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Improving Life

One Breath at a Time

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

LATE



TO: Senate Committee on Health

**FOR: Hearing Scheduled for 3:00 pm
Monday 16, 2009**

**RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT HB 895, HD 2
RELATING TO TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS OTHER
THAN CIGARETTES**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green and Committee Members:

The American Lung Association of Hawaii supports HB 895, HD 2 which increases the tobacco tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes. Our mission is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through research, education and advocacy.

The tax has not been raised on non-cigarette products since 1965. With the taxes on cigarettes on the increase, these products are becoming an attractive alternative to both current cigarette smokers and those experimenting with tobacco products. It is well documented that all of these products pose significant health hazards.

The American Lung Association in Hawaii urges the Committee to consider raising the tax even higher than the proposed 60% of the wholesale price to 100% of the wholesale price. This would help to deter use of these dangerous products, especially for young people to whom they are being heavily marketed. In addition it will bring in needed revenue to the state.

On behalf of the 154,000 people who struggle to breathe I thank you your consideration on this important measure.

Respectively submitted,

Jean Evans, MPH
Executive Director, American Lung Association in Hawaii

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 895, H.D. 2

LATE

March 16, 2008

RELATING TO TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS OTHER THAN CIGARETTES

House Bill No. 895, H.D. 2, increases the tobacco tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes from 40% to 80% of the wholesale price and deposits an unspecified percentage of the proceeds collected into the community health centers special fund.

As a matter of general policy, we are opposed to the practice of revenue earmarking for specific purposes. This arrangement will, in effect, remove any proposed funding increases from the customary established budgetary process whereby all requests for funding must be justified and compete for limited public resources.

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products from 40 to 80 percent
Senate Committee on Health; March 16, 2009; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 215, State Capitol

March 16th, 2009

Dear Legislators,

Hi. My name is Sara Jean Banks and I am testifying with support of HB895, which effectively increases the tobacco tax on other tobacco products (OTC) other than cigarettes from 40% to 80% of the wholesale price.

All, if not some, of the revenue should be dedicated to funding tobacco prevention and control efforts like cessation classes (many want to quit and should have services to help).

This tax increase will bring in revenue and reduces tobacco use.

Chew, as well as new and emerging products, are being marketed to youth—with flavored tobacco and stunning packaging designed to lure young people.

By increasing the price of tobacco, smokeless tobacco use will decrease among both adults and youth. In particular youth, who are two to three times more sensitive to tobacco price changes than adults.

Youth use of smokeless tobacco is up among both high school students and middle school students. **Rates of Smokeless Tobacco Use in 2003 and 2007: an increase from 2.8% up to 3.7% in high school students; increase from 1.7% to 2.8% for middle school students** (Hawaii State Department of Health, Data Highlights from the 2007 Hawaii Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) and Comparisons with Prior Years. September 2008)

Tax rates of other tobacco products (OTC) must be increased based on percentage price and be comparable to that of cigarettes to ensure declines in use. This will lead to improved health as smokeless tobacco use can lead to cancer of the esophagus, pharynx, larynx, stomach, and pancreas; gum disease; and risk of cardiovascular disease.

This is an opportunity to bring in much needed revenue. I support the bill and ask that you pass it out of committee.

Please accept this as my written testimony in support of HB895. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sara Jean Banks
552 Halela Street, Kailua, Hawaii

LATE

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products from 40 to 80 percent
Senate Committee on Health; March 16, 2009; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 215, State Capitol

Dear Legislators,

My name is Alex Halley from Wailuku. I am a youth leader with REAL: Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry.

I am writing in support of a tax increase on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs). The tobacco companies know that if OTPs are taxed, then the public won't buy as much. This is especially true of youth.

Please pass this law to tax OTPs and keep these products out of the hands of Hawaii's youth.

Sincerely,
Alex Halley

LATE

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products from 40 to 80 percent
Senate Committee on Health; March 16, 2009; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 215, State Capitol

March 16, 2009

Dear Legislators,

My name is Amanda Victorino and I am from Kapolei. I am a member of REAL: Hawaii's youth-led movement exposing the tobacco industry.

I am writing to support the tax increase on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs).

I believe that most youth do not know the dangers of OTPs. In addition, there have been no studies done on the effects of some of the newest OTPs like snus. These products could be just as dangerous or even more dangerous than cigarettes.

By increasing the taxes on OTPs, product sales would decrease, which would really make a difference to the health of Hawaii and my generation.

Please pass the law to increase the tax on OTPs.

Thank You,
Amanda Victorino

LATE

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products from 40 to 80 percent
Senate Committee on Health; March 16, 2009; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 215, State Capitol

March 16, 2009

Dear Legislators,

My name is Chelsey Chapman from the island of Maui, Hawaii. I am 16 years old and attend Baldwin High School. I am a part of Hawaii's youth-led movement against the tobacco industry called REAL. I strongly support the tobacco tax increase on other tobacco products (OTPs).

For some time, the tobacco industry has been developing new products other than cigarettes to try and get youth and adults addicted to their products. Not only does it target adults, but most importantly, it targets youth to use smokeless tobacco. I feel that we need to take a stand against the tobacco industry.

By increasing the tax, the use of tobacco will decrease. This price increase will decrease the use of smokeless tobacco in both youth and adults. This will help create a healthier life for everyone. Please consider the proposal to raise the tax on OTPs to help create a better Hawaii.

Thank you,
Chelsey Chapman

LATE

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products from 40 to 80 percent
Senate Committee on Health; March 16, 2009; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 215, State Capitol

March 16, 2009

Dear Legislator,

My name is Chloe Marchant and I am from the island of Kauai. I am a Youth Leader with REAL: Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry.

I am writing to you to ask that you increase taxes on the Other Tobacco Products (OTP), such as cigars, smokeless tobacco, spit-less and dissolvable tobacco. These products are being targeted to youth by tobacco companies and they are very cheap to purchase.

Increasing taxes on these products will help keep them out of the hands of kids!

Thank You,
Chloe Marchant

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products from 40 to 80 percent
Senate Committee on Health; March 16, 2009; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 215, State Capitol

March 16, 2009

Aloha Legislators,

My name is John Pimentel. I am from the island of Hawaii and am a member of REAL: Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry.

I strongly support the tax increase on tobacco products (OTPs) because it will decrease the number of youth tobacco users in Hawaii. I believe that youth do not understand Other Tobacco Products (OTP) can lead to dangerous health problems. By raising the taxes of OTPs you will discourage youth from buying these harmful products.

Please pass the bill to increase the taxes of Other Tobacco Products.

Much Mahalo,
John Pimentel

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products from 40 to 80 percent
Senate Committee on Health; March 16, 2009; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 215, State Capitol

March 16, 2009

Dear Legislator,

My name is Lea Meliza Pigao and I live on the beautiful island of Maui and go to Maui High School. I am currently a REAL youth board member. REAL is Hawaii's youth-led movement exposing the truth about the tobacco industry.

I completely support the tax increase of OTPs (Other Tobacco Products) because I believe that it will reduce the number of teens purchasing tobacco products. I believe that one reason teens use tobacco products is because of its accessibility and of its cheap cost. This higher price would make it harder for teens to afford these products. By increasing the price of tobacco, smokeless tobacco use will decrease among both adults and youth. This will allow teens and adults to live a healthier life.

With that said, please pass the tobacco tax increase on OTPs.

Thank you,
Lea Meliza Pigao

March 16, 2009

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products from 40 to 80 percent
Senate Committee on Health; March 16, 2009; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 215, State Capitol

Dear Legislators,

My name is Lleliena Loynaz, and I am testifying in support of HB895, which would effectively increase the tobacco tax on other tobacco products (OTP) other than cigarettes from 40% to 80% of the wholesale price.

For example, youth use of smokeless tobacco is up among high school students and middle school students. Rates of Smokeless Tobacco Use in 2003 and 2007. An increase from 2.8% up to 3.7% in high school students; increase from 1.7% to 2.8% for middle school students (Hawaii State Department of Health, Data Highlights from the 2007 Hawaii Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) and Comparisons with Prior Years. September 2008).

It is important to recognize that smokeless tobacco, as well as new and emerging products are being marketed to youth in our state and nationwide—this includes flavored tobacco and stunning packaging designs to lure young people.

By increasing the price of tobacco, smokeless tobacco use will decrease among both adults and youth. Youth are two to three times more sensitive to tobacco price changes than adults.

This is also an opportunity for our state to use the funds collected from HB895 to counter the aggressive advertising of products the tobacco industry uses to addict Hawaii's youth. Revenues from this bill can be invested back into communities by funding tobacco prevention and control efforts like cessation classes (those who want to quit should have services to help), as well as continued youth education/awareness programs on industry tactics and the harmful effects of their products.

This is not only an opportunity to bring in much needed revenues in prevention efforts, but also this will lead to improved health as the use of tobacco products can lead to cancer of the esophagus, pharynx, larynx, stomach, lungs, and pancreas, as well as gum disease and the risk of cardiovascular disease.

I support the bill and ask that you pass it out of committee.

Please accept this as my written testimony in support of HB895. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lleliena Loynaz

LATE

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products from 40 to 80 percent
Senate Committee on Health; March 16, 2009; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 215, State Capitol

March 16, 2009

Dear Legislators,

My name is Michele Magdirila and I live on the island of Molokai. I am a REAL youth board member. REAL is Hawaii's youth-led movement exposing the truth about the tobacco industry.

I strongly support the tobacco tax increase on OTPs (Other tobacco products) that is being proposed. It will reduce the rate of tobacco users because the products will be more expensive. More importantly, younger people will want to stop buying these deadly products because they will cost more.

I really believe that younger people across the world continue to use tobacco products because the big tobacco companies target us with their advertising more than any other group. By increasing the tax on OTPs you will be helping to protect my generation from big tobacco companies.

Please pass this tobacco tax increase.

Mahalo,

Michele Magdirila

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products from 40 to 80 percent
Senate Committee on Health; March 16, 2009; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 215, State Capitol

March 16th, 2009

Dear Legislators:

My name is Nicole Sutton and I am with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry. I reside in Honolulu and am a registered voter.

I am writing in strong support of HB895 which would increase the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) in Hawaii.

For the past eight years I have watched young people across Hawaii fight to protect their peers from the deceptive tactics of the tobacco companies. With smoke-free laws in place throughout the state, youth now face their next challenge: increased use of OTPs by young people. Hawaii's Youth Tobacco Survey confirms OTP use rates are on the increase in our state.

Our organization believes this is due to 3 main factors: 1) OTPs are very inexpensive and highly accessible in most stores; 2) the marketing of these products is on the rise in Hawaii. Promotional signage is found from the most urban to most rural stores across Hawaii; 3) many young people do not deem these products to be as dangerous as cigarettes since they most often include flavors of gum and candy products popular with youth such as grape, cherry, berry, and mint.

Increasing the tax on these products will be one step in the right direction of protecting Hawaii's youth from these deadly products. It also sends a strong message to tobacco companies who need to keep their products as cheap and accessible as possible to addict new customers for the 450,000 they kill every year!

Please protect Hawaii's future by increasing taxes on OTPs immediately.

Mahalo,

Nicole Sutton
Project Director
REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry
Cancer Research Center of Hawaii
University of Hawaii – Manoa

LATE

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products from 40 to 80 percent
Senate Committee on Health; March 16, 2009; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 215, State Capitol

March 16, 2009

My name is Sheryll Yotsuda and I am originally from the island of Kauai, now Oahu. I am 21-years-old and attend UH-Manoa, I represent the young adult generation from the REAL! Alumni Network and I am testifying in support of HB895, which would effectively increase the tobacco tax on other tobacco products (OTC) other than cigarettes from 40% to 80% of the wholesale price.

All if not some of the revenue should be dedicated to funding tobacco prevention and control efforts like cessation classes (many want to quit; should have services to help).

This tax increase will bring in revenue and reduces tobacco use.

Chew as well as new and emerging products are being marketed to youth—with flavored tobacco and stunning packaging designed to lure young people.

By increasing the price of tobacco, smokeless tobacco use will decrease among both adults and youth. In particular, youth are two to three times more sensitive to tobacco price changes than adults.

Youth use of smokeless tobacco is up among both high school students and middle school students. Rates of Smokeless Tobacco Use in 2003 and 2007. An increase from 2.8% up to 3.7% in high school students; increase from 1.7% to 2.8% for middle school students (Hawaii State Department of Health, Data Highlights from the 2007 Hawaii Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) and Comparisons with Prior Years. September 2008)

Tax rates of other tobacco products (OTC) must be increased based on percentage price and be comparable to that of cigarettes to ensure declines in use. This will lead to improved health as smokeless tobacco use can lead to cancer of the esophagus, pharynx, larynx, stomach, and pancreas; gum disease; and risk of cardiovascular disease.

This is an opportunity to bring in much needed revenue. I support the bill and ask that you pass it out of committee.

Please accept this as my written testimony in support of HB895. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sheryll Yotsuda
REAL! Alumni Network
Speech Communication Society

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Health
From: Trisha Y. Nakamura, Policy and Advocacy Director
Date: March 16, 2009
Hrg: Senate Committee on Health; March 16, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.
Re: **Strong Support to Increase the Tax on Other Tobacco Products, HB 895, HD 2**

ADDENDUM TO TESTIMONY DATED MARCH 13, 2009

Other Tobacco Products Must Be Taxed at Rates Comparable to Cigarettes

The Coalition in its testimony dated March 13, 2009 noted that other tobacco products must be taxed at rates comparable to cigarettes. In order to best accomplish this, the Coalition notes the following recommendation for percentage price of other tobacco products:

I. If HRS § 245-3 Is Not Amended (20 cents/pack increase in taxes yearly)

If HRS § 245-3 is not amended, taxes on cigarettes gradually increase a penny each year. To ensure smokeless tobacco products are taxed at comparable rates, the tax on smokeless tobacco would also need to rise.

Date	Tax on Other Tobacco Products
Current	85%
Starting September 30, 2009	95%
Starting September 30, 2010	105%
Starting September 31, 2011	115%

II. If HB 1175 HD 3 Is Passed With a \$2.00/pack Increase

If HB 1175 HD 3 is passed with a \$2.00/pack of cigarette increase in taxes, to be comparable to that of cigarettes, other tobacco products must be taxed at 175%.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide additional comments in strong support of an increase on the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes. The Coalition strongly encourages you to pass HB 895, HD 2 with our suggestions out of Committee.



UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

P.O. BOX 498, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0498

LATE

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2

Senate Committee on Health

March 18, 2009, 2:40 p.m., Hawai'i State Legislature, Rm. 016

To: Honorable Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair
Honorable Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Health Committee Members: Sen. Rosalyn
H. Baker, Sen. Will Espero,
Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Fred Hemmings

From: Eddie Agas, President
Oahu Filipino Community Council

Report Title:

Tobacco Products Tax Increase; Community Health Centers Special Fund
Measure Title:

RELATING TO TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS OTHER THAN CIGARETTES.

Description: Increases the tobacco tax on tobacco products other than
cigarettes from 40 percent to 80 percent of the wholesale price and
deposits an unspecified percentage of the proceeds collected into the
Community Health Centers Special Fund. (HB895 HD2)

My name is Eddie Agas. I am the president of the United Filipino
Council of Hawaii (UFCH). I submit this testimony to strongly support this
bill on behalf of UFCH, an umbrella organization with member organizations
from six islands. UFCH membership is comprised of nearly 5,000 individual
members.

We are concerned about the future of our youth, who are at risk for being
influenced by marketing tactics directed to gain future tobacco consumers.
Taxes would not only be a deterrent, but will also generate revenue for
health promotion and prevention services for Hawai'i's community health
centers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddie Agas
President
United Filipino Council of Hawaii



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2

LATE

Senate Health Committee
mar. 18, 2009, 2:40 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capital
Senate Conference Rm. 016

From:
Reginald Ho, MD, Principal Investigator
Reuben Guerrero, MD, Clinical Director
Miles Muraoka, PhD, Research Director
Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, Community Director
Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Community Leader
Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and
Training
A National Cancer Institute Community Network Program
c/o 728 Nunu St., Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Report Title: Tobacco Products Tax Increase; Community Health Centers Special Fund

Measure Title: RELATING TO TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS OTHER THAN CIGARETTES.

Description:

Increases the tobacco tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes from 40 percent to 80 percent of the wholesale price and deposits an unspecified percentage of the proceeds collected into the Community Health Centers Special Fund. (HB895 HD2)

To: Honorable Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair & Honorable Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Health Committee Members: Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker,
Sen. Will Espero, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Fred Hemmings

My name is Reginald Ho, Principal Investigator for the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training (AANCART), which is a Community Network Program of the National Cancer Institute. AANCART was established to address cancer disparities among Asian Americans through research, education, training, and advocacy. I am an oncologist at Straub Clinic and Hospital. I also served as the first national president of the American Cancer Society of Asian descent. Along with my AANCART colleagues listed above, we submit strong support for this bill. Policy strategies such as these have shown to be effective in influencing attitudes and behaviors to reduce dependence on tobacco products. Studies show, for example, that many people want to stop using tobacco products.

AANCART is helping to build the capacity of Filipino community leaders to address tobacco disparities through partnerships that increase civic engagement. Hawai'i has seen a doubling of lung cancer rates among Filipino men, and an increase in smoking among Filipino and Native Hawaiian adolescent girls, which have surpassed smoking rates for high school boys. This bill would strengthen community health centers as important stakeholders for tobacco control services that would reach immigrants and other underserved groups, especially during these dire economic times when many people are losing their health insurance coverage.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for considering the merits of this proposed policy to reduce suffering and high costs of health care due to tobacco-related diseases.

Sincerely,

Reginald Ho, MD; Miles Muraoka, PhD, Reuben Guerrero, MD; Charlene Cuaresma, MPH; Amy Agbayani, PHD
AANCART Hawai'i

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 * Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2

LATE

Senate Committee on Health

March 18, 2009, 2:40 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 016

To: Honorable Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair
Honorable Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Health Committee Members: Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker,
Sen. Will Espero, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Fred Hemmings

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Measure Title: RELATING TO TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS OTHER THAN CIGARETTES.

Report Title: Tobacco Products Tax Increase; Community Health Centers Special Fund

Description: Increases the tobacco tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes from 40 percent to 80 percent of the wholesale price and deposits an unspecified percentage of the proceeds collected into the Community Health Centers Special Fund. (HB895 HD2)

My name is Jake Manegdeg. I am the president of the Filipino American Citizens League. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- Increase revenue to State.
- Reduce youth use of smokeless tobacco. (Youth are 2 to 3 times more sensitive to price changes than adults).
- Youth use of smokeless tobacco has risen from 2.8% in 2003 to 3.7% in 2007 among high school students, and 1.7% in 2003 to 2.8% in 2007 among middle school students.
- Rates must be based on PURCHASE PRICE not weight. This accounts for inflation as it automatically adjusts when prices increase. New and emerging products like Snus weight 1/10th per dose compared to standard moist snuff that comes in a can.
- Rates must be comparable to cigarettes. If one type of tobacco product is cheaper, we will not see the same reductions in tobacco use.

As a former smoker, I believe it is important to protect the health of our youth and to support our community health centers with the revenue these provisions will generate.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2

Senate Committee on Health
March 18, 2009, 2:40 p.m.
Hawai'i State Legislature, Rm. 016

LATE

To: Honorable Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair
Honorable Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Health Committee Members: Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Sen. Will Espero,
Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Fred Hemmings

From: Eddie Agas, President
Oahu Filipino Community Council

Report Title:
Tobacco Products Tax Increase; Community Health Centers Special Fund

Measure Title:
RELATING TO TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS OTHER THAN CIGARETTES.

Description: Increases the tobacco tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes from 40 percent to 80 percent of the wholesale price and deposits an unspecified percentage of the proceeds collected into the Community Health Centers Special Fund. (HB895 HD2)

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I want to express appreciation to you for hearing this important bill. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of this bill. Our Coalition has passed resolutions to address public health disparities, including the disproportionate suffering of certain groups of people as a result of tobacco use. We are concerned that now more than ever, tobacco cessation initiatives like these are needed to keep our children healthy and addiction-free, and to reduce the cost of health care, as our economy is on the verge of collapse.

In closing, we agree to a portion of the revenue generated by the proposed taxes being used to fund community health centers. Thank you for hearing this bill. Your support in enacting is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma, MPH
President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

3432 B-1 Kalihi Street, Honolulu, HI 96819

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2

Senate Committee on Health

March 18, 2009, 2:40 p.m.

Hawai'i State Legislature, Rm. 016

To:

Honorable Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair

Honorable Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice-Chair

Honorable Senate Health Committee Members: Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Sen. Will Espero,
Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Fred Hemmings

From:

Amy Agbayani, Co-Chair, Filipinos For Affirmative Action

Report Title:

Tobacco Products Tax Increase; Community Health Centers Special Fund

Measure Title:

RELATING TO TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS OTHER THAN CIGARETTES.

Description:

Increases the tobacco tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes from 40 percent to 80 percent of the wholesale price and deposits an unspecified percentage of the proceeds collected into the Community Health Centers Special Fund. (HB895 HD2)

My name is Amy Agbayani. As Co-Chair of Filipinos for Affirmative Action, a proponent of civil rights, I submit strong support for this bill.

We believe that the provisions of this bill will protect the younger generation from a harmful and costly addiction to tobacco products. We also are in agreement that community health centers should be supported by funds from this measure.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to provide our support.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D.

Co-Chair

Filipinos For Affirmative Action



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701
E-mail: bramosrazon@aol.com

LATE

Beatrice Ramos-Razon,
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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2

Senate Committee on Health

March 18, 2009, 2:40 p.m. | Hawai'i State Capitol | Room 016

Measure Title: RELATING TO TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS
OTHER THAN CIGARETTES.

Report Title: Tobacco Products Tax Increase; Community Health
Centers Special Fund

Description: Increases the tobacco tax on tobacco products other
than cigarettes from 40 percent to 80 percent of the wholesale price
and deposits an unspecified percentage of the proceeds collected
into the Community Health Centers Special Fund. (HB895 HD2)

To: Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Honorable Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc. (NAMI)

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the Founder and President of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), we are in strong support of this bill. NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people by addressing not only a statewide, but worldwide nursing shortage, through the training and mentoring of foreign graduate nurses, many of whom come from underprivileged backgrounds, to pass Hawai'i's nurses board exams.

We are particularly concerned about the impact on Hawai'i's children. Youth use of smokeless tobacco has risen from 2.8% in 2003 to 3.7% in 2007 among high school students, and 1.7% in 2003 to 2.8% in 2007 among middle school students.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide this testimony in strong support.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc
Executive Director, Philippine Nurses Association Hawaii



OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 • Honolulu • Hawaii 96817

LATE

Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential
 Carehome Administrators
 Aloha Saguibsib Cultural
 Foundation, Inc.
 Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii
 Annac ti Batac
 Annac ti Caoayan 2002
 Annak ti Kailokuan iti
 America
 Annak ti Sinait iti Hawaii
 Asingan Organization of
 Hawaii
 Badoc-Pinili Aid
 Association of Hawaii
 Banna Association of
 Hawaii
 Bannatiran Association of
 Hawaii
 Batangas Association of
 Hawaii
 Bulacan Circle of Hawaii
 Caballeros de Dimasalang
 Cabugao Sons & Daughters
 of Hawaii
 Candonians of Hawaii
 Caoayan ISAH
 Cavitenians of Hawaii
 Dingras Association of
 Hawaii
 Divine Word College
 Alumni Association
 FilAm Sports USA
 Fil American Citizens
 League
 Filipino Business Women's
 Club
 Filipino Nurses Organization
 of Hawaii
 Filipino Women's Civic
 Club
 GUMIL Hawaii
 GUMIL Oahu
 Hawaii Filipino Women's
 Club
 Hawaii Council of Bilingual
 Educators
 ILAH
 Ilocos Nortenians of
 America
 INCAT Alumni Association
 of Hawaii
 International Filipino
 Society of Hawaii
 Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.
 La Union Circle of
 Hawaii
 Lingayen Gulf Club of
 Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 895 HD 2

Senate Committee on Health

March 18, 2009, 2:40 p.m., Hawai'i State Legislature, Rm. 016

To: Honorable Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair

Honorable Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice-Chair

Honorable Senate Health Committee Members: Sen. Rosalyn

H. Baker, Sen. Will Espero, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara,

Sen. Fred Hemmings

From:

Cirvalina Longboy, President, Oahu Filipino Community Council

Report Title: Tobacco Products Tax Increase; Community
 Health Centers Special Fund

Measure Title: RELATING TO TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS
 OTHER THAN CIGARETTES.

Description: Increases the tobacco tax on tobacco products
 other than cigarettes from 40 percent to 80 percent of the
 wholesale price and deposits an unspecified percentage of the
 proceeds collected into the Community Health Centers Special
 Fund. (HB895 HD2)

My name is Cirvalina Longboy, president of the Oahu Filipino
 Community Council. OFCC is an umbrella organization that
 represents a network of non-profit civic groups with a unified
 vision to improve the lives of our Filipino communities. I submit
 this testimony to strongly support the intent of this bill.

During these dire economic times, tax payers cannot afford the
 high cost of catastrophic chronic diseases related to tobacco
 use. Thank you for hearing this bill.

Sincerely,

Cirvalina Longboy

President

Oahu Filipino Community Council

Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of
 Hawaii
 Narvacan/San Antonio Club of
 Hawaii
 Nueva Vizcaya Association of
 Hawaii
 Pasuquinos Association of
 Hawaii
 Philippine Cultural Foundation
 Philippine Nurses
 Association of Hawaii
 Piddig Association of Hawaii
 Sanchez Mira Association of
 Hawaii
 San Manuel Pangasinan
 Association of Hawaii
 San Nicolaneos USA
 San Nicolas Goodwill
 Foundation
 San Nicolas Teachers of
 Hawaii
 Santa Lucia Association of
 Hawaii
 Sarrat Association of Hawaii
 Sarrat International Inc.
 Sinait Nt. High School Alumni
 of Hawaii
 Solsona of Hawaii
 Tarlac Mutual Club of Hawaii
 TPCP
 Kalihi Ballroom, Inc.
 Sadiri ti San Nicolas iti Hawaii
 Samar Leyte Association of
 Hawaii
 Sampaguita/Sunflower Club of
 Hawaii
 San Juan Association of
 Hawaii
 San Nicolas Nat. High
 Santa Marians of Hawaii
 School Alumni
 Santa Nicolas Nat. High
 School Bingao Annex
 Tagalog Association of Oahu
 United Bacarreneos of Hawaii
 United Group of Home
 Operators
 United Pangasinan of Hawaii
 United Urdaneta Club of
 Hawaii
 United Vintarinians of Hawaii
 Vigan Association of Hawaii

This letter is in support of HB 1378. I am a new A.P.R.N in Hawaii with a background of 22 years as a Registered Nurse + 16 years as an Emergency Room Nurse. I am also nationally board certified as a Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN); Adult Nurse Practitioner by both The Academy of Nurse Practitioner, ANP-C and The American Nurses Credentialing Center, ANP-BC. It has been difficult for me to become employed in Hawaii because I do not have prescriptive authority.

I have also been rejected for employment by an Emergency Department (ED) because of my lack of prescriptive authority and the inability of a future potential of prescribing Controlled Substances. An apologetic physician explained that even though I was one of the best qualified applicants, his physician group decided to hire a Physician Assistant (PA) as the current law for the PA here in Hawaii grants them prescriptive authority as well as authority to prescribe controlled substances and they were in desperate need of filling their physician gaps with a midlevel practitioner. Please note that the requirement for the state of Hawaii mandates that NPs have a Master's degree to be allowed to apply for their APRN license and 30 CEs of Pharmacology within the last three years to apply for a prescriptive license, whereas a PA can apply for a prescriptive license after the completion of either an Associate, Bachelor's, Master's or Certificate Program and in entering the state as well as passing a National Board Certification.

Hawaiian Medical Association's (HMA) 2009 Legislative Advocacy states that their objectives are to help physicians put patient care first, and to assure high quality health care for all the people in Hawaii. One of these objective goals is ***To oppose granting prescriptive and surgical privileges to non-physicians.*** www.hmaonline.net/HealthCareAdvocacy/LegislativeIssues/tabid/732/Default.aspx Under HRS 453, there is no language addressing prescriptive authority of PAs whom I believe are ***non-physicians***, yet have full prescriptive authority.

Hawaii residents are well aware that we are about to celebrate The Queen's Medical Center's 150th Anniversary. The Queen's Medical Center's history began with King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma's plea to establish a hospital for Hawaii in 1854. Although, The Legislature approved for the establishment of a hospital, no funds were appropriated. Frustrated the King and Queen Emma took to the streets fundraising to begin what is now known to be the most progressive hospital in the state of Hawaii.

150 years later, it appears that the plea for quality healthcare in Hawaii continues to be hampered by different organizations. A groundbreaking study reported in ***AJNP (American Journal of Nurse Practitioners)*** ranked the regulatory environment for NP practice and consumer healthcare choice for each state by evaluating NPs' legal capacity, patient access to NP services, and patient access to NP prescriptions to arrive at a category ranking, wherein a score of 100 represents the ideal. Each state then received a grade of A to F relative to consumer choice. (At www.webnp.net *Lugo NR, O'Grady ET, Hodnicki DR, Hanson CM. Ranking state NP regulation: practice environment and consumer healthcare choice. *Am J Nurse Pract.* April 2007;11(4):8-24. ***In 2007 Hawaii received an F.***

I ask myself, "What would be the factors that influence the committees that oppose nurse practitioners?" I asked several physicians this question. One physician answered that there have been too many malpractice suits with Nurse Practitioners. Others answered that granting full prescriptive authority would be a risk for them. When I asked them what source they based this

from, they all stated from other physicians. Evidence based research through the National Provider Data Bank Summary Report of 12/28/2008 for the state of Hawaii listed the Medical Malpractice Reports to list 560 reports for physicians out of the total of 7293 physicians; 0 reports for the total of 835 Nurse Practitioners and 0 for the 146 Allopathic PAs. Therefore, the responses I received were hearsay and not evidence-based-practice information. Please note the ratio of Nurse Practitioners vs Physician Assistants during this time of Health Care Crisis for the state of Hawaii.

It was also interesting to note from the State of Hawaii's Department of Commerce and Consumers affairs Professional and Vocational Licensing Division that for the current licenses as of January 2008 there were: 7,293 Medical Doctors out of which 3,362 have returned to the mainland; Certified PA's numbered 146, out of which 25 returned to the mainland. APRNs were 892 – out of which 241 have returned to the; APRNs with prescriptive rights numbered 182 out of which only 4 have returned to the mainland. What these numbers signify is that **we don't have enough providers** to care for the Hawaiian population of approximately 1,283,388 (US Census 2007).

I am alarmed that in a state that is considered to be in a *health care crisis*, affecting Hawaii's residents and tourists' alike, needless barriers persists towards the scope of practice of the Nurse Practitioner. According to the **Hawaiian Medical Association**, our doctors are cutting back on high-risk services taking early retirement, or moving to states with more patient-friendly liability laws and crying out for health care reform, using states such as Texas, California, Alaska, Idaho and others as examples of enactment of common sense "Medical Liability Reform". [www.hmaonline.net/HealthCareAdvocacy/Legislative Issues/tabid/732/Default.aspx](http://www.hmaonline.net/HealthCareAdvocacy/Legislative%20Issues/tabid/732/Default.aspx) How about enacting that same common sense towards prescriptive authority for Nurse Practitioners and removing the unreasonable restraint of not being allowed to prescribe controlled substances. The states of Alaska and Idaho have explicit legal authority to "prescribe" with no requirement for physician involvement. Texas and California can apply for prescriptive authority **without** the requirement of 1000 hours of physician supervision (as in the state of Hawaii) and are also allowed to prescribe controlled substances.

According to an example of an effective response to the health care practice of rural Indiana with the aid of a PHHS Block Grant "Effective use of nurse practitioners increases access to health care and cost savings. Studies have concluded that 80% of adult primary care services and up to 90% of pediatric primary care services could be performed by nurse practitioners. The cost of seeking care from a nurse practitioner is 40% less than that of a physician."

www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/examples/pdfs/indiana_bg.pdf

One of the principles of medical ethics is that "a physician shall respect the law and also recognize a responsibility to *seek changes* in those requirements which are contrary to *the best interest of the patients*." The strategies for integrating safety and quality for Collaborate Healthcare Reform developed by the Institute of Medicine needs to be considered. In quoting Thomas J Kane III MD (orthopedic surgeon and a member of Orthopedic Associates of Hawaii) from www.starbulletin.com 3/16/08 editorial "In 1994, Hillary Clinton cited Hawaii as the "model" for her proposed national health care reform based on universal health care coverage for its citizens. Now, 15 years later, Hawaii has become the model for health care meltdown." Dr. Kane addresses physicians leaving the state in droves. We **NEED** physician extenders to fill in

the gap of providers in this state and we **NEED** to include Nurse Practitioners as primary care providers with full prescriptive rights, including the issuance of controlled substances to be included as an element in the NP scope of practice for the state of Hawaii.

I urge the Committee of Health to vote in favor of HB 1378 to BE PASSED with amendments and to change section (9) in page nine to read that ***This Act takes effect July 1, 2009*** and **NOT July 1, 2050 or 2020!** Hawaii is in a state of *Health Care Crisis* and we need to collaborate in the efforts to streamline improved quality ***patient access*** to health care. Consider the exemplary actions taken by King Kamehameha and Queen Emma in their progressive example of ***change NOW***.

Mahalo nui loa,

Cristina E. Prokop, RN, APRN, C-NP, ANP-BC