

**HB 895**

## Gina Williams

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**From:** Chris McCalla [chris@ipcpr.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:26 AM  
**To:** Sen. Donna Mercado Kim; Legislative  
**Cc:** 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:** Please consider the following before approving House Bill 895  
**Attachments:** Why a tax increase is bad for Hawaii.pdf

Good morning Senator Kim: I am contacting you, and your fellow senators of the Ways & Means Committee to please give great consideration to HB895—legislation that will increase the state's OTP excise tax. I am the legislative director for the International Premium Cigar & Pipe Retailers Association (IPCPR), representing premium retail tobacconists in your state.

While we do not oppose providing health care for those in need who cannot afford it on their own, this legislation will prove devastating for our members in Hawaii. Premium cigars are included in the OTP category, and this substantial increase will not increase tax revenues from the products—it will only push presently law-abiding, tax paying Hawaiians to tax evasion for their favorite cigars as local prices will make them price-prohibitive. Cigar consumers will not simply stop smoking cigars, as cigars are a product of socialization and passion—not one of addiction. When cigar consumers turn to Internet and mail order for their purchases, this will only deprive your state's coffers of not only excise tax revenues but sales tax and general excise tax revenues.

I ask you read the attached brief (it's only two pages) before making your final decision on HB895. I thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Chris McCalla*  
*IPCPR Legislative Director*  
*#4 Bradley Park Court Suite 2H*  
*Columbus GA 31904-3637*  
*Phone: 706-494-1143*  
*Fax: 706-494-1893*

*"The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph." Thomas Paine*



April 1, 2009

Dear Hawaii State Senators,

With utter disappointment, we learned of House Bill 895 that is making its way through your committees. While we understand the intent of this bill, which is aimed at eliminating tobacco products that target under age smokers, this bill, as it is written will also destroy our Kauai grown, premium hand rolled cigar business.

As a certified organic farmer in Kauai, a father of two young children, husband to a teacher, and a youth athletic coach, I have a firm understanding of what goes into building a healthy home, and community here on our island. Lashing out and destroying the cigar industry will not only kill our business, but it will displace workers, and remove a viable product from local stores like ABC Stores, Whaler's General Stores, Hilo Hattie, Lamonts Sundry, and nearly 100 other independent Hawaii merchants. Our premium Kauai grown cigars have a high appeal with both visitors and residents of Hawaii. Besides the inflated workers compensation insurance, and unemployment taxes that are imposed on us for operating our coffee and tobacco farms, this tax is simply unfathomable in a country that lays claim to personal freedoms.

Never foreseeing a tax law like this, four years ago, I decided to take my love for premium hand rolled cigars, and turn it into a business. I invested hundreds of thousands of dollars into this small business, and the Hawaii economy in an attempt to grow and operate a niche oriented business that produces a product that is enjoyed by healthy, responsible adults of legal age. I will also add that in no way are these cigars targeted at underage consumers.

The federal government recently passed a law that will tax large hand rolled cigars a maximum of 40¢ per cigar for manufacturing or importing cigars into the United States. LBD Coffee, LLC holds both a Federal Manufacturing permit, and a Federal Import Permit for its Kauai Cigars, and we currently pay the 40% wholesale tax imposed on us by the current Hawaii tobacco tax law. This new 85% (and ultimately 105% by 2011) wholesale tobacco tax will ultimately reduce the tobacco tax revenue that the State receives on tobacco sales. This bill will also increase the black market for cigars and the amount of untaxed mail order business for cigars being shipped to consumers in Hawaii.

For more information on our farms and business please visit [www.lbdcoffee.com](http://www.lbdcoffee.com). Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Les Drent', written in a cursive style.

Les Drent



April 1, 2009

Dear Hawaii State Senators,

This letter is in regards to the Senate Ways and Means testimony that was submitted in response to House Bill 895. Please remove from testimony our two letters dated March 27, 2009, and please add our letter dated April 1, 2009. We attached copies of the two letters to be removed and a copy of our testimony to be submitted.

Thank you for your attention and please call if you need any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Les Drent', written in a cursive style.

Les Drent  
president, grower  
Kauai Cigar Company



***Hawaii and the Other Tobacco Products Tax (OTP): Why it will prove devastating for the State***

Tobacco products are taxed in two different categories: cigarette excise taxes and Other Tobacco Products, or OTP, excise taxes. OTP constitutes all tobacco products other than cigarettes—cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, etc. More often than not, OTP excise taxes are targeted for increases along with mass-marketed cigarettes.

When analyzing federal tobacco excise taxes, almost 95% of all tax revenues come from cigarettes. That leaves on five percent of tobacco tax revenues from OTP. Now consider the following breakdown:

In 2004, 4,000,000,000 (that's four billion) cigars produced are machine-made (non-premium cigars)

325,000,000 (three hundred twenty-five million) cigars produced are hand-made (premium cigars)

That's a difference of 3,675,000,000 (three billion, six hundred-seventy million)

All things being equal, premium, handmade cigars constitute only 8.125 percent of all OTP excise taxes collected at the federal level. When considering this on a state-by-state basis, the numbers will vary, but this same assumption may be made for state-level collection of OTP excises taxes.

***Specific to the State of Hawaii:***

Tobacco tax collections:

Revenues Generated by All Excise Taxes (\$)		Percentage of Excise Tax Revenues		
	Cigarettes	OTP*	Cigarettes	OTP*
2002	62,609,477	2,898,727	95.6%	4.4%
2003	70,586,392	1,709,546	97.6%	2.4%
2004	77,541,842	1,842,296	97.7%	2.3%
2005	83,135,360	2,106,516	97.5%	2.5%

*\*This encompasses all OTP—all tobacco products other than cigarettes. Specific numbers on premium, handmade cigars unavailable do to current reporting requirements.*

Premium cigars account only for about 19% of the total 2.5% total revenues from the OTP excise tax—roughly only about \$400,000.

Premium tobacconists are small business owners in the state who will suffer from such an excessive tax increase. Already impacting these small business owners is the recently enacted federal State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) renewal and expansion. SCHIP solely relies on increased federal tobacco taxes, including the OTP excise tax. The premium cigar portion of the OTP excise tax increased nearly 600% under SCHIP. As manufacturers' prices will increase due to SCHIP, in-state retailers will already be paying in state OTP excise tax as it is Ad Valorem-based (calculated based on percentage of gross or stated value).

A state-level OTP increase to 64% may prove devastating for these small business owners. In-state retailers are already at a severe disadvantage due to mail-order catalogs and Internet-based premium cigar retailers. Those out-of-state vendors are able to offer large discounts to Michigan's cigar consumers that in-state brick-and-mortar retailers simply cannot compete against. The price advantage to the consumer proves far too attractive to pass over. Consumers in a market-driven economy are conditioned to shop for the lowest retail price and will go to great lengths to save money on their purchases.

***Why OTP excise taxes (that include premium cigars) are detrimental to premium retail tobacconists:***

- Consumers in a market-driven, capitalist society are trained and obliged, by that market economy, to shop for the lowest price on a product, regardless of the product.
- Excessive taxation of the premium cigar market will only drive consumers out of state or to Internet tobacco merchants for their favorite tobacco products, resulting in fewer taxes collected for the state.
- Increasing Other Tobacco Products (OTP) tax rates will generate no significant revenues for the state, and if approved, will most likely decrease revenues.
- Increasing the OTP tax will not generate revenues-it will only drive business out of the state and to mail order and Internet-based retailers.
- Not only will the state lose OTP tax revenues, it will lose sales taxes, business income taxes, and other related taxes paid by the small business owner.

# TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TOBACCO, Increase tax; disposition of revenues

BILL NUMBER: HB 895, SD-1

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Health

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 245-1 to amend the definition of "tobacco products" to include smokeless tobacco and pipe tobacco.

Amends HRS section 245-3 to increase the tax on the wholesale price of tobacco products from 40% to 85% on September 30, 2009; to 95% on September 30, 2010; and 105% on September 30, 2011 and thereafter.

Amends HRS section 245-15 to provide that after September 30, 2009, \_\_\_\_% of the amount of tax collected on tobacco products shall be deposited into the community health centers special fund; \_\_\_\_% of the amount of tax collected on tobacco products shall be deposited into the health systems special fund; and \_\_\_\_% of the amount of tax collected on tobacco products shall be deposited into the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2010

STAFF COMMENTS: This measure increases the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes from 40% of wholesale price to 85% on September 30, 2009, 95% on September 30, 2010 and 105% on September 30, 2011 and diverts \_\_\_\_% of the amount collected into the community health centers special fund, the health systems special fund and the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund. The measure also provides that smokeless tobacco and pipe tobacco shall be subject to the tobacco tax.

While lawmakers and taxpayers may believe this earmarking of the tobacco tax will insure that the designated programs will be funded into the future, it should be remembered that the rising cost of the product may, in fact, jeopardize funding of these programs. The state cigarette tax is scheduled to rise to \$2.60 per pack by the year 2011. In addition, the federal government's newly adopted increase brings the federal taxes to \$1.01 per pack, so the tax per pack of cigarettes in Hawaii will rise to \$3.61. 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 a less dependable funding mechanism for the earmarked programs. When the tax went from \$1.60 to \$1.80 per pack there was an actual decline in the number of packs sold.

This proposal highlights one of the distortions that occurs when product price increases and consumption either decreases or in the case where the tax is based on the cost or value of the product, tax collections will be adversely affected. Until 1993, all tobacco products were taxed at a rate of 40% of the wholesale value of the product plus the 0.5% general excise tax rate and, of course, the 4% general excise tax at retail. When the tax on cigarettes was converted to a per unit basis in 1993, it put all cigarettes, regardless of value, on parity. So inexpensive product was taxed at the same rate as more expensive product even though the difference in cost may have been attributed only to the cost of marketing and

advertising the more costly product. As lawmakers increased the tax per pack over the years and the cost of making the product also increased the retail price, smokers had three choices, either pay more for their preferred brand, quit smoking, or trade down to a less costly product. While quitting smoking will definitely spell a loss in tax revenues for the state, trading down to a less costly brand will not.

This is an important point to note with respect to all other tobacco products. While this measure increases the tax on all other tobacco products from 40% to 85%, 95% then 105%, lawmakers should consider restructuring the way other tobacco products are taxed to insure stability in the collection from the sales of these products. Instead of continuing to set the tax as a percent of the wholesale value, consideration should be given to moving to a per unit approach like the taxing of cigarettes. A review of what other states impose indicates that while some products continue to be taxed on an ad-valorem basis, smokeless tobacco products are taxed on the basis of weight. This would insure that all such tobacco products are taxed in the same manner regardless of their wholesale price. Such is the case with the cigarette tax which is levied on a per unit basis. There are some 14 states which already employ the weight approach for smokeless tobacco. In the most recent conversion to weight based taxes on smokeless tobacco products, New Jersey experienced a 19% increase in revenues from this product.

In making the conversion to so many cents per ounce, lawmakers may want to utilize the current tax collected on the most expensive product and divide that amount by the number of ounces. While this will result in an initial bump in collections as the tax on less costly product will see an increase, it will bring parity to these types of products and stabilize collections as users migrate to less costly brands or products as the cost rises.

While the weight approach is now employed for other products, lawmakers may want to consider studying how other tobacco products which are currently subject to the 40% ad valorem imposition can be taxed in the alternative. That alternative should be designed to lend stability to revenues produced from these other tobacco products and gives parity to all products of the same nature without regard to wholesale value.

While not contained in this bill, 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 the 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.



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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895, HD 2, SD 1  
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes  
Senate Ways and Means Committee; April 2, 2009; 9:30 a.m.

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



March 31, 2009

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

**Hearing:**

9:30 A.M., Thursday, April 2, 2009  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

**RE: HB895, HD2, SD1, Relating to Tax on Tobacco Products Other than Cigarettes**

**Testimony in Strong Support**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB895, HD2, SD1, which increases the excise tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes; and designates a yet to be determined percentage of the proceeds to the community health centers special fund and to tobacco prevention programs.

The American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc., was formed in 1959, and is a community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service. This mission is consistent with the Society's ambitious 2015 goals of slashing the cancer mortality rate by 50%, reducing the incidence of cancer by 25%, and improving the quality of life of cancer patients and survivors by reducing the pain and suffering that cancer causes.

**Oral and pharyngeal cancer continues to be a significant health problem in the United States and in Hawaii.** Approximately 30,000 new cases of oral cancer are diagnosed each year. In Hawaii, the oral/pharyngeal cancer rate is 9.2% per 100,000 of population. Currently, one-third of those patients who receive a diagnosis of oral cancer will eventually die of their disease. The long term survival of oral cancer patients is, as in most cancers, directly proportional to early detection, diagnoses, and treatment.

The use of tobacco products, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and smokeless tobacco products (spit, snuff, and chewing tobacco) has emerged as a major preventable risk factor for a number of oral diseases and disorders. Unfortunately, shameless marketing of tobacco products to our children and young adults is having a negative impact in Hawaii. The use rates for smokeless tobacco products is moving upwards, as indicated by the increase in tax revenues on these products.

**In our previous testimony this measure we gave important reasons as to why this tax should be increased:**

1. The current tax rate of 40% of the wholesale prices was established in 1965 and has never been increased. Other states have much higher rates; Massachusetts has a 90% rate, Maine 78%, Washington 75%, Minnesota 70%, and Oregon 65%.
2. It is well established by scientific research and the experiences of numerous states that increasing the state tax rates on non-cigarette tobacco products not only raises new revenues but also helps to reduce tobacco use levels, especially among youth.

3. With Hawaii's economy in dire straights, substantiality raising the tax rate and dedicating portions of the increase to tobacco control and other safety net health programs, such as community health centers, will ensure the sustainability of those programs as additional demands are placed on them by laid off workers, the underinsured and uninsured.

**It was the Society belief that this tax increase should be substantial, and we are pleased that the House doubled the tax rate to 80%, and the Senate Health committee increased it even further. In 2008, the Department of Taxation reported \$3.47 million in tax collections on other tobacco products. We calculate that the 85% tax increase recommended in Standing Committee Report No. 1035, would increase tax revenues to about \$4.62 million the first year.**

#### **Allocations of Revenues**

**We are in complete support of depositing a percentage of the proceeds collected into the Community Health Centers Special Fund, and the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention Control Trust Fund.**

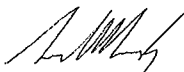
As our economy continues to spiral downward, there will be many job layoffs. Thousands will lose their health coverage and will join the roles of the uninsured or underinsured. Our state's community health centers have been the safety net for those individuals who are unable to obtain primary health care. It is critical that we ensure the sustainability of our community health centers. We should not reduce access to care options in the coming hard times. It should be noted that community health centers also provide critical follow-up services for cancer patients with limited resources. In addition, our community health centers are on the front-line in providing screenings for the detection of cancers. If these services were not available many more of our residents would die from cancer.

We also need to ensue that community nonprofit organizations will have funding to maintain tobacco control programs that help individuals quite smoking as well as programs that focus on prevention. Hawaii has done an excellent job in addressing the harm caused by tobacco use. Because of these efforts we have one of the lowest smoking rates in nation. Needless to say this is one our state's public health success.

In closing, we would mention that we believe that this is a good bill. It accomplishes several purposes. It is a sin tax that could generate substantial revenues thus helping our state's fiscal crisis. It will provide additional funding for our state's "health safety net" community health centers. Finally this bill would deter adult and youth tobacco use, which will in turn drive down not only oral cancer rates but the rates of other cancers related to tobacco use.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in strong support of this measure.

Very truly yours,



George S. Massengale, JD  
Director of Government Relations



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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.

**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 895, HD 2, SD 1  
RELATING TO TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS OTHER  
THAN CIGARETTES**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Ige and Committee Members:

The American Lung Association of Hawaii supports HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 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 yearly incremental increases in the wholesale tax will 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



American Heart Association® | American Stroke Association®

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Serving Hawaii

## Testimony for HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 “Relating To Tobacco”

The American Heart Association supports HB 895, HD 2, SD 1.

A portion of new funds realized from any tobacco tax increase should be directed toward further tobacco prevention and education. Hawaii current investment remains well below the Centers for Disease Control’s recommended spending in tobacco and prevention. The CDC recommends that Hawaii invest \$15.2 million per year on tobacco prevention, education and cessation programs to fully achieve success in reducing tobacco dependence. Hawaii last year allocated \$11.3 million a year for tobacco prevention and cessation, which includes both state and federal funds. However, a significantly smaller portion of those allocation was actually expended on tobacco prevention and cessation through the State Tobacco Trust Fund.

In addition, the AHA recommends that the state attempt to set the tax on “other tobacco” products at a level comparable to what its cigarette tax will be when the current cigarette tax increase is fully implemented in 2011, or if an immediate cigarette tax increase is implemented in July 2009. In the future, any cigarette tax increases should be accompanied by a comparable increase in the tax on other tobacco products to insure that hikes in cost for one type of tobacco product don’t drive potential young customers toward the cheaper type of tobacco. The goal of any tobacco tax increase should be primarily to achieve a reduction in use of tobacco products, especially by price-sensitive young people. The costs to the state for medical care alone related to tobacco use far outweigh the benefits in taxes collected on tobacco sales.

### What do nicotine and tobacco smoke do to the body?

Nicotine causes a short-term increase in blood pressure, heart rate and the flow of blood from the heart. It also causes the arteries to narrow. Users of smokeless tobacco are exposed to levels of nicotine that are comparable to cigarette smokers. In addition, smoke from other tobacco products like cigars include carbon monoxide, which reduces the amount of oxygen the blood can carry. This, combined with the nicotine effects, creates an imbalance between the demand for oxygen by the cells and the amount of oxygen the blood can supply. Tobacco smoke also increases the risk of developing hardening of the arteries and heart attacks in several ways. First, carbon monoxide damages the inner walls of the arteries, encouraging fatty buildups in them. Over time, this causes the vessels to narrow and harden. Nicotine may also contribute to this process. Smoking also causes several changes in the blood that make clots—and heart attack—more likely. Cigar and pipe smoking increases the risk of abdominal aortic aneurysm by as much as six times compared to never-smokers. Smoking cigars or pipes doubles the risk of fatal stroke compared to never-smokers. Smoking cigars or pipes and cigarettes increases the risk for fatal stroke by six times compared to never-smokers. Pipe smoking has been found to increase coronary heart disease risk by almost as much as cigarette smoking. Some studies have shown that smokeless tobacco results in as much as a 40 percent increased risk of dying from cardiovascular disease.

### Caution About Switching to a Weight-Based Tobacco Tax System

Legislators should be cautioned about falling into the tobacco companies’ trap of switching to a weight-based formula for calculating the tax on “other tobacco” products rather than through a percentage of the wholesale or retail price. Over time, such shifts to a weight-based tax dramatically reduce the portion of state revenues gained from their smokeless tax, reducing the

#### 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](http://www.americanheart.org) or e-mail us at [hawaii@heart.org](mailto:hawaii@heart.org)

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Fax: 808-961-2827

**Kauai:**  
(Served by Oahu office)  
Phone: 808-538-7021  
Fax: 808-538-3443

*“Building healthier lives,  
free of cardiovascular  
diseases and stroke.”*

effective tax on the kinds of higher-priced premium products that the larger companies sell and increasing the effective tax on lower-priced brands, predominantly sold by smaller competitors.

In contrast, a percentage-of-price tax levies a fixed percentage tax on all smokeless products, ensuring that those products that bring in higher amounts of revenue and profits also pay higher amounts per can or dose while still paying the exact same percentage tax as less profitable brands. Taxing by weight also provides a massive tax break to the new generation of smokeless tobacco products (e.g. Ariva, Stonewall, Snus products) that can weigh as little as one-tenth as much as standard smokeless products. Accordingly, states with weight-based smokeless or moist snuff taxes will see their revenues shrink as this new wave of super-low-weight products takes over more and more of the total smokeless market. To ensure that smokeless tobacco brands that engage in unfair competition or predatory pricing still pay reasonable amounts of tax, the state could simply add a minimum tax onto its existing percentage-of-price tax system.

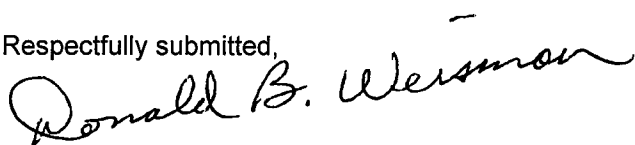
But it is not just an issue of premium versus lower-price brands. The vast majority of kids who use smokeless tobacco use the higher-priced premium brands, such as Copenhagen. By ultimately lowering the price on the smokeless tobacco products most popular with kids, shifting to a weight-based tax would increase smokeless tobacco use among youths.

#### **Setting Smokeless Tobacco Tax Rates Effectively**

Simply raising all state tobacco taxes will produce enormous benefits by reducing overall tobacco use, with an especially powerful negative effect on tobacco use by kids. At the same time, it is important to make sure that the tax rates on all tobacco products are roughly comparable, to minimize shifts from one tobacco product to another cheaper one and to maximize the overall reduction in tobacco use.

In conclusion, it is important to both maintain a balance between the taxes on cigarettes and the tax on "other tobacco" products in order to continue to drive down Hawaii's youth smoking rates. It is just as important to maintain the level of investment in tobacco prevention, education and cessation programs at or near the CDC's minimum recommended amounts. The AHA strongly recommends that a portion of any new tobacco tax revenue be earmarked to support those life-saving programs.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald B. Weisman

Hawaii Communications and Marketing/Government Affairs Director



## 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 895, HD 2, SD 1** **Relating to Tax on Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes**

**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. A substantial increase in the tax, and hence, the cost of tobacco products will provide a strong deterrent to use such damaging products, especially for young people who are more sensitive to costs. We also support the bill's intent to deposit parts of the proceeds for the benefit of critical public health and health care delivery institutions, including Community Health Centers, the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, and the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

Community Health Centers (CHCs) make up one of the most viable health care systems in Hawaii and save Hawaii taxpayers and insurers millions of dollars annually by providing high quality health care that reduces the use of specialty, emergency department, and inpatient care. Because of the advantages they derive as federally qualified health centers and their clinically effective and cost-saving model of care, CHCs should be looked to for expansion. New funds from this source could be used for service expansion, capital, and workforce and infrastructure development since working capital is otherwise so hard to come by for this nonprofit system of care. This was the intent of the CHC cigarette tax earmark legislated in 2006.

Such an investment in Community Health Centers will also help pay for otherwise uncompensated tobacco cessation programs at the centers. CHCs are serving the people who are most likely to use tobacco products and thus in greatest need of tobacco intervention. Unfortunately, their programs are generally underfunded – if funded at all – by other tobacco settlement dollars, which are targeted for reduction in the coming fiscal biennium.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.

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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895, HD 2, SD 1  
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes  
Senate Ways and Means Committee; April 2, 2009; 9:30 a.m.

April 2, 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



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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895, HD 2, SD 1  
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes  
Senate Ways and Means Committee; April 2, 2009; 9:30 a.m.

April 2, 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

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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895, HD 2, SD 1  
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes  
Senate Ways and Means Committee; April 2, 2009; 9:30 a.m.

April 2, 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: 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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895, HD 2, SD 1  
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes  
Senate Ways and Means Committee; April 2, 2009; 9:30 a.m.

April 2, 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: 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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895, HD 2, SD 1  
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes  
Senate Ways and Means Committee; April 2, 2009; 9:30 a.m.

April 2, 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

April 2, 2009

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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895, HD 2, SD 1  
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes  
Senate Ways and Means Committee; April 2, 2009; 9:30 a.m.

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.

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

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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895, HD 2, SD 1  
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes  
Senate Ways and Means Committee; April 2, 2009; 9:30 a.m.

April 2, 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: 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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895, HD 2, SD 1  
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes  
Senate Ways and Means Committee; April 2, 2009; 9:30 a.m.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 Hawai – Manoa

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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 895, HD 2, SD 1  
Relating to Tax on Other Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes  
Senate Ways and Means Committee; April 2, 2009; 9:30 a.m.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

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



## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Uri Pasaoa [upasaoa@hcf-hawaii.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:39 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Uri Pasaoa  
PO Box 4025  
Lihue, HI 96766

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Janis Carman [janis.carman@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:08 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Janis Carman  
HCR-1 Box 4625  
Keaau, HI 96749

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Stephanie Martin [stephaniemartin@live.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:47 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Stephanie Martin  
1519 Nuuanu Avenue #79  
Honolulu, HI 96817

## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Alice Silbanuz [aliceruta@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:44 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Alice Silbanuz  
99-1028 Kahua Place  
Aiea, HI 96701

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Mary-Jean Shiroma [mshiroma@isi-hawaii.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:04 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Shelly Ogata [shellyogata@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:43 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Shelly Ogata  
PO Box 2104  
Keaau, HI 96749

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Steven Vannatta [stevenvannatta@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:51 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Steven Vannatta  
5568 Haleola st.  
Honolulu, HI 96821

225-4498

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Marion Lobre [diane@tobaccofreehawaii.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:11 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Marion Lobre  
1204 Elizabeth Street  
Honolulu, HI 96816



**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Colleen Welty [colleen@mfss.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:10 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Colleen Welty  
328 Hololani Str.  
Pukalani, HI 96768

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Shelly Ogata [shellyogata@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:43 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Shelly Ogata  
PO Box 2104  
Keaau, HI 96749

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Valerie Chang [copd.hawaii@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:01 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

This will help our state have healthier people who are freed from addiction to tobacco and the many, expensive health conditions related to tobacco use and exposure. Tobacco products pose huge societal and health costs and I applaud all barriers that will help reduce the numbers of folks addicted to tobacco products.

Valerie Chang  
5639 Kawaikui St.  
Honolulu, HI 96821

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Anjj Lee [anj@anjlee.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:59 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Anjj Lee  
98-410 KoaukaLp. #30K  
Aiea, HI 96701

808-951-9876

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Kara Saiki [kara5282@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:18 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Kara Saiki  
2208A Liliha St.  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Anjj Lee [anjj@anjlee.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:58 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Anjj Lee  
98-410 KoaukaLp. #30K  
Aiea, HI 96701

808-951-9876

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Erin Moncada [erin.moncada@cancer.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:38 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Erin Moncada  
200 Kanoelehua PMB 228  
Hilo, HI 96720

## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Charles Roessler [charles.roessler@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:33 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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



## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Deb Juarez [dataira@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:26 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Deb Juarez  
7413 Makaa Street  
Honolulu, HI 96825

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Eldon Wegner [elwegner1@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:20 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Eldon Wegner  
2333 Kapiolani Blvd #2413  
Honolulu, HI 96826

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Daniel Gluck [dan\_gluck@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:40 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Daniel Gluck  
Kamehameha Heights  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Kimberly Cochrane [hawaiikimber@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:44 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Diane Brenessel [dbrenessel@queens.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:58 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Diane Brenessel  
2992 Pacific Heights Road  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Kathy CHING [anndel@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:20 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Kathy CHING  
PO Box 23029  
Honolulu, HI 96823

282-3074

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Meta Lee [Meta@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:18 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Meta Lee Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
2505 Haleleoa Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96821

739-1961

## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Thomas Wills [twills@crch.hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:16 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Thomas A. Wills  
5079 Maunalani Circle  
Honolulu , HI 96816



**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** joanne itano [itano@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:13 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

joanne itano  
1302 kika st.  
kailua, HI 96734

808-956-3872

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** David Vega [Dvega@kkv.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:26 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

David Vega  
2239 N School Street  
Honolulu, HI 96819

848-0976

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Juan Moncada [juan@tobaccofreehawaii.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:26 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and tobacco products is a good idea for our State. Hawaii can bring in much-needed revenue and save lives at the same time. Higher taxes on tobacco products reduce smoking rates and Hawaii is leading the way nationally with adult smoking at 15.3% and high-school smoking to 9.7%. I urge lawmakers support and passage of HB 895, HB2, SD 1. Thank you.

Juan Moncada  
P. O. 7621  
Hilo, HI 96720

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** nancy halley [nhalley@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:27 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

nancy halley  
189 Naniloa Drive  
Wailuku, HI 96793

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Nadine Newlight [naia96708@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:32 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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Nadine Newlight  
320 Waipalani Road  
Haiku, HI 96708

808-244-6119w

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Andrea Davis [gsn@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:47 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Andrea Davis  
59-468 Hoalike Road  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

808-638-7612

## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Juan Moncada [juan@tobaccofreehawaii.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:41 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Juan Moncada  
P. O. 7621  
Hilo, HI 96720

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** H B [alahmaui@ala-hawaii.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 5:10 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

H B  
95 Mahalani St #28-1A  
Wailuku, HI 96793



**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Debbie Odo [xtobacco@ala-hawaii.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:50 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Director of Tobacco Control Debbie Odo  
Director of Tobacco Control  
680 Iwilei Road  
Suite 575  
Honolulu, HI 96817

383-3142

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Andrea Siu [asiu@keolamamo.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:50 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Toni Baran [lovehawaii@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:50 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Owner Educator Toni Baran  
Owner Educator  
44-160 Kou Pl. #2  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Kathleen O'malley [Kathleen.Omalley@kapiolani.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:48 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

535-7888

## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Vailima Watson [Vailima@KKV.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:46 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

I am supporting this bill to increase the tax on tobacco products as tobacco is the leading cause of over 443,000 deaths for 2009 just in the United States.

What more proof do you want then these statistics why tobacco is so dangerous to the humane life.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Vailima Watson  
2243 Kalaunu Street  
Honolulu, HI 96819

4788468

## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Megan Inada [minada@kkv.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:44 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Megan Inada  
437 Pau Street #704  
Honolulu, HI 96815

225-3039

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Alan Mogi [alanm@crch.hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:43 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Alan Mogi  
1236 Lauhala St  
Honolulu, HI 96813

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Alice Silbanuz [alice.silbanuz@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:43 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Alice Silbanuz  
1250 Punchbowl St  
Room 422  
Honolulu, HI 96813

808-586-4434



## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Marilyn Gagen [mgagen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 2:40 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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



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 p.m.  
Re: **Strong Support to Increase the Tax on Other Tobacco Products, HB 895, HD 2 SD 1**

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Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of an increase on the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes. 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. Thank you for hearing this measure.

The Coalition supports raising the tax on other tobacco products as well as expanding the definition of “tobacco products” to explicitly include smokeless tobacco. The Coalition offers:

- Other tobacco products must be taxed at rates comparable to cigarettes;
- Other tobacco products must be taxed based on purchase-price (weight-based taxes reduce revenue); and
- Revenues should fund tobacco prevention and control programs.

Raising the tax on tobacco products is a win-win for our State. A tax increase will not only bring revenue into our State but it will reduce youth tobacco use.

**Health is Promoted By Increasing the Tax on Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes**

By increasing the percent of the wholesale price of each tobacco product sold, use of smokeless tobacco by adults and young people will decrease. This will result in a decline in the serious health conditions that arise from use of smokeless tobacco including cancer of the esophagus pharynx, larynx, stomach, and pancreas, gum disease, and the risk of cardiovascular disease. Adolescents and young adults are two to three times more sensitive to tobacco price changes than adults—less youth will begin to start using smokeless tobacco and more will reduce their consumption. Hawaii has seen an increase in youth use of smokeless tobacco despite our decreasing smoking rates. This is a concern because children and adolescents who use smokeless tobacco, especially if they are male, are at an increased risk to become cigarette smokers.

Raising the tax rate to 85% will reduce youth consumption by 29.3% and overall consumption by 15.8%. Raising the tax rate to 175% in one fell swoop will reduce youth consumption and overall consumption by dramatically more.

**Rates of Smokeless Tobacco Use in 2003 and 2007**

	2003	2007
High School students	2.8%	3.7%
Middle School students	1.7%	2.8%

(Hawaii State Department of Health, Data Highlights from the 2007 Hawaii Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) and Comparisons with Prior Years. September 2008)



**Other Tobacco Products Must Be Taxed at Rates Comparable to Cigarettes**

An increase in the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes will decrease the use of smokeless tobacco. The tax increase must be comparable to that of cigarettes.

When the tax on cigarettes increased, an increase in the use of smokeless tobacco rose among our youth as noted above. Nationally, there is a growing trend in pipe-smoking among college youth. Norman Sharp, President of the Cigar Association of America noted that nationally, sales in pipe tobacco climbed to 5.3 million pounds in 2008 (from 4.9 million in 2006).

**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.

**Recommended Rates on Smokeless Tobacco Taxes Based on Wholesale Price**

Date	Tax on Other Tobacco Products
To be effective immediately	85%
Starting September 30, 2009	95%
Starting September 30, 2010	105%
Starting September 31, 2011	115%

**II. If HB 1175 HD 3 SD 1 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%.

**Revenues Should Be Directed to Fund Tobacco Prevention and Control**

Our State will continue to receive revenues from the sale of other tobacco products. From the increase from 40% of the wholesale price (current rate) to the 85% of the wholesale price, we project our current OTP tax revenues will double—that is, \$2.2 million in new OTP tax revenues in the 12 months following the rate increase. A one-time rate increase of to a higher rate than 85% will produce even more revenue for the state.

At a time when there are threats to fund tobacco prevention and control, the Coalition would like to see all, if not a portion of the revenues from the increase in the tax on other tobacco products dedicated to tobacco prevention and control. This will ensure that the comprehensive tobacco prevention and control work in Hawaii continues. Those who want help in quitting tobacco should have the services to help them. 88% of smokers want to quit someday; 61% have tried to quit in the past year. The revenues collected from tobacco should support services for them. The significant gains are at risk if tobacco prevention and control efforts are not funded and maintained.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in strong support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1. The Coalition urges you to pass this measure out of Committee.

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Sally Manea [maneat001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 1:39 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products.

Increased taxes on all tobacco products will lead to decreased use of all tobacco products. if taxes are increased only on cigarettes, then smokers will simply switch to smokeless tobacco to avoid the cost increase.

Maternal Child Health Coordinator Sally Jo Manea Maternal Child Health Coordinator  
6415 Olohena Road  
Kapaa, HI 96746

808-822-9447

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Caroline Thomas [cmtlcsw@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 12:06 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Caroline Thomas  
438 Hobron Lane #301  
Honolulu, HI 96813

8082951740

**kim2 - Arline**

---

**From:** Gigliola Baruffi [baruffig001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 11:20 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

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.

As a heart transplant recipient who has never smoked but was always surrounded by people who did, I know the devastating effects of second and third-hand smoke. This smoke probably worsened my heart situation, which was well-controlled by medication for a while. The effects of smoke on children, who are still developing physically, mentally and emotionally, the problem would be much worse. So please consider making smoking more costly, it may encourage a few people to quit. Thank you very much, Wesley Nanamori, w.nanamori@hawaiiantel.net.

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,

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

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Raul Hayasaka [hayasarm@ah.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 11:37 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Raul Hayasaka  
640 Ulukahiki Street  
1399 Manu Aloha Street  
Kailua, HI 96734



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.

My dad was a smoker, stoped while we were growing up and then started up again in his last 20 years. He died at age 69 of cancer of the lungs.

My daughters now smoke and I don't want to bury them!

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,

Wendy Loh  
128 S School St  
Honolulu, HI 96813-1699

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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Sincerely,

Alma Chu  
94-365 Kuanalio way  
Mililani, HI 96789-2181

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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Sincerely,

Laurie Adamshick  
1015 Kalapaki Street  
Honolulu, HI 96825-2705

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.

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Sincerely,

James Little  
2120 Fern St  
Apt 203  
Honolulu, HI 96826-4100

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.

MY parents smoked for many years. Dad past away from lung cancer, my mother survived colon and breast cancer.

Hopefully with the tax increase on tobacco purchase this will bring light to the consumers that they just can't afford to smoke.

Consumers don't realize how much of the impact of smoking kills other around them. I developed respiratory problems growing up and I am very sensitive to smells.

My immune system is so low I have chronic colds. This contributes to the enviroment around me.

I hope congress can bring a end to all tobacco smoking so we may all live a full life. thank you.

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,

eleanor Ventula-Honda  
1193 Kaeleku St  
Honolulu, HI 96825-3007

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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Sincerely,

Alma Chu  
94-365 Kuanalio way  
Mililani, HI 96789-2181

April 01, 2009

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

Dear Senator Kim:

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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,

Don Weisman  
647 Akoakoa St  
Kailua, HI 96734-3910

**kim2 - Arline**

---

**From:** Estelle Wilkerson [estelle@ccmaui.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 3:29 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Estelle Wilkerson  
po box 880233  
Pukalani, HI 96788



## kim2 - Arline

---

**From:** Caroline Kunitake [ckunitak@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 6:22 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Caroline Kunitake  
808 Kahuna Lane  
Honolulu, HI 96826

782-2150

## kim2 - Arline

---

**From:** Alvin Wong [anwprods@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 9:51 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Director/Producer Alvin Wong  
Director/Producer  
1163 Hooli Circle  
Pearl City, HI 96782

456-2189

**kim2 - Arline**

---

**From:** Abegail Kopf [abcough@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:09 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Cori Sussman [surfingsussmans@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 8:06 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

332-7089

## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Faith Rossman [alfait@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 7:46 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

322-4572

## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Olga Geling [geling@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 7:28 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

956-0929

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** JERRY LELESCH [jerry@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 7:02 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

JERRY LELESCH  
44160#2 kou place  
kaneone, HI 96744

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Dixon Smith [dixoninhawaii@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 6:44 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Dixon Smith  
32 Kuuala St.  
Kailua, HI 96734



## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Hazel Nakano [nakanoh005@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 6:38 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Debbie Dupire-nelson [ddd-n@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 6:16 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

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 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Mark Levin [mlevin5@juris.hokudai.ac.jp]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 4:57 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Kanani Kilbey [kapuahou@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 9:20 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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

## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Rachel Heckscher [raypublichealth@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 10:27 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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Rachel Heckscher  
149 Uhiwai Place  
Wailuku, HI 96793

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Iwalani Else [iwalani\_else@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 10:55 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

955-0477

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,

Annabelle Stone  
2707 Hipawai Pl  
Honolulu, HI 96822-1825

## **kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** Michele Nihipali [nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 10:59 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products. Taxing tobacco products other than cigarettes addresses the growing use of smokeless tobacco by our youth. Increasing the cost of smokeless tobacco will deter youth from using smokeless tobacco and ensure their chance at health.

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As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

293-1522



April 1, 2009

TO: Chair Donna Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee on Ways  
and Means

FROM: Cigar Association of America, Inc.  
(William L. Goo)

RE: **HB 895, HD2, SD1** – Relating to Tax on Tobacco Products Other  
Than Cigarettes

Hearing Date: Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

My name is William L. Goo. I represent the Cigar Association of America, Inc. (CAA).

CAA is the Washington, DC-based national trade association of manufacturers, importers and distributors of cigars as well as major suppliers to the industry. Its members account for the vast majority of cigars sold in the U.S.

CAA strongly opposes **HB 895, HD2, SD1** and its punitive graduated tax increases on tobacco products for three reasons: (1) it comes on the heels of the **highest increase in federal tobacco taxes** in history; (2) it will further **depress cigar sales** in Hawaii and **jeopardize** the continued existence of **retail tobacco stores**, and (3) it will result in a **loss of revenue** to the state.

**HB 895, HD2, SD1** is extreme in its tax scheme and out of tune with the practical realities of tobacco taxation in Hawaii. Matters need to be put into proper perspective. First, according to the Tax Department, in calendar year 2008 Hawaii collected \$102 million in excise taxes from cigarettes and only \$3.5 million in revenue from other tobacco products (OTP). With an excise tax of 40%, the state collected only \$3.5 million from taxing cigars, pipe tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco, chewing tobacco and snuff. The state is not getting so little money from its OTP tax because the tax rate is too low. It is because **sales of other tobacco products are relatively insignificant**. Common sense would indicate that boosting the taxes to 85%, 95% and 105% will depress, if not eliminate, sales altogether and lead to a loss of tax revenue.

Second, the legislation attempts to make the tobacco products tax equivalent to the tax on cigarettes. But products like cigars and pipe tobacco are **not** comparable with cigarettes. The majority of cigarette smokers smoke every day—in fact probably a pack a day. Cigars on the other hand are smoked on an occasional basis. In a monograph published in 1998, the National Cancer Institute estimated that 75% of cigar smokers are occasional smokers who smoke less than one cigar a day. Other government data suggest the rate is as high as 89%. And those reports were issued prior to the current proliferation of smoking bans sweeping the country.

In addition, cigarettes turn over at retail much more frequently than cigars. Cigarette sales are much greater. Indeed, last year U.S. consumers spent more than \$87 billion on cigarettes and only about \$4 billion on cigars. In other words, consumers spent more on cigarettes in 17 days than they spent on cigars in an entire year.

In early February, President Obama signed into law legislation which greatly expands the State Children's Health Insurance Program – known as **SCHIP**. This program is funded solely by the largest federal tobacco tax increases in history. These increases, which are effective April 1, 2009, are stunning in their magnitude. **The federal tax on cigarettes will increase 61 cents per pack. Taxes on snuff, chewing tobacco and pipe tobacco will increase 156%. The tax on small cigars will soar 2,400%. The tax on roll-your-own tobacco will skyrocket more than 2,100%. The tax on large cigars will surge up to 700%.**

These increases have had a tremendous impact on manufacturers' prices. And these increases will have a multiplier effect as the products move through the distribution chain. This is because the vast majority of states, like Hawaii, levy their taxes on an ad valorem basis—that is, as a **percentage of the wholesale price**. With wholesale prices increasing as a result of SCHIP, the states' taxes will be applied against a higher base. These taxes will further increase the price of the product so that state taxes will also be levied on higher price bases. All this translates into significantly higher prices to the consumer. For example, CAA estimates the price of an average popular price cigar will increase approximately 26%, the average premium cigar by nearly 20% and the average little cigar by approximately 118%. Unfortunately, cigars are very price sensitive and as a result of the SCHIP increases, preliminary estimates indicate that **sales of little cigars may well decline 60% in volume and large cigars by anywhere from 25% to 30%** especially in light of the present economic climate.

It is ironic that in spite of the fact Hawaii will be receiving a share of SCHIP allocations from the federal government (funds made possible by the unprecedented increases in cigar taxes), **HB 895, HD2, SD1** would yet levy another punitive increase on these products. If taxation were a sport, this would be called "piling on."

The increases proposed in **HB 895, HD2, SD1** are truly staggering. Specifically, the legislation will increase the current 40% tax on tobacco products to 85% on September 30 of this year, 95% on September 30, 2010, and 105% the following year. Monies are to be earmarked for community health centers, the health systems special fund and to tobacco prevention and control. The question begging to be asked is, what revenues? At those tax rates there will be very few buyers. One can only conclude that revenue cannot possibly be a goal of this bill.

CAA urges the committee to reject these tax increases. Thank you for allowing me to comment.

# Response to House Bill 895

(this proposed Hawaii House Bill would end the sale of all cigars within Hawaii)

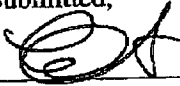
Dear Hawaii State Senator,

I strongly oppose House Bill 895 which would increase the wholesale tobacco tax on cigars to 85% (and ultimately 105% by 2011). Besides being a direct attack on my personal freedom to purchase and enjoy a cigar, this tax law would make it legally impossible for any cigar to be sold for profit within the State of Hawaii.

Any increase above the current 40% wholesale tobacco tax on these cigars would not only increase the black market sale of cigars within Hawaii, but it would encourage consumers to purchase untaxed cigars through mail order from outside of the State of Hawaii. This type of business activity would not only irreparably harm island merchants currently selling cigars, but it would negatively impact local agriculture that produces island grown cigars, and erase all tax revenue generated by the wholesale tobacco tax in Hawaii.

I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: 

Print name: Les Drent

Business Name and Address if applicable: LBD Coffee, LLC  
6200-B Kawaihau Rd., Kapaa, HI 96746

Date: 4-1-09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: HB 895 is wrong!!

Please return this petition to LBD Coffee, LLC. We will compile, copy, and distribute to the Hawaii Legislature.

LBD Coffee, LLC  
6200-B Kawaihau Road, Kapaa, HI 96746  
Ph: 808-822-4495 • Fax: 808-822-9731 • Email: les@lbdcoffee.com

# Response to House Bill 895

(this proposed Hawaii House Bill would end the sale of all cigars within Hawaii)

Dear Hawaii State Senator,

I strongly oppose House Bill 895 which would increase the wholesale tobacco tax on cigars to 85% (and ultimately 105% by 2011). Besides being a direct attack on my personal freedom to purchase and enjoy a cigar, this tax law would make it legally impossible for any cigar to be sold for profit within the State of Hawaii.

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: Eric J. Malstrom

Print name: ERIC J. MALSTROM

Business Name and Address if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 3.29.09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: Hawaii should be proud and supportive of its entrepreneurial enterprises and the unique quality of its locally grown and manufactured cigars should not be taxed into oblivion by H.B. 895. Defeat this bill!

Please return this petition to LBD Coffee, LLC. We will compile, copy, and distribute to the Hawaii Legislature.

# Response to House Bill 895

(this proposed Hawaii House Bill) would end the sale of all cigars within Hawaii)

Dear Hawaii State Senator,

I strongly oppose House Bill 895 which would increase the wholesale tobacco tax on cigars to 85% (and ultimately 105% by 2011). Besides being a direct attack on my personal freedom to purchase and enjoy a cigar, this tax law would make it legally impossible for any cigar to be sold for profit within the State of Hawaii.

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: Wane H. Medeiros

Print name: WANE H. MEDEIROS

Business Name and Address if applicable: 94-035 WAHAU PI. MILILANI, HI 96789

Date: 3/31/09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: NO MORE NEW TAXES!

Please return this petition to LBD Coffee, LLC. We will compile, copy, and distribute to the Hawaii Legislature.

LBD Coffee, LLC  
6200-B Kawaihau Road, Kapa, HI 96746  
Ph: 808-822-4495 • Fax: 808-822-9731 • Email: les@lbdcoffee.com

# Response to House Bill 895

(this proposed Hawaii House Bill would end the sale of all cigars within Hawaii)

Dear Hawaii State Senator,

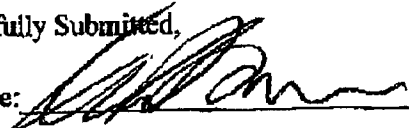
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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature:



Print name:

NEAL NAKAHARA

Business Name and Address if applicable:

Date:

3/29/09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: If this tax goes into law, you will be hurting local businesses by forcing consumers to buy mass over the internet over brick & mortar outlets.

Please return this petition to LBD Coffee, LLC. We will compile, copy, and distribute to the Hawaii Legislature.

# Response to House Bill 895

(this proposed Hawaii House Bill would end the sale of all cigars within Hawaii)

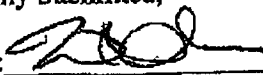
Dear Hawaii State Senator,

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: 

Print name: Ward Hakikawa

Business Name and Address if applicable: Howard T Hakikawa Electrical Cont Inc.  
1612 Quincy Pl Hon HI 96916 808 551-8541

Date: 3/30/09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this petition to LBD Coffee, LLC. We will compile, copy, and distribute to the Hawaii Legislature.

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(this proposed Hawaii House Bill would end the sale of all cigars within Hawaii)

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: Stephen A. Galson

Print name: STEPHEN A. GALSON

Business Name and Address if applicable: This is IT Bakery & Deli  
443 Cooke St - Hono. HI 96813

Date: 3/30/09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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LBD Coffee, LLC  
6200-B Kawaihau Road, Kapaa, HI 96746  
Ph: 808-822-4495 • Fax: 808-822-9731 • Email: [jes@lbdcoffee.com](mailto:jes@lbdcoffee.com)



## Response to House Bill 895

(this proposed Hawaii House Bill would end the sale of all cigars within Hawaii)

Dear Hawaii State Senator,

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: Nick S. Cutler

Print name: Nick S. Cutler

Business Name and Address if applicable: Cutler Management Co.  
1100 Alakea St. Ph #2, Honolulu, HI.

Date: 3-30-09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: 

Print name: Tom McTigue

Business Name and Address if applicable: Northwestern Financial Network

980 Fort St Mall # 400 - Honolulu HI 96813

Date: 3/28/09

5665308

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional:

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: Shirley S.S. Pai

Print name: Shirley S.S. Pai, CEO & Pres.

Business Name and Address if applicable: Pacific Imports International  
920 Kohou St Honolulu 96817

Date: 03/31/09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: Any tax as excessive as that which is proposed, especially when it denies an honest taxpayer the right to enjoy a legal product, is unjust in my mind. Not to mention that it also has the potential to put hardworking taxpayers out of business.

Please return this petition to LBD Coffee, LLC. We will compile, copy, and distribute to the Hawaii Legislature.

# Response to House Bill 895

(this proposed Hawaii House Bill would end the sale of all cigars within Hawaii)

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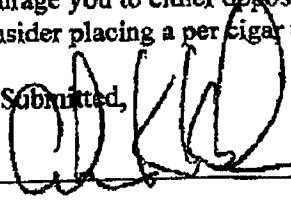
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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature:



Print name:

Colin Kuwata

Business Name and Address if applicable:

Colin Kuwata, Counselor at Law, 1601 Bishop St #2685, HNL, HI 96813

Date:

3.30.09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional:

This tax will put cigar shops out of business + promote illegal importation

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6200-B Kuuwahau Road, Kapaa, HI 96746  
Ph: 808-822-4495 • Fax: 808-822-9731 • Email: les@lbdcoffee.com

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: Wendell T. Choy

Print name: Wendell T. Choy, Th. M, Ph. D

Business Name and Address if applicable: Calvary Church of the Islands  
2318 Seaview Ave. Honolulu 96822

Date: 3/30/09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: I find this bill to be  
unconstitutional - kind violation.

Please return this petition to LBD Coffee, LLC. We will compile, copy, and distribute to the Hawaii Legislature.

# Response to House Bill 895

(this proposed Hawaii House Bill would end the sale of all cigars within Hawaii)

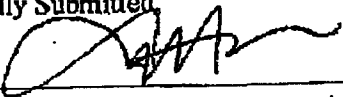
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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: 

Print name: Michael A. Ham

Business Name and Address if applicable: The Wedding Ring Shop  
1181 Kapihauhi Blvd, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 (808) 945-2800

Date: 3-30-09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: Cigars are not the  
health hazard that cigarettes pose.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature:

Print name:

Business Name and Address if applicable:

Date:

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional:

We already pay too many taxes on top of taxes

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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: PKM

Print name: Roy K. Machida

Business Name and Address if applicable: None  
7153 Hawaii Kai Dr. #1610

Date: 3/31/09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: Tax is not fair for  
the "cigar" smoker

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: *John K. Conner*

Print name: John K. Conner

Business Name and Address if applicable: 891 Bishop St. HAW. HI 96814

Date: 3/31/09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional:

People die from the fumes of Cents not tobacco  
The cents fumes are far more toxic than  
tobacco

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LBD Coffee, LLC  
6200-B Kawaihau Road, Kapaa, HI 96746  
Ph: 808-822-4495 • Fax: 808-822-9731 • Email: les@lbdcoffee.com

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: J.F. Hilron

Print name: J.F. Hilron

Business Name and Address if applicable: 1125 S. King St #102  
Cigar-Cigar Etc. HONO. HI 96814 591-0602

Date: 3-31-09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: Please, no more new taxes  
We already pay more than our fair share for  
our products

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6200-B Kawaihau Road, Kapaa, HI 96746  
Ph: 808-822-4495 • Fax: 808-822-9731 • Email: les@lbdcoffee.com

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: *HL*

Print name: Henry Lee

Business Name and Address if applicable: 94-450 Hialeah Ln  
Wahiawa, HI 96797 808-677-0327

Date: 3/30/09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: 

Print name: Timothy A. Kelly

Business Name and Address if applicable: Proshel, Margaret, Inc, #403, Honolulu HI, 96816

Date: 3/30/2009

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional:

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 Ph: 808-822-4495 • Fax: 808-822-9731 • Email: les@lbdcoffee.com

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: 

Print name: ROBERT HAYES

Business Name and Address if applicable: (808) 418-9375  
PO Box 78, Hanalei, HI 96720

Date: 3-30-2009

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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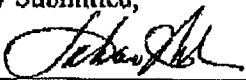
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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: 

Print name: Takao Wada

Business Name and Address if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 29 March 2009

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Ph: 808-822-4495 • Fax: 808-822-9731 • Email: lcs@lbdcoffee.com

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: Dean Murakami

Print name: Dean Murakami

Business Name and Address if applicable: 1026 Luauau St.  
Hon HI 96816

Date: 3-31-2009

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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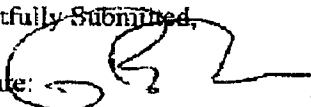
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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: 

Print name: Paul R Warner

Business Name and Address if applicable: Silo Cigar Inc, Fairway, TN

Date: 3-31-09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this petition to LBD Coffee, LLC. We will compile, copy, and distribute to the Hawaii Legislature.

LBD Coffee, LLC  
6200-B Kaniwailau Road, Kupaia, HI 96746  
Ph: 808-822-4495 • Fax: 808-822-9731 • Email: lcs@lbdcoffee.com



## Response to House Bill 895

(this proposed Hawaii House Bill would end the sale of all cigars within Hawaii)

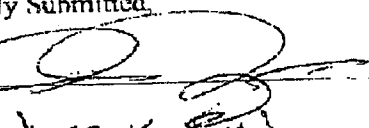
Dear Hawaii State Senator,

I strongly oppose House Bill 895 which would increase the wholesale tobacco tax on cigars to 85% (and ultimately 105% by 2011). Besides being a direct attack on my personal freedom to purchase and enjoy a cigar, this tax law would make it legally impossible for any cigar to be sold for profit within the State of Hawaii.

Any increase above the current 40% wholesale tobacco tax on these cigars would not only increase the black market sale of cigars within Hawaii, but it would encourage consumers to purchase untaxed cigars through mail order from outside of the State of Hawaii. This type of business activity would not only irreparably harm island merchants currently selling cigars, but it would negatively impact local agriculture that produces island grown cigars, and crase all tax revenue generated by the wholesale tobacco tax in Hawaii.

I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: 

Print name: James K. Ryan

Business Name and Address if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 3-31-09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: \_\_\_\_\_

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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: LS Capstick

Print name: Lincoln S. Capstick

Business Name and Address if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 30 March 2009

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: let's not be stupid!

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Mar. 31. 2009

8:30AM

SAVAGE & SWEET

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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: *Allen A. Skogabo*

Print name: ALLEN A. SMOGABO

Business Name and Address if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 03-30-09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: \_\_\_\_\_

*Stop creating more job losses!*

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Mar. 31. 2009 8:30AM SAVAGE & SWEET

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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature



Print name:

Cindy L. Wortmann

Business Name and Address if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

3-30-09

Please check all that apply. I am a

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: \_\_\_\_\_

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Ph: 808-822-4495 • Fax: 808-822-9731 • Email: lca@lbdcoffee.com

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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: 

Print name: Oneil P. Baker

Business Name and Address if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 03/30/09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: This is a bullshit bill and bad for business

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Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: 

Print name: Oneil P. Baker

Business Name and Address if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 03/30/09

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- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: This is a bullshit Bill and bad for Business

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Mar. 31. 2009

8:29AM

SAVAGE & SWEET

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I would encourage you to either oppose, or amend HB 895 to either exclude cigars from a tax increase, or consider placing a per cigar tax cap on any cigar sold at wholesale in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature: *Bruce Savage*

Print name: BRUCE SAVAGE

Business Name and Address if applicable: THE WING GARDEN

4495 PUHI RD, LIHUE HI 96766

Date: 3/30/09

Please check all that apply. I am a:

- Resident of Hawaii
- Visitor to Hawaii
- Cigar retailer
- Cigar dealer/wholesaler

Add personal comments here or attach additional: WONT STOP CIGAR SMOKING. PEOPLE WILL BUY ONLINE. WILL PUT HAWAII RETAILERS OUT OF BUSINESS - NO ONE WILL BUY LOCALLY. SO - NO REVENUE WILL BE RAISED.

NO BENEFIT - WILL HARM LOCAL BUSINESS

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## kim2 - Arline

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**From:** Konrad Hayashi [konradh2004File@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2009 2:44 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support--HB 895 HD2 SD1

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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

Comments in Support of HB 895 HD 2 SD 1 (Senate WAM Decision Making on April 2, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.)

As a public health physician, currently residing on the mainland after the prior six years on Oahu, I most strongly support the taxation of both cigarettes and non-cigarette tobacco products. This is an area that has been too long neglected, to the disadvantage of consumer health, not to mention the revenues that are not provided to states to help cover the documented increased health costs among all tobacco users. I urge you to support HB 895, HD 2, SD 1 which would increase the tax on other tobacco products.

Non-cigarette tobacco products are increasingly marketed to teens. Higher costs will help decrease use of smokeless tobacco and improve their health opportunities.

It is important to tax tobacco products other than cigarettes based on wholesale price--not weight. It's also important to tax these products at rates that are comparable to cigarettes so that one product is not favored over the other due to price.

As more people look to decrease or even stop using tobacco, it is important for them to get the help they need to quit. I ask that you dedicate some of the revenue from this tax to tobacco prevention and control programs.

Thank you for your support of Hawaii's people through HB 895 HD2 SD1.

Konrad E. Hayashi, MD, MPH & TM

Konrad Hayashi  
1215 North Road (NEPMU6)  
Pearl Harbor  
honolulu, HI 96862