalf. I do not have a problem with u raising taxes for all of us to benefit our fellow citizens but to go thru our pockets after the cigarette companies got us addicted to these damn things is adding insult to injury. When I started smoking back in the 50s we never new there was a problem with smoking and we sure didn't know that the cig companies had added extra nicotine to each cig in order to get us addicted. Picture this. A man or a woman is jumped by some muggers and dragged into an ally to be robbed and left bleeding on the ground. Then some elected officials come along and go thru our pockets to see if there is anything left to steal. That's how I feel about what u are doing to us. Please don't tell me that raising the taxes on cigarettes is gonna make many people stop. Those of us who can or will, will do it when we are ready or able. As u well know. people who do illegal drugs like meth do not stop because of the price. They just go out and steal for their habit and it doesn't stop new drugies from taking up that habit.

Hope u r looking at raising or putting new taxes on those who frequent fast food places. That's a big problem here in Hawaii for health purposes. What about a weight tax for people who are obese? Surely their health problems are costing the state lots of money. None of u r stupid, so please don't tell me u r raising the cig taxes to help me out. U r just milking the cow that u hope will just keep on giving and giving until there is nothing left to give and then maybe u will pass a law to force me to give my dead body to Science. In my 63 years I have never seen Politian's who singled out a group of people to exploit as I have over this issue.

OK I have this off my chest. I guess I have lived long enough to see the Democratic Party victimize the minority when the Democratic Party use to be the party of champions of the minorities.

Larry Moore
Makaha

Ps. Other than that, have a nice day.

kim2 - Arline

From: hokoana [hokoanaj001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 5:34 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax increase
Attachments: Clear Day Bkgrd.jpg

Addressing the Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

This testimony is in regards to bill HB1175.

Aloha kakou,

***I very STRONGLY oppose this tax increase that you are proposing.** I realize that our State finances are in terrible disarray. We all are feeling it and try honestly to continue to get our basic living expenses managed, however, this bill appears as blatant harassment to continually target smokers to help in the bail out that was not created by the smokers. We are quite the opposite, already paying a ridiculous amount of tax to the State for tobacco products. Thus far I've been silent and calm with all the changes in the laws and taxes proposed and passed on tobacco products, but I can not remain a silent participant anymore.*

As a smoker, I accept and pay much higher rates for health and life insurance, as well as the already high tax imposed on tobacco products. It is a given that smoking potentially causes health risks, but sugar intake (and the tax is?), fat intake (and the tax is?) and alcohol (and the tax is?) kill more people each year with heart attacks and car crashes than smoking. If smokers get Cancer, we pay a higher co-pay as most health insurance companies draw a very definite line on chemotherapy agents. The same goes for other lung diseases brought on by our addiction. Here's an interesting fact: over the counter upset stomach aids have caused increasing numbers of people with Alzheimer's Disease, people we will have to take care of in institutions till death with State aid (Medicaid). Where's the tax on those products? Smokers rarely, if ever, get Alzheimer's, so our deaths will be more than likely, quicker and less costly for the public. Please do not think that I'm "talking off the top of my head". I am an educated healthcare worker that deals with severely obese, alcoholic and drug addicted patients every day. Most of them, have the privilege of living off the State system.

*Currently Hawai'i officials **refuse** to monitor contracts that owe fines to our State. These fines far exceed the taxes you are proposing. One such contract is the more than \$60 million we pay each year to house our prisoners in private correctional centers on the mainland. They (Corrections Corp of America) have REPEATEDLY failed to honor their contract and the penalties they owe for their failures **alone**, are more than you could recoup with this RIDICULOUS tax. How many more contracts are not being TRUTHFULLY monitored or audited? How much more could you get financially by making this companies accountable as well as those responsible to monitor them?*

I am shocked that this issue has come so far. As a tax paying, law abiding citizen, I can say with ALL HONESTY that I will route people to purchase their tobacco products from other avenues outside of this State thereby lessening the amount of extortion on a select few leaving you fewer dollars for the State's bailout plan! It is not illegal to smoke. It is our right to choose to do so, even though we know it could be a death wish in disguise. It is your right to breath clean air and I honor your right to that and don't smoke around you. It is NOT your right to target tobacco users.

Although I have never in my life used such harsh words to any individual, I feel you are all educated enough to know and feel my, as well as thousands of others, frustration on this bill. PLEASE, I implore you, DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

Mahalo for allowing me to voice my objections.

*Karin Hokoana
Haiku, Maui, Hawai'i
hokoanaj001@hawaii.rr.com*

kim2 - Arline

From: Fred Remington [fred@ejlounge.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 5:30 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Oppose HB1175
Attachments: imstp_animation_butterflies_en_020908.gif

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am in strong opposition of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, **any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question.** The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

We have just had to bear the brunt of a 156% percent Federal Tax increase to pay for the SCHIP program equaling only 5 cents per cigarette. You are already collecting double that amount. And now you want 4 times that amount? Smokers across the country were already outraged by SCHIP but that seems like a "bargain basement deal" compared to this proposal.

I sincerely urge you to reconsider this action and put a stop to the fleecing of your citizens immediately. Remove all proposed amendments from HB1175 and leave section 245-3 in it's original state until the year 2011 as originally agreed and voted upon. Do not abuse your powers and continue to stuff your coffers by inflicting any additional and unjustifiable taxation on your constituents. Passage of this legislation will amount to the tyranny of the majority, and the over-burdening of fiscal responsibility onto the shoulders of the minority of your citizens. This my friends does not constitute a democracy.

Respectfully,

Fred Remington
Vice President
E & J Lounge Operating Co., Inc.
10 Marin Lane
Honolulu, HI 96817
Office 808-521-4712
Fax 808-521-4713
Cell 808-479-0782
fred@ejlounge.com

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kim2 - Arline

From: Lisa Oshiro [lisayoshiro@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 7:18 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: testimony for HB-1175 on thursday

HB-1175

Dear Committee on Ways and Means in the Senate,

I am very opposed to HB-1175. This bill is just awful. We just got slapped with a major tax increase and now you want to punish people that smoke again. So where's the money going to come from, my family? Enough is enough! I can buy from my military friends and then the State won't get anything from me.

Sincerely, Lisa Oshiro
411 Hobron Ln.
Honolulu, HI 96815

Testimony for HB1175
From Michael Zehner
750 Amana st. #608
Honolulu, HI 96814
952-2075

Dear Honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to HB1175. It is little more than a profane attempt at extortion. This legislature raises my taxes each and every year and now they just got raised again at the Federal level at the same time many of us are struggling.

I am also STRONGLY OPPOSED to this bill because it is excessively regressive on poor and working households. I myself will NOT QUIT smoking because of this bill.

I am also STRONGLY OPPOSED to this bill because the revenues will not meet projections. The department of taxation also opposes this bill in their own testimony.

I am also STRONGLY OPPOSED to this bill because it will not lower health care costs as the anti-smoking groups and their allies would lead people to believe. This is a quote from a study done by the Netherlands' National Institute for Public Health and the Environment. The study was intended to look at obesity costs and was not corrupted by the anti-smoking lobby but for some reason smoking health care costs were included.

"On average, healthy people lived 84 years. Smokers lived about 77 years, and obese people lived about 80 years. Smokers and obese people tended to have more heart disease than the healthy people.

Cancer incidence, except for lung cancer, was the same in all three groups. Obese people had the most diabetes, and healthy people had the most strokes. Ultimately, the thin and healthy group cost the most, about \$417,000, from age 20 on.

The cost of care for obese people was \$371,000, and for smokers, about \$326,000.

The results counter the common perception that preventing obesity will save health systems worldwide millions of dollars.

"This throws a bucket of cold water onto the idea that obesity is going to cost trillions of dollars," said Patrick Basham, a professor of health politics at Johns Hopkins University who was unconnected to the study. He said government projections about obesity costs are frequently based on guesswork, political agendas and changing science."

<http://www2.tbo.com/content/2008/feb/05/na-lifetime-health-care-costs-highest-for-thin/>

The problem with the anti-smoking agenda is they ONLY count the costs of smoking and not the big picture down the road throughout a person's lifetime.

Lastly I am strongly opposed to this measure because it will open the door wide open for a black market including some very dangerous groups and gangs to come and do business in Hawaii.

"The Washington Post wrote, "Smugglers with ties to terrorist groups are acquiring millions of dollars from illegal cigarette sales and funneling the cash to organizations such as al Qaeda and Hezbollah. ..." (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A23384-2004Jun7.html>)

The Associated Press reported, "The alleged mastermind of a plot to smuggle \$37 million worth of cigarettes into the United States has pleaded guilty to conspiracy and trafficking charges. ..." (<http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/news/state/10434303.htm?1c>)

The Police Chief magazine noted, "The trafficking of cigarettes by terrorists and their sympathizers has been going on worldwide since the mid-1990s, and the last four years have seen a sudden increase in trafficking. The trafficking schemes provide the terrorist groups with millions of dollars annually, which fund the purchasing of firearms and explosives to use against the United States, its allies, and other targets." (http://policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=226&issue_id=22004)"

In conclusion, a bill such as this is dangerous to our security, will foster a black market, won't save health care dollars in the long run, won't meet revenue projections, is downright disrespectful to your constituents that smoke, and is harmful to folks struggling in this difficult economy.

Mahalo for your time and please select to have this measure held in Committee.

kim2 - Arline

From: kawikc@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 8:45 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony on HB 1175 Oppose!

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

From: kawikc@aol.com
To: Kawikc@aol.com
Sent: Tue, 31 Mar 2009 8:37 pm
Subject: Testimony on HB 1175 Oppose!

Members of this committee,

I am angry. I am OUTRAGED! I am appalled that this is even being considered. You lawmakers Screw Up, and WE smokers pay the price. You pass laws destructive to our economy and then you expect us smokers to cover your asses!

The present shortfall in the state budget would be a NON ISSUE with the over ONE BILLION DOLLARS lost in spending revenue by the thousands of East Bound smoker visitors who have refused to come to Hawaii since YOU voted for the 2006 smoking ban!!! That's JUST the East Bound travelers! Last month we lost over \$160 million in total visitor spending revenue. Let's consider the lost revenue in the 4% sales tax! Let's consider it for ALL the smokers who have chosen not to come to Hawaii for the last 27 months! WE SHOULD HAVE A SURPLUS!!!! THIS IS YOUR FAULT! WHY THE HELL ARE YOU PUNISHING US SMOKERS FOR YOUR DAMN SCREW UP!!!??

I have just one question before I close. Who are the idiot morons who crafted, introduced, and co-sponsored this bill!

The public has the right to know. We will find out and we will let the public know who is responsible for this Tyranny Of The Majority.

The time for reasoning is over. We have tried it for now close to three years. Many of you have got it. Some of you have not. Our constituency in Hawaii is in the thousands. Over 20% are NON SMOKERS who are fed up with Excessive Governmental Intrusion. The once Sleeping Smoking Giant is fast awakening. The Smoker Vote made its first impact in the world in our last primaries when Sen. Nishihara barely won by under 200 votes against our man Rep. Sonson. It was supposed to be an easy win for Sen. Nishihara, but our campaigning for Sonson ignited the fire of many smokers and Freedom of Choice loving citizens.

Our websites will insure that each of you responsible for the passage of this bill will be held accountable. Yes, we are just 20% of the population, but remember 80% of all elections are won by a margin of 20% or less.

And you won't even hear testimony? Go ahead, Bring It On!

Kawika Crowley
Co-Chair--HawaiiSmokersAlliance.com

kim2 - Arline

From: island princess [sassylady3128@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 8:34 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax increase

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am in strong opposition of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, **any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question.** The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

We have just had to bear the brunt of a 156% percent Federal Tax increase to pay for the SCHIP program equaling only 5 cents per cigarette. You are already collecting double that amount. And now you want 4 times that amount? Smokers across the country were already outraged by SCHIP but that seems like a "bargain basement deal" compared to this proposal.

I sincerely urge you to reconsider this action and put a stop to the fleecing of your citizens immediately. Remove all proposed amendments from HB1175 and leave section 245-3 in its original state until the year 2011 as originally agreed and voted upon. Do not abuse your powers and continue to stuff your coffers by inflicting any additional and unjustifiable taxation on your constituents.

If you must increase taxes in order to balance the budget, then I urge you to do it across the board, EQUALLY. Do not punish the minority just because you find something they do legally is "distasteful" to you. I am a hard working, taxpaying, voting member of society.

Passage of this legislation will amount to the tyranny of the majority, and the over-burdening of fiscal responsibility onto the shoulders of the minority of your citizens. This friend does not constitute a democracy. Please stop turning this state into a "nanny state."

Respectfully,

Lisa Reed
sassylady3128@yahoo.com

kim2 - Arline

From: jacobaknolls@skins4life.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 9:46 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: testimony for HB1175

Testimony in opposition to House bill 1175 for
the Senate Ways and Means committee.

Jacob Knolls
1925 Kalakaua Av.
Honolulu, HI

I'm strongly opposed to this bill. You talk about mean and unfair. People that smoke pay far to much as it is. This bill should die in committee. I don't need this. I don't want this. I'm upset that this thing even exists as a bill!

Sincerely, Jacob A. Knolls

Show the world you bleed burgundy and gold! [Click here to get your official Redskins email address!](#)

kim2 - Arline

From: JTenn10@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:28 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Strong Opposition to HB 1175 Tobacco Tax Increase

"Honorable" Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I am extremely disturbed by recent media coverage that claims that this insane excessive and dubious assault on your tax paying constituents is a DONE DEAL! I am in intense opposition to HB1175.

The fact that you are not allowing the public the courtesy of testifying in person is odorous beyond belief. You are disenfranchising this minority covey of people from defending their rights, in person, to representation that is guaranteed by the States Constitution. What, you afraid to hear this in person?

Much has been said about big bad tobacco, however you now have is distinction should you pass this atrocity of the biggest bad-est, Tobacco taxing rapists of the United States of America.

You call us addicts? You and your crony special interest groups, the American Cancer Society, The American Lung Association, The American Heart Association and the Coalition for Tobacco Free Hawaii are sick with greed and avarice. And I do mean very sick. \$4.00 per pack of cigarettes? Not even the mother of all nanny states California or her ugly step sister New York would be so bold as to demand such a tariff. Sheer unabashed gluttony. We pay far more than our fair share in what has become this decrepit anti smoker nanny state. You yourself are responsible for the utter lack of vision in passing the smoking ban in the first place as we can document billions in lost revenue that has been self inflicted by you our esteemed governing body. Shame on you!

Even your own taxation division is in strong opposition of this bill. They know exactly the results such an uneven handed taxation base will bring to your bottom line. You think that because we live on an island that you can hold us hostage? Think again. Your constituency are not simpletons, oh no we are all quite savvy and will thwart your snare and leave your and their coffers high and dry.

If these above mentioned organizations were offering the public some sort of reasonable value for the monies that are donated by the public (I stopped donating, along with countless others, with "the Daddy Feeding his Baby Cigarette butts and the Mommy bathing her child in a cigarette butt bath"... despicable behavior on their parts...), instead of paying fat cat salaries, retirements, and committing abusive assaults through the media on your smoking constituents, instead of looking for a cure, they just might be solvent entities.

The government on the other hand has been remiss in its fiscal responsibility to all citizens by passing drastic, unreasonable and already proven beyond any reasonable doubt so unworkable and uninviting laws which restrict the use of a legal product to obscurity. You want to fix our economy? Fix the damn smoke free law. Add reasonable exemptions for adult oriented businesses and watch your tourism blossom.

You all know me. I have tried for the past two and a half years to deal with you on a respectful and professional level, however, your utter lack of respect in callously disallowing personal public input in this process has gained my disdain and pushed me far beyond any feeling of owing you filial homage whatsoever.

When the public learns that this proposal is meant to solely fund the above mentioned special interest groups (and in no way addresses any budget shortfall that you yourselves have idiotically caused), and their sub-creature-sidiaries, you may want to head for the hills...

With extremely earnest intent,

Jolyn Tenn

Jtenn10@aol.com

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kim2 - Arline

From: Randall Tenn [rantenn@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:34 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax increase

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am a non smoker. With that being said...

I am in *strong opposition* of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, **any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question**. The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

They have just had to bear the brunt of a 156% percent Federal Tax increase to pay for the SCHIP program equaling only 5 cents per cigarette. You are already collecting double that amount. And now you want 4 times that amount? Smokers across the country were already outraged by SCHIP but that seems like a "bargain basement deal" compared to this proposal.

I sincerely urge you to reconsider this action and put a stop to the fleecing of your citizens immediately. Remove all proposed amendments from HB1175 and leave section 245-3 in its original state until the year 2011 as originally agreed and voted upon. Do not abuse your powers and continue to stuff your coffers by inflicting any additional and unjustifiable taxation on your constituents. Passage of this legislation will amount to the tyranny of the majority, and the over-burdening of fiscal responsibility onto the shoulders of the minority of your citizens. This friend does not constitute a democracy.

Respectfully,

Randall Tenn
Kaneohe, Hawaii
rantenn@gmail.com

kim2 - Arline

From: Danny Rampon [dannyrampon@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:39 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax increase

Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am in strong opposition of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, **any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question.** The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

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Respectfully,

Danny Rampon
Honolulu, Hawaii
dannyrampon@gmail.com

kim2 - Arline

From: david chial [dchial@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 5:05 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: jtenn10@aol.com
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax increase
Attachments: Emoticon72.gif

Keep it up. More taxes= larger black market. You folks grow the best weed around. What do you think will happen when people realize that tobacco is a plant also? 

kim2 - Arline

From: Stephanie.Y.Chow@marsh.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 7:39 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax increase

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am in strong opposition of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question. The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

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Respectfully,

Name Stephanie Chow
Email schow002@hawaii.rr.com

This e-mail transmission and any attachments that accompany it may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law and is intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom it was intended to be addressed. If you have received this e-mail by mistake, or you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, dissemination, distribution, copying or other use or retention of this communication or its substance is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately reply to the author via e-mail that you received this message by mistake and also permanently delete the original and all copies of this e-mail and any attachments from your computer. Thank you.

kim2 - Arline

From: Pam Parker [transamgranny@wideopenwest.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 8:23 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Tobacco Tax

Hawaii's economy hasn't been damaged enough with hospitality industry losses from its smoking ban? You now want to raise taxes even more with HB1175? Where are your senses, people? What is wrong with the government in this country? Federal taxes increased 2000% on RYO/MYO tobacco from 1.10 to 24.82 and it creates a national health care plan on these taxes and yet, by contradiction, requires 21 million new smokers to find the program. And you want even more blood money?

I think every Congress person, and every State legislator should be required to take Economics courses. Because everything you DO goes against what creates stimulus. Unbelievable.

Pam Parker

kim2 - Arline

From: Raymond King [kingiii64@me.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 7:53 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax increase

Importance: High

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am in strong opposition of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, **any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question.** The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

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Respectfully,

Li Jin King
kingiii64@me.com

kim2 - Arline

From: Fran Toyama [ftoyama001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:51 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax Increase

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am in strong opposition of HB1175, the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question. The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

We have just had to bear the brunt of a 156% Federal Tax increase to pay for the SCHIP program equaling only 5 cents per cigarette. You are already collecting double that amount. Now you want 4 times that amount? Smokers across the country were already outraged by SCHIP but that seems like a "bargain basement deal" compared to this proposal!

I sincerely urge you to reconsider this action and put a stop to the fleecing of your citizens immediately. Remove all proposed amendments from HB1175 and leave Section 245-3 in its original state until the year 2011 as originally agreed and voted upon. Do not abuse your powers and continue to stuff your coffers by inflicting any additional and unjustifiable taxation on your constituents. Passage of this legislation will amount to the tyranny of the majority and the over-burdening of fiscal responsibility onto the shoulders of the minority of your citizens. This does not constitute a democracy.

Respectfully,

Fran Toyama
ftoyama001@hawaii.rr.com

kim2 - Arline

From: Joyce Schiffer [retat43@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB1175

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am in strong opposition of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, *any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question*. The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

We have just had to bear the brunt of a 156% percent Federal Tax increase to pay for the SCHIP program equaling only 5 cents per cigarette. You are already collecting double that amount. And now you want 4 times that amount? Smokers across the country were already outraged by SCHIP but that seems like a "bargain basement deal" compared to this proposal.

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Respectfully,

Joyce Schiffer
Kailua Kona, Hawaii
808 329-4858

Email - retat43@hawaii.rr.com

kim2 - Arline

From: Esther Kim [EKim@AskOxy.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 11:55 AM
To: WAM Testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am in strong opposition of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, **any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question.** The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

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Respectfully,

Esther Kim #0567

Ekim@Askoxy.com

kim2 - Arline

From: Raymond King [king@sanno-eng.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 12:04 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax increase

Importance: High

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am in strong opposition of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, **any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question**. The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

We have just had to bear the brunt of a 156% percent Federal Tax increase to pay for the SCHIP program equaling only 5 cents per cigarette. You are already collecting double that amount. And now you want 4 times that amount? Smokers across the country were already outraged by SCHIP but that seems like a "bargain basement deal" compared to this proposal.

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Respectfully,

Raymond King
King@sanno-eng.com

kim2 - Arline

From: Al Canter [papaal@wwdb.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 12:56 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposed to HB1175

There should be a law against this""

Al Canter

kim2 - Arline

From: blurosegarden@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 12:38 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax Increase

What follows is a standard letter of opposition. The lady who crafted the letter is being very nice about this. The fact is that tobacco tax increases DO NOT WORK! Tobacco products are optional. In other words, if the taxes get out of hand, then people either quit smoking, smoke significantly less and/or purchase blackmarket tobacco products--and that means, ultimately, less taxes going to government! This has been proved time and again in states and countries where politicians thought that a good idea would be to suck exorbitant taxes out of the general economy only to disappear down government coffers (or disappear into massive bailouts).

If you really want to increase your tax base, then set a reasonable tax on something that everyone uses, like paper products. Something like that could even be considered a "green" tax, which really would be popular. Just 1 or 2 cents per sheet of paper or paper towels and everybody thinks you're saving the planet--without controversy. There ya go.

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am in strong opposition of HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on Tobacco. In these times of financial hardship, **any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question**. The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level and 100% increase in taxation.

We have just had to bear the brunt of a 156% percent Federal Tax increase to pay for the SCHIP program equaling only 5 cents per cigarette. You are already collecting double that amount. And now you want 4 times that amount? Smokers across the country were already outraged by SCHIP but that seems like a "bargain basement deal" compared to this proposal.

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Respectfully,

Stephanie Stahl
blurosegarden@aol.com

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!

kim2 - Arline

From: Shane Maihui [maihuishaney@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 11:09 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Oppose HB1175

I oppose this bill. It makes no sense or is is moral to increase a tax on a minority to try and fix the problems of the majority.

Shane Maihui
Kaimuki

kim2 - Arline

From: Bill Carpenter [billcarpenter81@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 3:52 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: jtenn10@aol.com
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax Increase

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am in strong opposition to HB1175 the unreasonable proposed tax increase on tobacco. In these tough economic times, **any State Tax Hike on Tobacco is out of the question.** The initial proposal of this bill was to raise the tax from 10 cents a cigarette to 11 cents a cigarette, then it morphed into a 14 cent per cigarette increase, and now that number has swollen to the outrageous 20 cent per cigarette level; a 100% increase in taxation.

We have just had to bear the brunt of a 156% per cent Federal Tax Increase to pay for the SCHIP program equaling only 5 cents per cigarette. The State is already collecting double that amount. And now you want 4 times that amount? Smokers across the country were already outraged by SCHIP but that seems like a bargain basement deal compared to this proposal.

I sincerely urge you to reconsider this action and put a stop to the fleecing of our citizens immediately. Remove all proposed amendments from HB1175 and leave Section 245-3 in its original state until the year 2011 as originally agreed and voted upon. Don't abuse your powers and continue to stuff your coffers by inflicting any additional and unjustifiable taxes on your constituents. Passage of this legislation will amount to the tyranny of the majority, and an unreasonable burden on a minority of citizens. This my friends does not constitute a democracy.

Respectfully,

Bill Carpenter

billcarpenter81@hotmail.com

Rediscover Hotmail®: Now available on your iPhone or BlackBerry [Check it out.](#)

Gina Williams

From: Kalei Seki [kaleisato@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 3:43 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Sen. Donna Mercado Kim; Sen. Shan Tsutsui; Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Carol Fukunaga; Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Gary Hooser; Sen. Michelle Kidani; Sen. Russell Kokubun; Sen. Jill Tokuda; Sen. Fred Hemmings
Subject: Opposition to HB1175 Tobacco Tax increase

Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

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Respectfully,

Kalei Seki
kaleisato@gmail.com