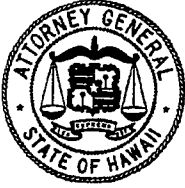


HB 2542,

HD1

Testimony



TESTIMONY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2010

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2542, H.D. 1, RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 **TIME:** 9:30 AM

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

TESTIFIER(S): Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General, or
Patricia Ohara, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General has concerns about section 2 of this bill, which authorizes the Director of Finance to transfer an unspecified sum from the wireless enhanced 911 fund to the general fund. The New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-283, provides that nothing in this act shall prevent the imposition and collection of a fee or charge applicable to commercial mobile services specifically designated by a state, "provided that the fee or charge is obligated or expended only in support of 9-1-1 and enhanced 9-1-1 services, or enhancements of such services, as specified in the provision of State or local law adopting the fee or charge." We believe that this federal law would appear to prevent any transfer of funds from the 911 fund to the general fund. The 911 fees are authorized by section 138-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes for the intended purpose of the 911 fund, and under the federal law, it appears that the 911 funds may not be diverted to other purposes that are not authorized by the state statute or regulation establishing those fees. (Pub. L. No. 110-283, 122 Stat. 2622 (2008))

We believe that the express limitation in the federal law appears to preclude any transfer of funds from the wireless

enhanced 911 fund to the general fund and noncompliance could result in the forfeiture of current federal grants, denial of future federal grants, and possible penalties and fines.

However, this is our preliminary reading of the federal law and, if the Committee wishes, we would be happy to research this matter further.

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2542, H.D. 1, PROPOSED S.D. 1

March 23, 2010

RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS

House Bill No. 2542, H.D. 1, Proposed S.D. 1, authorizes the Director of Finance to make transfers of about \$59.5 million from certain special and revolving funds to the general fund in Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011. The bill also amends Section 235-110.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Relating to the Fuel Tax Credit for Commercial Fishers; Section 328L-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Relating to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund; Section 245-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Relating to the Disposition of Cigarette and Tobacco Tax Revenues; and Section 392-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Relating to the Management of the Disability Benefits Fund.

The department supports the intent of this bill.

When the Fiscal Year 2011 Executive Supplemental Budget was submitted, the Administration submitted a proposal to transfer a total of \$10,000,000 from certain special and revolving funds to the general fund. This action was critical to achieving positive general fund balances at the end of Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.

We recognize that such transfers are needed to assist in addressing the severe budget shortfall facing the State and ensuring that the State is operating within a balanced budget. However, we must defer to the various agencies on the components that were not part of the Administration bill.

It is also noted that the Department of the Attorney General (AG) has a concern with the transfer of funds from the Wireless Enhanced 911 Fund. The AG believes that recent changes to federal law precludes such transfers; as such, we defer to the AG on this issue.



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the Twenty-Fifth Legislature, Regular Session of 2010

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

by
W. Tom Mick
Policy and Planning Department Head

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2542, H.D. 1, Proposed S.D. 1, Relating to Non-General Funds.

Purpose: Addresses the fiscal year 2009-2010 budget shortfall by transferring to the general fund an unspecified amount of excess balances from certain special funds; amends the refundable charge of the fuel tax credit for commercial fishers to be from the state highway fund; requires moneys in excess of a certain amount in the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund to lapse to the emergency budget and reserve fund each June 30; amends the disposition of revenues collected pursuant to chapter 245, HRS. Effective July 1, 2020. (*Proposed SD1*)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary understands the serious nature of the State's economic situation and the resulting budgetary constraints that the Legislature must take to address this fiscal crisis. However, the Judiciary strongly opposes Sections 25 and 26 of House Bill No. 2542, H.D. 1, Proposed S.D. 1 which would transfer monies in excess of the requirements of the Judiciary Computer System Special Fund and the Judiciary's Driver Education and Training Special Fund to the general fund. The impact of these transfers will affect the Judiciary Information Management System Program (JIMS) and the Driver Education and Training Program (DETP), programs that provide critically important services to the public.



For both programs, it is critically important that there is a sufficient cash balance to cover the ongoing operating expenses and to remain solvent. Collections are not always received or deposited in a regular manner and any delay in depositing of collections can affect the program's cash flow and result in running the risk of depleting the program's monies.

Computer System Special Fund (CSSF)

The CSSF is established pursuant to HRS § 601-3.7 and serves to fund JIMS as well as other technology projects for traffic, criminal, civil and appellate case processing operations and maintenance. The CSSF allows for necessary technology projects for new Judiciary facilities on Oahu and Hawaii Island as well.

The budgetary constraints make it imperative that technology projects enabled by the CSSF proceed as planned. Many of these projects allow the Judiciary to continue to serve the public with the highest level of service possible, despite a decreased staff due to hiring freezes, to improve and make more efficient Judiciary operations by automating certain functions, and to decrease Judiciary reliance on outdated and expensive technologies. These projects include JIMS automated collections for delinquent traffic judgments; electronic bench warrants, a project with Hawaii Information Consortium and law enforcement; electronic citations, a project with the Honolulu Police Department; sharing of criminal arrest data through the Horizontal Integration Pilot, a project with the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center of the Attorney General's Office; an improved fiscal accounting system and others. These projects allow the Judiciary to participate at a higher level with other criminal justice agencies throughout the state.

It is very important that the CSSF has a sufficient cash balance to meet the Judiciary's obligations. Due to the timing of deposits into the fund, transferring money from the CSSF could cause the cash balance to run so low that the Judiciary could not meet its obligations -- this could bring the JIMS project to a halt. This would unlikely be a temporary slowdown, as non-civil service individuals and contractors with developed expertise would have to find work elsewhere. Finding others with like skills and expertise when funds become available could add months and years to the project. While other departments may use 25% of expenditures as their cash balance guideline, the magnitude of JIMS' operational activities and the nature of a large technical project like JIMS require a higher cash balance. It should also be noted that the estimates for FY2010 and beyond were based on FY2009 costs and by 2012 could be significantly higher due to unanticipated cost increases.

Driver Education and Training Special Fund (DETF)

Driver education assessments collected pursuant to Chapter 286G-2 are deposited into the DETF and provide the resources for the DETP administered statewide by the Judiciary. These



House Bill No. 2542, H.D. 1, Proposed S.D. 1, Relating to Non-General Funds
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 23, 2010
Page 3

include counseling and education programs for traffic law violators that are referred by the courts, as well as classes for DUI, zero tolerance, child passenger safety restraint, and defensive driving offenders. Assistance is also provided for traffic offenses where substance or alcohol abuse is involved.

The DETP is especially wary of these kinds of transfers out of its special fund because, in the past, it has led to a period of insolvency and a subsequent reduction in force of 18 staff positions. To conserve cash resources, the DETP now operates at the minimum level and has been prudent in its spending to ensure the availability of adequate cash reserves. Another factor that needs to be considered is that revenue collected from underwriters fees (between \$700,000 and \$800,000) is deposited into this special fund account only once a year which means that significant cash reserves must be kept in the DETF to cover expenditures until the deposit is made. (Other special funds have multiple, regular, periodic revenue deposits over the course of a year.) Also, based on the projected revenues and expenditures for the DETF, and because of the over \$150,000 write-down in the cash balance of the fund due to the State's auction rate security investment loss, a \$1.5 million reduction would place the DETF at an almost zero balance in FY2010 and a \$500,000 deficit situation in FY2011. This situation could be further compounded and the fund placed in even greater jeopardy by Section 12 of this proposed bill, which takes \$1.4 million from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) Driver Education Fund. Underwriters fees are collected and held for our program by DCCA, and then transferred once a year to DETF, as mentioned above. If this money is earmarked to be transferred to DETF, then DETF would not even receive the \$700,000 - \$800,000 it currently receives annually.

Based on the information we have provided, we would like to express our strong opposition to lapsing excess balances from the Judiciary's CSSF and DETF.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO
Comptroller

SANDRA L. YAHIRO
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
ON
March 23, 2010

H.B. 2542, H.D. 1, Proposed S.D. 1

RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS

Chair Kim and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2542, H.D. 1, Proposed S.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) has strong concerns about this bill and has information to share on one section of the bill that we were not aware of until recently.

In Section 5, this bill proposes to transfer to the general fund, an amount from the Wireless Enhanced 911 Fund that was established by Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 138-3. We recently reviewed and now believe that Federal law prohibits such any transfer of funds from the 911 Fund to the general fund. The "New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008" authorizes the imposition and collection of 911 fees (such as authorized by HRS § 138-4) but only if such 911 fees are used for the

intended purpose of the fee, and not to be diverted to another purpose that is not authorized by the state statute or regulation establishing that fee. (47 USC 615a-1(f)(1))

There are also Federal Acts which provide grants for the implementation and operation of 911 services, and require the forfeiture of such grants if the grants are not used for a 911 purpose.

DAGS understands that the Federal government is looking more closely at the collection and use of such 911 fees, would like to be assured that funds are not diverted from the Wireless Enhanced 911 Fund to the general fund, as that could result in the forfeiture of Federal grants, denial of future Federal grants, and possible penalties and fines.

DAGS also has concerns about the following transfers of funds:

1. Increasing the amount of transfer from the motor pool revolving fund by \$1 million will negatively impact the program's ability to replace approximately 50 vehicles with ages in excess of seven years (program objective) thereby increasing the operating cost of the fleet. Currently, the program has approximately 80 vehicles which need to be replaced. The inability to replace old vehicles in the fleet will result in health and safety issues and for this reason, we have strong concerns on the increased transfer amount.
2. It is important to understand that the primary purpose of the risk management revolving fund balance is to cover the State's share of losses whether it be catastrophic or from normal property damage claims. Increasing the transfer amount by \$1 million for a total of \$ 2 million will erode the fund by approximately 10% and negatively impact the program's ability to fund catastrophic claims (i.e. hurricanes, earthquakes, and tsunamis).

3. The \$2 million to be transferred from the stadium special fund was to be used to replace the Aloha Stadium field turf. A CIP request for this project to be funded from the stadium special fund was included in Governor's Message number 1 dated March 18, 2010 to the Legislature. The replacement of the Field Turf must be completed prior to the 2012 NFL Pro Bowl. Additionally, the current Field Turf warranty expires in July 2012. Without the \$2 million available in the stadium special fund, the Field Turf replacement project cannot be undertaken.
- Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010
9:30 A.M.
ROOM 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 2542, HD1 PROPOSED SD1
RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS

Chairperson Kim and Members of the Committee:

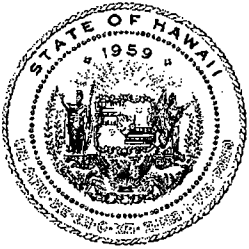
The Department of Agriculture opposes House Bill 2542, HD1, Proposed SD1. The purpose of the bill is to transfer excess funds in various special funds to the State's general fund. The department understands the reasoning for the bill but is concerned that the transfer will jeopardize the loan program.

The agriculture reserve fund revenues come from the interest collected on loans and loan fees. Interest revenue has declined due to the decrease of investment interest income as well as the historically low interest rates being charged for loans. Also, the economic downturn has affected some borrowers' ability to repay loans; either the interest only or both the interest and principal. In light of the expected slow recovery of the economy and based on the loan program's financial projection, the department has determined that transferring \$1.5 million from the reserve fund would jeopardize the entire loan program.

The cash flows for the agricultural loan program are already in a deficit situation with last fiscal year's interest collections totaling \$569,238 and an annual operating budget of \$1,050,457. The program is utilizing the balance in its reserve fund to cover the shortfall. The agriculture reserve fund had a balance of approximately \$2.5 million

at the end of FY 09. Based on the current income and expense projection, a transfer of \$1.5 million at the end of FY 10 would leave the reserve fund in a deficit before the end of FY 11.

The agricultural loan program provides direct economic stimulus to the State's economy by providing access to capital which is vital for the industry especially when commercial lenders have tightened credit. It accomplishes this without any general fund supplement and even returns money back to the general fund via annual assessments and periodic raids of its funds. The agriculture reserve fund pays for all of the program's operating costs and any excess monies are transferred to loan funds. The continual raiding of the fund will lead to insolvency of the program and jeopardize its ability to assist the farming and ranching communities.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
THEODORE E. LIU
DIRECTOR
PEARL IMADA IBOSHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

Tuesday, March 23, 2010
9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
**HB2542, HD1, Proposed SD1
RELATING TO NON GENERAL FUNDS**

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) opposes Part I, Sections 8 and 27, of H.B. No. 2542, HD1, SD1 Proposed. This section transfers the sum of \$500,000 from the Foreign-Trade Zone Special Fund and \$197,000 or so remaining from the balance of funds received from the U.S. Department of Commerce Market Development Cooperator Program as a reimbursement to the State.

While we agree with the bill's intent to address the fiscal 2010-2011 budget shortfall by transferring excess balances from various non-general funds into the State's general fund, this \$197,000 remaining from the Department of Commerce Market Development Cooperator Program is critical to the continuance of the State's overseas offices in Beijing and Taiwan. With the Legislature's approval, we would like to utilize the remaining monies in the following manner, and recommend that it be provisoed accordingly:

- \$50,000 to conduct a financial audit of the State of Hawaii Offices in Beijing and Taiwan as recommended by the legislative auditor in Report No. 10-01 relating to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism;
- \$120,000 to continue the operations of the State of Hawaii Office in Beijing.

Presently, given that our BED-100 budget will remain status quo for the second year of the biennium, the U.S. Dept. of Commerce fund is the only source of funds that will allow us to keep both offices open for FY11. We will dedicate these funds to the operations of the Beijing Office.

As you may know, the Beijing Office is only one of two offices sanctioned by the Chinese central government as an official state trade office. While other states are clamoring for this designation, only Hawaii and Nevada have been fortunate to obtain this honor. Closing the State of Hawaii Office in Beijing would diminish, if not sever, government-to-government relations with China. Reopening an office after it has been closed does not come with automatic sanctioning, so official designation thereafter may be hard to come by.

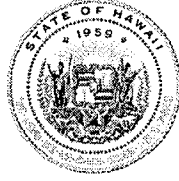
The Office has also been very productive. During the past year, the office has attracted 800 business related visits to Hawaii from Beijing for meetings, conferences, site tours, training, specialty trips and incentive travel resulting in \$80,000 in tax revenues to the State (SMSD). It has also assisted over 50 companies in various stages and interest in doing business in China, and has also been a key component in securing a

project with the Chinese Ministry of Commerce that will facilitate and ease the import of Hawaii products into China.

We urge your support for the overseas offices by allowing us to keep this \$197,000 to operate the Beijing Office and conduct an audit.

We oppose the transfer of funds as indicated in Section 8 of this measure. This section proposes to transfer \$500,000 from the Foreign-Trade Zone Special Fund into the General Fund. There is currently a balance of approximately \$700,000 in this special fund and this transfer would leave about \$200,000 remaining in the fund. This is less than two months' reserve of the current monthly operating expenditure. In addition, we would like to point out that our warehouse facility at Pier 2 is quite large (over five acres under roof). We also have a 12,000 square foot storage facility in Hilo. Given that the Pier 2 facility is over 50 years old, a reserve balance of \$200,000 in our special fund could prohibit emergency repairs should any unplanned maintenance need arise (break in water main, fire sprinkler system or air conditioning system).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
JAMES R. AIONA, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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RONALD BOYER
ACTING DIRECTOR
RODNEY A. MAILE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2010

Tuesday, March 23, 2010
9:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2542, PROPOSED SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS.**

WRITTEN COMMENTS

TO THE HONORABLE DONNA MERCADO KIM, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department) has concerns about sections 11, 12, and 13 of the proposed S.D. 1 of H.B. No. 2542. I am Ronald Boyer and I am the Acting Director of the Department.

Compliance Resolution Fund (CRF)

Section 11 of the proposed S.D. 1 indicates that the Legislature has determined that the Department's CRF has at least \$1,500,000 in "excess" of the requirements of the fund. Section 11 proposes to transfer \$1,500,000 out of the CRF on July 1, 2010 and deposit the moneys into the general fund.

The Department understands and appreciates the context in which this proposal arises—the economic and fiscal challenges that the State is faced with. The

Department also appreciates the need to find savings and other sources of revenues to help balance the general fund. We also understand the reduced number of options that the Legislature has after the Supreme Court's 2008 ruling in the *Hawaii Insurers Council v. Lingle* case. However, even specifying that the \$1,500,000 is to come from the Business Registration Division's subaccount will not necessarily insulate the transfer from challenge under *HIC v. Lingle*.

Drivers Education Fund

Section 12 indicates that the Legislature has determined that the Drivers Education Fund has at least \$1,400,000 in "excess" of the requirements of the fund. Section 12 proposes to transfer \$1,400,000 from the fund on July 1, 2010 and deposit the moneys into the general fund.

The Department is simply a "pass-through" for the moneys in the Drivers Education Fund—the Department is not the direct beneficiary of those moneys. Section 431:10C-115, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), requires the Insurance Commissioner (Commissioner) to assess upon each insurer and self-insurer, a Drivers Education Fund underwriters fee of \$3 per year on each motor vehicle insured by the insurer. The statute directs the Commissioner to disburse one-third of the fee for driving retraining instruction (the moneys go to the Judiciary) as provided in section 286-128(d), HRS, and two-thirds to the Department of Education for: (1) the drivers education program for high school students, and (2) the traffic safety education program established under section 302A-417, HRS.

As the Department does not use the Drivers Education Fund moneys, we defer to the Judiciary and Department of Education regarding the impact of the taking of the moneys.

The current balance of the fund is \$44,175. However, based on prior years' collections, the Department anticipates collecting approximately \$2.8 million by the end of the current fiscal year. The fund's ceiling for the current fiscal year is \$2.5 million, of which \$900,000 has already been disbursed pursuant to section 431:10C-115, HRS. That leaves approximately \$1.6 million available for disbursement, which the Department plans to make this fiscal year. The \$1.6 million disbursement will leave a \$1.2 million balance in the fund, short of the \$1.4 million section 12 proposes to take. The balance would be less if the collections fall short of the anticipated \$2.8 million.

Loss Mitigation Grant Fund

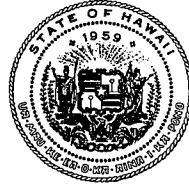
Section 13 indicates that the Legislature has determined that the Loss Mitigation Grant Fund has at least \$3,200,000 in excess of the requirements of the fund. Section 13 proposes to transfer \$3,200,000 from the fund on July 1, 2010 and deposit the moneys in the general fund.

Article 22 of the Insurance Code (chapter 431, HRS) established a three-year loss mitigation pilot grant program. Article 22 also created the Loss Mitigation Grant Fund to support the activities of the pilot grant program. The pilot grant program began on September 19, 2006 and ended on June 30, 2008 due to lack of passage of an appropriation bill. The enabling statute is still in place.

In fiscal year 2006-2007, the total grant payout was \$202,130. In fiscal year 2007-2008, the total grant payout was \$417,340. The administrative costs of operating

and marketing the pilot grant program over its entire life totaled \$191,189. The pilot grant program was discontinued on June 30, 2008 due to the expiration of the Loss Mitigation Grant Fund appropriation. Therefore, no grants were issued for fiscal years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. The unencumbered cash balance of the fund is \$3,326,834.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LHE

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
HB2542 HD1 SD1 PROPOSED, RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

March 23, 2010
9:30 AM

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health is sensitive to the State's economic situation.
2 However, while we may support the transfer of certain special funds to the general fund, we have
3 concerns about the proposed transfer of other special funds and oppose the addition of Part III--Section
4 29 that would allow the transfer of the tobacco prevention and control trust fund to the general fund.
5 **Fiscal Implications:** The proposed measure would transfer \$1,000,000 from the deposit beverage
6 container special fund, \$7,200,000 from the tobacco settlement special fund, and \$1,000,000 from the
7 neurotrauma special fund on July 1, 2010. It also proposes to annually cap the value of the principal of
8 the tobacco prevention and control trust fund at \$7 million; any money in excess would lapse into the
9 emergency budget and reserve fund. Further, the measure proposes to reduce the amounts from the
10 cigarette tax that are deposited into the trauma system special fund, community health centers special
11 fund, and the emergency medical services special fund for FYs 2011, 2012 and 2013.
12 **Purpose and Justification:** Section 15--Deposit Beverage Container Special Fund (DBSF)—
13 A proposed transfer of \$1 million from the DBC Special Fund will leave the DBC Program unable to
14 sustain itself unless the program's container fee is **raised from the current one cent to one and one-**
15 **half cent per container under HRS 342G-102(d).**

1 Revenues for this fund are down from previous years, yet the redemption of deposit containers
2 remains high. The program's redemption rate for FY 2009 was 82% and currently for FY 2010 is at
3 79%. If the redemption rate is at 79% or higher, the container fee will have to be raised in order for the
4 program to continue operations.

5 It is critical for the DBC program to retain an available cash balance of \$4-5 million per month to
6 remain operable. The DBCSF cash balance can fluctuate by several million dollars due to timing of
7 deposits and expenditures of considerable value. Without a sufficient available cash balance, the
8 Program will be unable to return deposits to the public. The Program reimburses deposits
9 (5-cents/container) and pays handling fees (2-4 cents/container) to certified redemption centers (CRCs)
10 that pay the public. An inadequate available DBCSF cash balance will also prevent payments on
11 existing CRC infrastructure improvement contracts with private CRCs.

12 Adequate cash balances are also needed to ensure that funds are available for ongoing payroll
13 requirements. The DBCSF provides funding for eleven (11) budgeted full time positions totaling
14 \$613,569 each year. These positions provide the administrative and technical resources necessary to
15 ensure ongoing efficient operations of the Program. These positions are responsible for processing
16 payments to CRCs, reconciling revenues and expenditures, reviewing and processing CRC
17 applications, inspecting facilities to ensure compliance.

18 Section 16—Tobacco Settlement Special Fund-- The program will have an unencumbered cash
19 balance of \$7,200,000 above what the program has ceiling to expend by June 30, 2010. It is noted that
20 \$20 million was transferred from the TSSF on June 1, 2009 in accordance with Act 79/SLH 2009. The
21 TSSF and its programs cannot continue to sustain reductions of this magnitude in the future. The
22 program may be negatively impacted if the revenue is at or close to the ceiling appropriation of
23 \$48,854,086 in April 2011 since distributions to the sub-allocations (28% UH medical school, 25.5%
24 general fund, 15% emergency & budget reserve fund, 15% DOH, 10% DHS SCHIP, 6.5% trust fund)
25 are based on revenues received but are limited by the appropriated expenditure ceiling.

1 Section 17—Neurotrauma Special Fund--The Neurotrauma program implements priorities established
2 by the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board, the Neurotrauma Advisory Board and the DOH.
3 Program activities allowable under Chapter 321H, HRS include the statewide promotion of education
4 and awareness on neurotrauma, assistance to individuals and families to identify and obtain access to
5 services and the creation of a registry. The revenues for this fund depends upon surcharges levied per
6 section 291-11.5, 291-11.6, 291-12, 291C-12.5, 291C-12.6, 291C-102, 291C-105, and 291E-61 which
7 fluctuates from year to year.

8 Section 29—Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund--The Department is strongly
9 opposed to transferring moneys in excess of \$7,000,000 from the Tobacco Prevention and Control
10 Trust Fund to the emergency budget and reserve fund and questions the legality of such action. Act
11 304, SLH 2009 that established the HRS §328L-5 preserves the intent of the 1998 master settlement
12 agreement (MSA) with the tobacco companies. According to HRS §328L-5(b) and (g) any moneys that
13 return to the state shall remain trust funds. Also, the money can only return if the Director of Health and
14 the Governor rescind the existing contract with the contractor, which is the Hawaii Community
15 Foundation (HCF). HRS §328L-5(g) likewise states that if the contractor (HCF) is dissolved, another
16 entity shall be selected. Also according to HRS §328L-5(g) if the tobacco prevention and control trust
17 fund is terminated, the money that is returned to the State shall remain trust fund moneys. The original
18 intent of the MSA and Act 304 is that the settlement payments would provide sustainable funding for
19 public health efforts to reduce the use of tobacco.

20 A reduction of principal could start possibly as early as the end of FY10 or the beginning of
21 July 1, 2010. This measure proposes that any amount over \$7,000,000 would annually be transferred
22 to the emergency budget and reserve fund. Again, Act 304 provided language to set up the trust fund
23 to be an endowment that in keeping with the language of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA)
24 would, "achieve for the Settling States and their citizens significant funding for the advancement of
25 public health, the implementation of important tobacco-related public health measures, including the
26 enforcement of the mandates and restrictions related to such measures." Act 304, SLH 2009 stated

1 that, "the fund shall serve as a mechanism to maximize financial resources for tobacco prevention and
2 control, health promotion and disease prevention programs, children's health programs, and to serve as
3 a long-term source of stable funding for prevention-oriented public health efforts." Originally, Act 304
4 provided 25% of the TSSF for the trust fund and 25% for DOH public health prevention programs. The
5 distributions for public health purpose have been reduced to 6.5% trust fund and 15% DOH public
6 health prevention programs through 2015. The transfer of these funds would kill the tobacco
7 prevention and control program developed with the trust fund.

8 The fiscal year distribution to the trust fund will be approximately \$2.9M. Having only \$7M in the
9 principal will be insufficient to implement a comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program and
10 would put it direct conflict with HRS §328L-5(f) to invest the trust fund, "in a manner intended to
11 maximize the rate of return on investment of the trust fund consistent with the objective of preserving
12 the trust fund's principal."

13 The Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board in January 21, 2010 voted to support the
14 comprehensive framework that includes the components of: 1) state and community interventions, 2)
15 health communications interventions, 3) cessation interventions, 4) surveillance and evaluation, and 5)
16 administration and management.

17 The yearly minimum recurring cost of a baseline comprehensive program in Hawaii is \$6.8M.
18 This figure already represents reduction in community-grant making and streamlining of component
19 areas. The recommended amount by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for Hawaii is
20 \$15.2M. The already reduced yearly distribution (at \$2.9M) essentially reduces the principal balance of
21 the trust fund and will defeat the ability to provide a comprehensive program that costs \$6.8M a year.

22 Section 30—Trauma System Special Fund— EMSIPSB has developed a plan to use the Trauma
23 System Special Fund to build a statewide comprehensive trauma system as directed by HRS 321-22.5.

24 Should this proposal be enacted, activities already undertaken may not be able to be sustained at their
25 current levels and further planned improvements to the trauma system and assistance to hospitals to
26 develop their trauma services in future years will not be possible until 2014 or later. Based on the

1 reported revenue collected from cigarette sales for the period July 1, 2009 through January 31, 2010
2 the approximated cumulative number of cigarettes sold has declined approximately sixteen percent
3 (16%). The program projects that the decline will continue given the recent trend and efforts towards
4 smoking cessation.

5 Section 30—Community Health Centers Special Fund-- Federally Qualified Health Centers ("FQHC's)
6 provide comprehensive primary care and preventive care, including health, oral, and mental
7 health/substance abuse services to persons of all ages, regardless of their ability to pay. Due to the
8 severe economic recession facing the State, FQHCs have seen an unprecedented increase in
9 uninsured clients which is currently running at 10% of their patient populations across health centers.
10 The increase in client load is taxing the operational capacity of these organizations. This measure is
11 proposing to substantially reduce revenues to FQHCs at a time when they need it the most to serve
12 more of Hawaii's vulnerable populations.

13 If the tax rate is retained at the fiscal year 2010 level, then funding to the FQHCs will remain the
14 same level for fiscal years 2011 through 2013. The impact of level funding would result in inadequate
15 compensation for purchase of service contracts related to comprehensive primary care services
16 (medical, dental treatment, behavioral health care) for uninsured/underinsured patients up to 250% of
17 the federal poverty level, continued curtailment of pharmaceutical services, and curtailment of contracts
18 for operational and infrastructure repairs and maintenance.

19 Section 30—Emergency Medical Services Special Fund--Act 162, SLH 2009 changed the means of
20 financing for emergency ambulance services by shifting \$9,000,000 from general funds to EMS Special
21 Funds. We believe that this was based on the projection of increasing revenues to be collected from
22 the specified collection rate and schedule reset (from October 2009 to July 2009) in Act 056, SLH 2009.
23 Tax imposed increases will cease until July 1, 2013 if this measure is enacted. It is important to note
24 that during this same period the approximate cumulative number of cigarettes sold has declined
25 approximately sixteen percent (16%).

1 Based on current revenues and expenditures for the EMS Special Funds in FY 2010 and
2 projected increases in expenditures in FY 2011 as authorized in Act 162, the program already projects
3 a shortage of funds required to fully encumber the contracts for emergency ambulance services and
4 emergency medical services training programs that begin July 1, 2010. The program further projects a
5 shortage of approximately \$3,419,134 to fully encumber the contracts for emergency ambulance
6 services and emergency medical services training programs that begin July 1, 2011 and projects that
7 the shortage will increase if the number of cigarette sales continues to decline in FY 2010 and later,
8 which is likely given the recent trend and efforts towards smoking cessation.

9 Without the next scheduled cigarette rate increase, EMSIPSB may need to reduce EMS
10 services to the community beginning in FY 2011 or request an emergency appropriation for general
11 funds in the next legislative session. Emergency ambulance services now provided twenty-four hours a
12 day, seven days a week would need to be reduced by either limiting ambulance services to sixteen
13 hours per day, and/or closing ambulance stations.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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March 23, 2010

To: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: March 23, 2010

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Darwin L.D. Ching, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Testimony for

H.B. 2542 H.D.1 S.D.1 (Proposed) – Relating to Non-General Funds

I. DEPARTMENT POSITION

The department offers the following comments re: Section 18 that authorizes the director of finance to transfer up to \$7,000,000 from the Special Fund for Disability Benefits (Fund) to the general fund, and to Section 31 that deletes the statement from 392-62, HRS, that moneys in the Fund be held in trust and that the moneys not be used for any other purpose than for Part IV of Chapter 392 (i.e. payment of disability benefits). The issue at hand is whether the Fund's status as a trust fund prevents the transfer of its moneys to the general fund, and whether Section 31 affects the trust fund status of the Fund.

Trust Fund Status.

In 2009, the AG testified that the HIC decision could be used as a basis to challenge the transfer of funds. The Hawaii Supreme Court determined that the transfer of moneys derived from assessments made by the Insurance Commissioner and deposited into a special fund, which was established to benefit the parties who paid the fees, violated the separation of powers doctrine.

The AG's preliminary review of the Special Fund for Disability Benefits in 2009 indicated that the discrete components of the Fund would have to be analyzed to determine whether moneys derived from such components may be transferred to the general fund. Such a study has not been completed.

In 1986, the AG concluded that funds from the Fund could not be transferred to the general fund. The AG's 1986 opinion concluded the Fund was a trust fund because

the Fund's money is held "in trust" for the benefit of all individuals who are or may become entitled to temporary disability benefit payments pursuant to Chapter 392, HRS, and therefore that class of individuals has a beneficial interest in the funds. Furthermore, the AG pointed out that 392-62, HRS, provides that moneys in the Fund shall not be expended, released, or appropriated or otherwise disposed of for any other purpose than for Chapter 392, HRS.

The Legislative Auditor's Oct. 2002 report concluded the Fund meets the review criteria for a trust fund because it continues to serve its original purpose, provides the benefits originally intended to the beneficiaries, does not require general fund appropriations, and meets the definition of a trust fund.

HB 2542 attempts to remove references in 392-62, HRS, that the monies in the Fund are to be held in trust. The bill also removes the stipulation that the Fund's monies are to be expended, released or appropriated for any other purpose than for Part IV of Chapter 392, HRS, (i.e. payment of disability benefits). The department questions whether this action disqualifies the Fund from its trust fund status and recommends that this issue be studied by the Attorney General before moneys are transferred from the Fund. The department would also like to point out that the amendment to 392-62, HRS, may conflict with the provisions in 392-61, HRS, which state that the Fund will be administered solely for the purposes of Chapter 392.

Fund Vulnerability. If Article 31 disqualifies the Fund from its trust fund status, then the Fund becomes vulnerable to being used to source any funding requirement, regardless of whether it is related to the Temporary Disability program or not. In 2009, for example, the Legislature passed Act 7 that authorized \$10,000 from the fund in FY 2010 and 2011 to fund the establishment and maintenance of a family leave data collection system.

The result of this vulnerability is explained in the next paragraph.

Special Assessment to Replenish the Fund. The Fund makes payments to unemployed employees who subsequently become ineligible for unemployment benefits due to disability and to provide benefits to employees who are entitled to receive temporary disability benefits, but are unable to do so because of the bankruptcy of their employer or because their employer did not otherwise comply with the provisions of Chapter 392, HRS. In FY 2009, the Fund paid \$73,000 to unemployed claimants who became disabled while unemployed. With the increase in the number of unemployed and with the extended length of time a claimant may collect unemployment benefits, the department believes that Fund payments will increase over last year's.

If the Fund balance falls below \$500,000, 392-67, HRS, requires that a levy be assessed and collected from insurers of employers and from self-insured employers. The

total amount of the levy will be equal to the balance in the fund that fell below \$500,000.

The billing and collection of the levy will require the department to expend tremendous effort and resources that will negatively impact the level of service the department provides to the public. Furthermore, this levy must be collected annually for as long as the balance of the Fund remains below \$500,000.

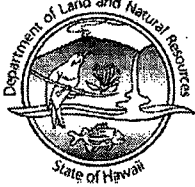
II. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT PROPOSED LEGISLATION

This bill, as it pertains to the department, proposes to transfer \$7,000,000 from the Special Fund for Disability Benefits to the general fund, and to amend Section 392-62, HRS, by deleting the statement "All moneys in the fund shall be held in trust for the purposes of this part only and shall not be expended, released, or appropriated or otherwise disposed of for any other purpose."

III. CURRENT LAW

Act 79, SLH 2009, authorized the director of finance to transfer \$7,000,000 from the Special Fund for Disability Benefits to the general fund. To date, the transfer has not been requested by the director of finance because of concerns of the trust fund status of the Fund.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Tuesday, March 23, 2010
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2542, HOUSE DRAFT 1, Proposed SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS**

House Bill 2542, House Draft 1, Proposed Senate Draft 1 would transfer excess special funds to the General Fund to address fiscal year 2010-2011 budget shortfall. For the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department), it will affect the Land Conservation Fund (LCF) and the Natural Area Reserve Fund (NARF). The Department's comments are restricted to the LCF and the NARF portion of the bill. While the Department is sensitive to the State's economic situation and as such, recognizes the need to access temporary reductions in special funds to help balance the general fund budget, the Department is in agreement with the amount of transfer from the LCF, but has concerns that the transfer from the NARF is too great a reduction in the funding in that program and would severely affect the natural resource conservation programs supported by the NARF and eliminate the core structure of many critical programs.

Overall the Department's general fund has been cut 32% over the past 3 years, special fund revenues have declined 35% over the past 3 years, and the Department has lost 80 positions in the recent Reduction-in-Force this past year. The programs funded through this revenue source have been reduced over 50% in the past two years.

Specific to this measure, the Department can support the proposed \$1,000,000 transfer from the LCF. Although that would reduce funding for additional land acquisition when land prices are low, that level of transfer would provide adequate funding to support staff, administration of current projects in various stages of closing, and as next year's revenue comes in, enable acquisition opportunities at a reduced level. Although reduced, there may be adequate state funds to continue leveraging other federal, county and private funds to pursue any good opportunities that arise.

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The proposed Senate Draft 1 draft would transfer \$2,000,000 out of the NARF and have a much greater, dire effect. The NARF supports a suite of essential conservation programs including Watershed Partnerships Program, Natural Area Reserves System management, Natural Area Partnership Program, Youth Conservation Corps, and internship programs, personnel, central services fees, Forest Stewardship Program, Forest Reserve System watershed management, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Invasive species program operations, Threatened & Endangered species management, and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council Programs (see Attachment). The revenue into these programs has been already severely reduced more than 50% over the past 2 years due to the down real estate market.

The Department has worked with our conservation partners to seek other sources of support, share the pain and take cuts in line with the declining revenues over the past 2 years. The Department has managed to maintain the core structure and function of these vital programs. The Department will continue to do our part, and reduce spending and expenditures. Even with this, the projected NARF unencumbered cash balance at the end of the fiscal year will be approximately \$1-2 M. On July 1, 2010, the Department needs to have at least \$1M in carryover funds to be able to support civil service staff and ensure continuity of operations. In addition, the Department needs to have another \$1M to pay ongoing contract obligations, however these encumbrances can be delayed for a short period of time. Funds usually provided at the beginning of the fiscal year for the other aforesaid programs supported by the NARF will be postponed until revenues are generated throughout the year.

Based on the above mentioned, the Department recommend that no more than \$800,000 be transferred out of the NARF to be able to maintain core functionality and field operations.

The Department realizes the difficult decisions that need to be made to balance the general fund budget deficit. The Department would be happy to work with this Committee on any ideas or scenarios on how to reduce costs in our programs and maintain the varied environmental programs that are our responsibility to implement. The Department strongly feels it is necessary to maintain these core natural resource stewardship programs at a reduced level so that they can be resumed when the economy recovers and not have the additionally costly need and delay to rebuild dismantled programs in the future – a process that would take 10 years if at all. These programs protect and maintain our natural and cultural resources that support our economy, lifestyle and future we all enjoy and need. Maintaining a base level of funding is a necessity and a wise investment in our future.

ATTACHMENT: Programs supported by the Natural Area Reserve Special Fund

Watershed partnerships are voluntary alliances of over 65 private and public landowners working collaboratively with local, state, and federal agencies to protect forested watersheds for water recharge, conservation, and other ecosystem services. Presently they are comprised of nine watershed partnerships on six islands collectively protecting over 2 million acres and represented by the Hawaii Association of Watershed Partnerships (HAWP).

NARF support for the Watershed Partnership Grants program has been greatly reduced in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, resulting in the Department having less direct funding or technical support for watershed partnerships throughout the State. This is compounded since partnerships will then have reduced matching opportunities required to access private, federal, and county sources of funds. They currently leverage close to \$5 million per year in non-state funding. If this trend continues, previous substantial gains in weed and ungulate control will be severely eroded resulting in a loss of investments that would take many years to recover. With minimal management capacity, there will be a loss of water recharge capacity, native species, and unique habitat, as well as increased exposure to fire and higher costs to repair sediment-impacted coral reefs resulting from higher rates of erosion. The Ko'olau Mountains watershed alone produces a sustained yield of 135 billion gallons of water per year. The University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization estimates the value of managing this area at \$14 billion. Statewide, Watershed Partnerships protect the primary recharge areas for over 3 trillion gallons annually.

The Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) was established in 1970 to preserve in perpetuity Hawaii's most unique ecosystems and geological features. There are currently 19 reserves on five islands, encompassing more than 109,000 acres. The diverse areas found in the NARS range from marine and coastal environments to lava flows, tropical rainforests, and an alpine desert. The reserves also protect major watershed areas, which are vital sources of fresh water. In addition to the greatly reduced NARF support, this program had a 28% reduction in the general fund support in FY10 with associated reduction in the Department's ability to preserve the most unique and intact natural resources on state lands.

The Natural Area Partnership Program (NAPP) was established by the Legislature in 1991 to provide state funds on a two-for-one basis with private funds for the management of private lands that are dedicated to conservation. With over 30,000 acres enrolled, this innovative program complements the protection efforts on state lands - a partnership essential for the success of conservation in Hawaii. The NARF funds existing fixed NAPP multi-year contracts. With these funds NAPP partners have supported Invasive Species Councils and Watershed Partnerships with personnel, funding, equipment and facilities for many years. As mentioned above, these contracts encumbrances could be delayed for a short period of time until revenues are generated.

The Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is a hands-on summer learning experience aimed at educating Hawaii's youth on the many conservation issues that threaten Hawaii's unique environment. Students are mentored by and work alongside some of Hawaii's premiere conservation leaders. Nearly 170 local youth participated in the 2009 summer program.

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) provides technical and financial assistance to owners of non-industrial private forest land that are interested in conservation, restoration, and/or timber production. These services exist as fixed multi-year contracts to private landowners.

The Forestry Program manages 55 forest reserves comprising more than 640,000 acres, or 16% of Hawaii's land area. The program also provides financial incentives to agricultural landowners to convert fallow or open land to trees, shrubs, and forest habitat, conducts control and monitoring efforts in each county for existing and incipient invasive species, and supports threatened and endangered species management.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a federal-state natural resources conservation program that addresses state and nationally significant agricultural related environmental concerns. Through CREP, program participants receive financial incentives from United States Department of Agriculture and the State to voluntarily enroll in the CREP in contracts of 15 years. Participants remove cropland and marginal pastureland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses, trees and other vegetation. Normally, this program allows participants to obtain 9:1 funding match ratios from the Federal Government.

The Invasive Species Council Programs (ISCs) are statewide and island-based partnerships of government agencies, non-government organizations, and private businesses working to protect each island from the most threatening invasive pests. The Hawaii ISC (HISC) is the statewide Department lead coordinating council that provides direction, coordination and funding for many of the statewide invasive species programs of prevention, control and eradication, research and technology, and public outreach. NARF also funds the county-based ISCs that provide rapid response and control work on new invasive pests that have the potential to severely impact our economy, ecosystem, watersheds, human health, and quality of life. A driving objective of the HISC and ISCs is to control the most threatening pests while populations are still relatively small and it is economically feasible to control or eliminate them.

The Plant Extinction Prevention program works to prevent the extinction of rare native plants with less than 50 plants remaining in the wild. This is done by numerous restoration methods including monitoring, surveying, and propagation of rare plants; out-planting; removal of invasive species; and fencing of protected areas.



HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



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KALAELOA

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STATEMENT OF
ANTHONY J. H. CHING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Monday, March 23, 2010

9:30 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

H. B. 2542, H. D. 1, PROPOSED S. D. 1 – RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS.

Purpose: Seeks to address the critical budget shortfall in Fiscal Year 2010-2011 by transferring excess balances from various non-general funds into the State General Fund. Section 8 authorizes the Director of Finance to transfer from the Hawaii Community Development Authority (“HCDA”) special assessment reserve fund to the State General Fund the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Position: The HCDA defers to the various other departments and agencies with respect to those sections of the proposal affecting their programs.

However, the HCDA is opposed to further consideration of Section 8 of the proposal as the loss of such funds may irrevocably derail two critical HCDA projects in the Kakaako and Kalaeloa Community Development Districts that will stimulate our community’s economic recovery and contribute to the development of new sustainable energy production facilities.

As §206E-16.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, allows the HCDA to make expenditures from its revolving fund without appropriation or allotment of the Legislature, most if not all of the HCDA's revolving funds have already been encumbered for ongoing development projects such as: (a) the Halekauwila Place affordable housing project for 204 rental units in Kakaako and (b) the Enterprise Road Energy Corridor project in Kalaeloa. Once encumbered, these funds are contractually committed to these projects and cannot be transferred without penalty.

The Halekauwila Place project is at the end of its design stage and construction is expected to begin between December 2010 and March 2011. The HCDA is currently providing \$10.5M towards the construction of this project (\$15M total). The loss of any of the HCDA's revolving funds will cause the project to be aborted or delayed. The derailment of a construction project that would produce 202 critically affordable rental projects and hundreds of direct and indirect jobs this close to starting would be disastrous. The loss of construction activity without another equivalent project will further exacerbate our weak economy and public confidence that government is a part of the solution.

The Kalaeloa Enterprise Road Energy Corridor project is designed to bring critically needed spine infrastructure into the Kalaeloa Community Development District [(KCDD) fka Barbers Point Naval Air Station]. Along with bringing in new dependable utilities to existing activities within the KCDD, the extension of the Hawaiian Electric Company's transmission lines into the District will enable planned renewable energy generating facilities (i.e., solar farms) to connect to the island's power grid. Any loss of the HCDA's revolving funds will jeopardize ongoing efforts to bring new power/electricity utility into the KCDD, stimulate new investment and economic activity and contribute to Honolulu's energy independence.

The KCDD is located in a radiation belt which has the highest solar energy levels in the City and County of Honolulu. Construction of renewable energy generating facilities in the KCDD is a given or “no-brainer”. The construction of the requisite connection to the island-wide power grid is the critical second part of our State’s energy strategy. However, without the Kalaeloa Enterprise Road Energy Corridor project, our community’s ability to harness and inject renewable solar energy generated from the resource rich KCDD into our island’s power grid will be crippled.

The HCDA respectfully requests that Section 8 be deleted from the proposal to enable continued funding of projects that create multiplier effects for the benefit of the State’s economy while addressing the Legislature’s objectives for redevelopment and affordable housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Section 8 of the proposal.



LINDA LINGLE
Governor

MIKE MCCARTNEY
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Hawai'i Tourism Authority

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Testimony of
Mike McCartney
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority

on
H.B. 2542, H.D.1, Proposed S.D. 1
Relating to Non-general Funds

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 23, 2010
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) opposes PART I, SECTION 9 of H.B. 2542, H.D. 1, Proposed S.D. 1, which declares that there is \$5,000,000 in the Convention Center Enterprise Special Fund that is in excess of the requirements of the Fund.

Monies that are deposited into the Convention Center Enterprise Special Fund (CCESF) include 17.3 percent of TAT revenues up to \$33 million and revenues derived from the operations of the Hawaii Convention Center (HCC). These funds are used for:

- The payment of any and all debt service relating to the Convention Center, which amounts to approximately \$26.43 million annually;
- All expenses arising from the operation and maintenance of the Center, including food and beverage service, labor, parking service, and other costs arising from conferences, conventions, and events at the Center; and,
- Major repair and maintenance of the Convention Center.

After accounting for the payment of debt service and budgeted expenditures, the CCESF maintains an unencumbered reserve of \$3.979 million to cover operational losses and the costs related to unanticipated events. Moreover, the reserve is also relied upon to cover expenses if actual TAT revenue collections are less than the \$33 million "cap" each year.

Because of the current fiscal environment, bookings at the HCC have been lower than projected. As a result, the operating revenues have not kept pace with the operating and marketing expenses. Further, if any unexpected bookings occur within the fiscal year, the Convention Center operator will encounter unbudgeted food and beverage expenses, for which the reserve funds are utilized.

More importantly, we also anticipate that the APEC meeting in November 2011 will require additional funds to accommodate the needs of this event. We anticipate that the reserve funds will be necessary to cover the significant operating expenses of that meeting.

We, therefore, request that SECTION 9 of PART I of the bill be deleted. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 23, 2010 at 9:30am

by
Howard Todo
Vice President for Budget & Finance/CFO, University of Hawai'i

HB 2542 HD1 Proposed SD1 – RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The University of Hawai'i strongly opposes this bill as it relates to transferring funds from the University of Hawai'i's special and revolving funds. Special and revolving funds are an essential part of the University's operating funds. In addition, they are required for specific purposes as noted below, and are legally obligated for those purposes.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII HOUSING ASSISTANCE REVOLVING FUND

The purpose of the University of Hawai'i Housing Assistance Revolving Fund (HARF) is to provide financial assistance and rental housing units to faculty and staff of the University of Hawai'i. This is crucial for the recruitment and retention of the qualified faculty required in order for the University to continue to be the global university system that the state needs it to be.

As reported to your committee in the University's budget briefing, as of November 2009, there was \$4,590,642 in the HARF. These funds support two primary functions: 1) the operations of the Kau'iokahaloa Iki (K-Iki) faculty housing facility and 2) providing funds to assist faculty in financing the purchase of housing.

K-Iki

The funds for operating K-Iki consist of 3 accounts totaling \$2,474,775 as of November 2009. The State Real Estate Commission requires a Condominium Maintenance Fee Reserve equal to 100% of estimated replacement costs of the cash flow plan approved by the commission, which will need to be \$2,081,200 by fiscal year 2015. At this point there is only \$1,186,141 in this account, which also funds annual repairs and replacements of furniture and equipment. In addition, a reserve of \$600,000 is required to repurchase one remaining K-Iki unit which currently owned by a faculty member. In

the past year, one unit was repurchased by the UH for \$648,000, leaving only one unit not owned by the University. After these two requirements, the remaining \$688,000 is needed to fund the operating expenses of K-Iki.

Housing Assistance

In the past year, the University implemented a program to assist faculty in financing the purchase of housing. \$1.5 million was expended to fund this program, which has been very well received by the faculty. With the success of this program, the balance of \$2,115,868 for this purpose is critical for the continuation and expansion of the program. Especially in these difficult economic times, this program, which provides funds to guarantee loans by high performing faculty is critical for the recruitment and retention of highly qualified faculty to achieve the goals for increasing the number of educated citizens in the state of Hawai'i, contributing to the workforce and the economy, and advancing the University of Hawai'i's reputation for excellence and its ability to build the state's capacity as set forth in President MRC Greenwood's state of the University address.

In summary, taking funds from the Housing Assistance Revolving Fund would severely impair the Faculty Housing Program's ability to be self-sustaining. It would cripple the Faculty Housing Program's ability to meet its immediate financial obligations such as property management fees, routine maintenance costs, and utilities, placing its financial health in jeopardy. Deferring repair and replacement projects would end up costing the University more in the long-run, and would likely create safety issues. Terminating the mortgage assistance guarantee program would severely hamper the efforts of the University to recruit and retain qualified faculty and staff.

We ask you not to take these critical funds from the University of Hawai'i.

UNIVERSITY REVENUE-UNDERTAKINGS FUND

This fund is comprised of revenue-generating and self-supporting University Bond System projects. The fund includes operating accounts, and major and ordinary repair and replacement accounts. Projects include the Bookstore, Faculty Housing, Food Services, UHM Parking, Student Housing, Telecommunications, and the Campus Center.

Balances for these funds are required for repairs and maintenance and for working capital. For example, the Bookstore requires a working capital reserve equal to six months operating expenses and Cost of Goods Sold. If these funds are not available, it would lead to an inability to purchase goods for resale.

As part of the University Bond System, executive policy requires an annual transfer of 50% of asset depreciation be set aside for repair and replacement projects. Also, pursuant to bond covenants, the bond system is required to maintain reserves for all outstanding bond system debt. Reserves are also required for major projects, such as the establishment of telecommunications capability in the new ITS building, design of

Phase II of the Campus Center expansion, and furniture and equipment for the Campus Center Renovation.

Sweeping of these funds would severely impact campus operations. The Bookstore would be unable to provide students with necessary books and supplies on a timely basis for use in their academic studies. Essential support services such as network connectivity, email, voice/data service, online registration and distance learning opportunities would be severely impacted. Investment in infrastructure improvements could not be made. Student Housing renovations would be adversely impacted. Annual debt service requirements or OHA Ceded Lands payments may also not be met.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH AND TRAINING REVOLVING FUND

The Research and Training funds are used to support the research mission of the university. The funds are to be used for purposes that result in additional research and training grants and contracts, and for facilitating research and training at the University. These funds are used (1) to recruit and support top researchers; (2) for administrative support (i.e. fiscal, HR, compliance, etc.) for extramural contracts and grants; (3) to repair, replace, maintain, upgrade scientific equipment and facilities for continued research; (4) for mandatory matching for extramural contracts and grants; (5) for research projects; (6) for funding of graduate students; and (7) for working capital.

Additionally, an estimated \$1,500,000 is needed for the next 15 years for revenue bond payments for the Biomedical Sciences Building addition. The addition is needed to increase research space at the University which will increase research dollars. Funds have also been committed to several initiatives to expand the research programs at the University. These include committing start up funding or to supplement cost matching for new research programs such as the Applied Research Lab and Center of Excellence as well as to build a Regional Bio-containment Laboratory facility. Such investments are needed to aid the future growth of the research enterprise. A sweep would seriously jeopardize commitments made to sponsors to share in the costs of these new ventures. In addition, funds are required to pay the RCUH management fee for the rest of the year and any unforeseen expenses of ORS, which are both essential to management of the research enterprise.

If balances are swept, (1) it will significantly reduce the University's ability to recruit and retain new and competitive researchers; (2) we will be unable to meet ongoing obligations to fund start-up or required matching for grants for researchers, especially those hired in the last 3-5 years; (3) federal research dollars flowing to UH will decrease; (4) we will not be able to continue to maintain and operate scientific equipment and facilities; (5) working capital requirements for utilities, repairs, etc. cannot be met; and (6) we will be vulnerable to legal action from our inability to meet prior commitments/obligations.

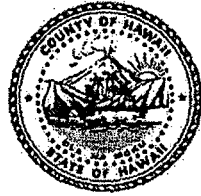
As an example of this, last year the legislature swept \$5.1 million of these funds from the University. This left the University with \$5.1 million in prior obligations that it could not honor. As a result, we are unable to use these funds, as was planned, to implement

the Office of Mauna Kea Management's Comprehensive Management Plan, which is required by law. This jeopardizes the University's efforts to secure the Thirty Meter Telescope project which is estimated to bring in \$1.2 billion in construction to the State's economy.

In conclusion, lapsing of "excess" balances from the aforementioned special and revolving funds would significantly affect the University's ability to maintain the current level of services and programs provided to our students and faculty. Our ability to recruit and maintain faculty would also be impacted, and there are also potential legal issues that could result. Finally, passage of this bill will seriously impair the University's ability to provide security to its revenue bond holders and will jeopardize our bond rating, as all of the University's revenue bond debt is secured by its special and revolving funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Harry S. Kubojiri
Police Chief

Paul K. Ferreira
Deputy Police Chief

March 19, 2010

County of Hawai`i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi'olani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Chair and Members
Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 211
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: HOUSE BILL 2542, HD1, PROPOSED SD1, RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS

Dear Senator Kim and Members:

The Hawai'i Police Department **strongly opposes** House Bill 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds, seeking to transfer at least \$5,000,000 from the Wireless Enhanced 911(E911) Fund to the general fund.

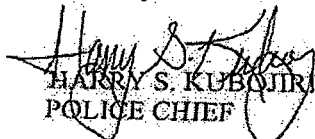
The Wireless E911 Fund was established exclusively for the purposes of ensuring adequate cost recovery for the deployment of Phase I and Phase II Wireless E911 services in the State of Hawai'i. Due to the ever-changing enhancements in wireless technologies and expanding consumer base, ensuring the deployment of Phase I and Phase II Wireless E911 services in the State is an on-going project for all of the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). Statistics indicate that throughout the State of Hawai'i at least 60% of the emergency calls received by PSAPs are wireless calls and this number is continuously increasing.

There is concern that the raid of the Wireless E911 fund, as proposed by HB 2542, will result in the PSAPs inability to support current emergency needs for public safety as funds will not be available to maintain our current systems that support wireless technology. Additionally, raid of the funds will thwart the PSAPs ability to procure new equipment to meet Next Generation 911 (NG911) deployment plans that support wireless technologies over the next 5 years.

It is our understanding that in December 2009, the Wireless E911 Board adopted a 5-year spending plan in support of program activities currently underway or planned by all of the PSAPs throughout the State of Hawai'i to maintain and enhance their current 911 infrastructure relating to wireless technology. The plan calls for the use of the 911 funds up to the appropriations cap of \$9 million dollars for the current fiscal year and up to a desired spending cap of \$15 million dollars for FY2011. The transfer of any funds from the wireless 911 fund will jeopardize the availability of monies to support these activities.

For these reasons, we urge this committee to reject this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai'i Police Department to testify on H.B. No. 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

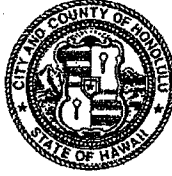
Sincerely,


HARRY S. KUBOJIRI
POLICE CHIEF

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu-pd.org

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DELBERT T. TATSUYAMA
RANDAL K. MACADANGDANG
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE MC-LS

March 23, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
and Members
Committee on Ways and Means
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2542, H.D.1, Proposed S.D. 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

I am Marie McCauley, Major of the Communications Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD strongly opposes House Bill No. 2542, H.D. 1, proposed S.D. 1. Section 5 of this proposed legislation seeks to move \$5 million of the monies collected from wireless customers that were deemed for maintaining and upgrading the infrastructure for emergency services. Also, the public expects the monies collected to be used specifically for their safety.

The cost to maintain our current system is ever increasing, not to mention the upgrade cost to the Next Generation 9-1-1 project. Technology is evolving at an alarming rate, and the Public Safety Answering Points have a responsibility to keep up the pace to protect our communities.

The federal government has clearly affirmed that states that raid wireless funds for use in the general funds may be ineligible for certain federal grant programs.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our strong opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

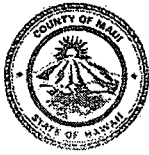
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie A. McCauley".

for MARIE A MCCAULEY, Major
Communications Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoa".

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police



CHARMAINE TAVARES
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE
YOUR REFERENCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793
(808) 244-6400
FAX (808) 244-6411



GARY A. YABUTA
CHIEF OF POLICE

CLAYTON N.Y.W. TOM
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2542, HD 1, Transfer of Non-General Funds

Dear Chair Kim and Members:

The Maui Police Department is in strong opposition to H.B. 2542 HD 1 that would call for the transfer of at least \$5,000,000 from the Wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 Fund to the general fund. This fund and its intended purpose is for the enhancement and continued maintenance of the existing E9-1-1 system that answers and responds to over 1,149,000 9-1-1 calls annually in the State. These funds are important to the continued delivery of enhancements to the 9-1-1 network as devices continue to be introduced to the public such for text messaging, video messaging, telematics vehicles, all which use the 9-1-1 wireless network to request emergency response.

The Enhance Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-494) and The New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-283) clearly identify "that any communications service provider that imposes the collection of a fee for the support or implementation of 9-1-1 or enhanced 9-1-1 services, provided that the fee or charge is obligated or expended only in support of 9-1-1 and enhanced 9-1-1 services, or enhancements of such services, as specified in the provisions of State or local law adopting the fee or charge..." Simply stated, all monies collected on a consumer's bill identified for the purposes of 9-1-1 or E9-1-1 must be expended only for 9-1-1 or E9-1-1 as provided for in the two (2) Public Laws that governs the States authorization to collect fees for the purposes of 9-1-1 or E9-1-1.

In addition, the Public Law requires that States must report yearly on their compliance to the law. Failure to comply will exclude the States from any Federal Grant money as described within this public law. Public Law 108-494, has met its five year life span for the program

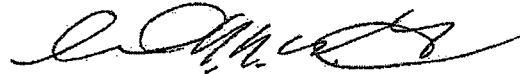
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
And Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
March 22, 2010
Page 2

office (and remains active under special conditions) it does not remove the mandate which requires 9-1-1 monies collected be used for that purpose.

To further clarify the Federal Governments position on using 9-1-1 monies for other than its intended use, Congress enacted the New and Emerging 911 Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-283). Senator Daniel Inouye as the Commerce Committee Chairman, along with the sponsors Senator Stevens, Clinton, Stowe, and Lautenberg worked tirelessly to ensure the passage of this legislation. This law continues to reinforce State's authority and responsibility to only expend the fees in support of 9-1-1 and enhanced 9-1-1 services.

The Maui County Police Department humbly asks for your support in opposing House Bill 2542 HD 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



YM: Gary Yabuta

Chief of Police



ALU LIKE, Inc.

*E alu like mai kākou, e nā 'ōiwi o Hawai'i
Let Us Work Together, Natives of Hawai'i*

March 23, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542 HD 1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-
General Funds

Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542 HD1,
Proposed SD 1

I am DarLynne Kaahanui, the Supervisor of ALU LIKE's Ho'āla I Nā 'Opio (Restore the Youth)
suspension program on Moloka'i, which is funded by the Hawai'i Tobacco Fund.

HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 proposes to cap the balance of the Tobacco Prevention and
Control Trust Fund at \$7,000,000, with any amounts over the \$7,000,000 to be transferred to the
Rainy Day Fund.

Please do not divert funds away from Tobacco Prevention and Control programs. Our Program
and efforts must continue to save lives and our State money. Our adult and youth smoking rates
are down because of the comprehensive efforts to have counter-marketing messages, youth
prevention programs, and quit-smoking classes. But we still have more work to do. Every year,
smoking costs Hawaii over half a billion dollars and the tobacco industry is spending \$42 million
to market their deadly products here

According to data from the UH Center On The Family, 72% of the students on Molokai are
identified as Hawaiian. Youth on Moloka'i are far more likely to be exposed to family tobacco
use than the State average. They are also far more likely to receive a disciplinary suspension from
school with most of these suspensions having to do with illegal substances, including tobacco use,
on campus. There is a very high correlation between school suspensions and dropping out of
school, which can lead to a wide range of lifelong problems, including low self-esteem, substance
abuse, joblessness, poverty, and crime. School Connectedness is the strongest protective factor
against risky or negative behaviors among youth including tobacco and substance use. Tobacco
use has gone down from past years for Hawaiian youths, but usage still remains higher than the
state level. We must continue tobacco prevention efforts for all people in our State.

ALU LIKE's Ho`āla I Nā `Opio project on Moloka`i was awarded a three year Tobacco Fund grant because of its positive outcomes in turning around students with long school suspensions. Suspended students who come to our program regain their sense of being pono, regain their lokahi within themselves and with their families, and return to school where they improve their attendance and grades, and go on to graduate to become positive members of the community.

If you divert Tobacco Funds to the Rainy Day Fund, the children and community will suffer the consequences. The State will pay many times the cost in future medical and social costs, including for cancer, lung disease, addiction and welfare. Hawaii needs funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs to protect our children and families' health.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition of HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1. Please do not reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control. Thank you for the opportunity to provided testimony in strong opposition of HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Mahalo,

DarLynne Kaahanui
Supervisor, Ho`āla I Nā `Opio Project
Ph#: (808) 567-6837
Email: dakaaha@alulike.org



The Official Sponsor of Birthdays

March 22, 2010

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

Hearing:

9:30 A.M., Tuesday, March 23, 2010
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

RE: HB2542, HD1, Proposed SD1 – Relating to Non-General Funds

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members of Committee on Ways and Means. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition of HB2542, HD1, Proposed SD 1 which attempts to address the budget shortfall by transferring to the general fund excess balances from certain special funds; requires moneys in excess of a certain amount in the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund to lapse to the emergency budget and reserve fund; and amends the disposition of revenues collected from the cigarette tax.

We will limit our testimony and comments to the lapsing of excess moneys from the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

As many of you know, the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc., is a community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer and saving lives through research.

The Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund was established in 1999 as a result of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). Due in large part to the MSA funding, Hawaii has made great progress in reducing both our adult and youth smoking rates. We now have the fifth lowest smoking rate in the nation. However, there are disparate population groups including, Native Hawaiians, Micronesians, and the mentally ill, that have smoking rates in excess of 30% - double the adult smoking rate of 15.4%.

Currently, a very small percentage of MSA moneys coming to Hawaii are available for community tobacco control prevention and cessation efforts. Last year, the Legislature reduced the allocation to the tobacco trust fund from 12.5% to 6.5%. Because of this decrease, many community based tobacco control programs were forced to reduce prevention and cessation services. A number of organizations had to terminate prevention and cessation specialists. Others are struggling just to maintain services at reduced levels.

Because of the continued decrease of MSA settlement moneys to the trust fund, the corpus is the only readily available money and will be needed to sustain community tobacco control prevention and cessation services. In addition, existing statute only allows up to fifty percent of the trust fund can be expended for tobacco prevention and control. The elimination of most of the trust corpus will erode tobacco control efforts in Hawaii impacting first, disparate groups - those with highest smoking rates, then our youth, and finally the general adult population.

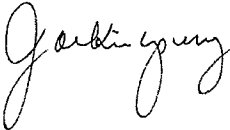
In recent years, other states including California, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts and Minnesota, have curtailed tobacco control spending. As a result, the gains these states made in reducing smoking rates were quickly eroded and they are now seeing an increase in smoking rates. It is anticipated there will be a corresponding increase in lung cancers and myocardial infarctions.

In closing, we acknowledge that Hawaii is facing an economic downturn that could be protracted. As a result of this, we need to ensure that the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund has sufficient moneys to support community tobacco control efforts which reduce the incidents of cancer in our community.

We respectfully request that the committee remove Part III, Section 29 (f) relating to the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

Mahalo for giving us the opportunity to provide testimony regarding our concerns and anxieties over this difficult issue.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie Young".

Jackie Young, Ph.D.
Chief Staff Officer - Mission



American Heart Association | American Stroke Association

Learn and Live.

Serving Hawaii

Testimony OPPOSING HB HB 2542, HD1, Proposed SD1 “Relating To Tobacco Settlement Monies”

The American Heart Association strongly opposes cuts to state tobacco prevention, education and cessation services.

The American Heart Association maintains a national policy not to accept government funding, instead relying on the support of private donors to support its lifesaving mission. Under that policy, the AHA has never received funds from Hawaii’s Tobacco Trust Fund. Its role in regards to state funding is that of a watchdog, insuring that the state properly invests the funds that are intended to limit taxpayers’ subsidization of the tobacco industry.

Tobacco use is the leading risk factor for heart disease and stroke, the number one and number three causes of death in Hawaii taking the lives of over 3,100 residents each year. Stroke is also the leading cause of major disability. These diseases are very costly; the estimated direct and indirect national cost of cardiovascular disease for 2008 was \$475.3 billion. However, strong commitments to reduce key risk factors such as smoking have helped to control those costs. Heart disease-related deaths decreased by 28 percent between 2000 and 2007 in Hawaii. Stroke-related deaths declined by 36 percent over that same period. Clearly, Hawaii’s tobacco prevention, control and cessation programs played a key part in that success.

Had Hawaii not exhibited a decrease in adult rate smoking from almost 20 percent in year 2000 to its current low of almost 15 percent, and an incredible decrease among youth smoking rates from almost 25 percent in 2000 to less than 10 percent today, healthcare costs in Hawaii would most certainly be much higher today. More importantly, over the last six years since the infrastructure of the state’s tobacco control and cessation efforts became more fully developed, approximately 14,000 lives have been saved as a result of those efforts. Each life saved has a great potential impact on many other lives including family members, co-workers and employers who are connected to, and reliant on, those who are saved.

Now is not the time to go backward. Developing effective tobacco-control programs doesn’t happen overnight with the flick of a switch. It has taken time to develop the programs on which many of our state residents currently rely. And we are still far from where we should be in tobacco control program funding. The CDC recommends that at a **minimum**, Hawaii should be investing \$15 million per year in growing these programs. To-date, the state has never achieved that level of funding. To do so currently, it would have to drain the existing Trust Fund in three years. The Trust Fund needs to be allowed to grow so that the CDC’s recommended annual investment levels can be not only reached, but sustained. If we cut funding today, we will not only lose ground on the battle to reduce smoking, but we will lose years of prior investment and infrastructure that will take years to get back to if and when the state ever again makes such a commitment to its people’s health.

Serving Hawaii since 1948

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

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Hawaii:
400 Hualani Street, Ste. 15
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Phone: 808-961-2825
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.”*

The investment that the state currently makes in tobacco prevention and control is relatively small when compared to the returns on that investment. Alternatively, the cost of not continuing that investment will be enormous, both when measured in dollars, and more importantly when measured in the lives affected both directly and indirectly by tobacco addiction. Tobacco-control program funding received through the State's Tobacco Industry Master Settlement Agreement costs taxpayers nothing. It is covered by the tobacco companies. However, cuts to that funding to redirect it to other programs or services will cost taxpayers dearly.

Research shows that state programs secure even larger returns on investment for sustained funding of tobacco prevention at adequate levels over 10 or more years. Most notably, a study of California's tobacco prevention found that for every dollar the state spent on its tobacco control program from 1989 to 2004, the state received tens of dollars in savings in the form of sharp reductions to total healthcare costs in the state. That study confirms that the cost-saving benefits from sustained state investments in effective tobacco control programs quickly grow over time to dwarf the state expenditures; producing massive gains for the state not only in terms of both improved public health and increased worker productivity but in reduced government, business, and household costs.

The lifetime healthcare costs of smokers total at least \$16,000 more than nonsmokers, on average, despite the fact that smokers do not live as long, with a somewhat smaller difference between smokers and former smokers. That means that for every thousand keiki kept from smoking by Hawaii's state-funded programs, future healthcare costs in the state should decline by roughly \$16 million (in current dollars), and for every thousand adults prompted to quit future health costs drop by roughly \$8.5 million.

On the flip side, experiences in other states that have curtailed funding to successful tobacco prevention programs have shown that hard fought gains in smoking rate reductions can quickly be reversed if commitment to those programs is not maintained. The tobacco industry continues to market and advertise its products to potential new young nicotine addicts, investing an estimated \$42 million each year in Hawaii alone. Further cuts in tobacco-control funding will allow the tobacco industry to reverse downward smoking trends in our communities.

Hawaii's tobacco-control efforts are among the most successful health success stories in our islands' long history. Now is the time to stay committed, celebrate that success and see this journey of enlightenment through to its full fruition.

The American Heart Association strongly urges legislators to stay the course on tobacco control and maintain current levels of investment in the public's health.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Weisman
Hawaii Communications and Marketing/Government Affairs Director
American Heart Association

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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: Hearing Scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 16, 2010

**RE: Testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542, HD1, SD1
(Proposed) Relating To Non-General Funds**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Committee Members:

The American Lung Association in Hawaii is strongly opposed to HB 2542, HD1, SD1 especially PART III, Section 29 (328L-5) (f) on page 13 which would leave only a fraction of the current funding to prevent kids from starting to smoke and help smokers quit.

As you know, the Trust Fund receives monies from the Master Tobacco Settlement which our state annually receives from tobacco manufacturers. BUT the Master Tobacco Settlement will end in a few years. Over time, states have been given the chance to build up a Trust Fund to provide tobacco education "in perpetuity."

Last year the Legislature cut half of the money that flows to the Trust Fund. That drastically reduced the grants available this year to community organizations like ours, which offer tobacco prevention and quit programs that work – saving lives and future costs for Hawaii.

It is no accident that in less than a decade - from 2000 to 2007 - Hawaii's teen smoking rate has gone from 24.5% to 9.7%. The reason is simple: the programs to educate Hawaii's children against the dangers of smoking while also combating teen addiction to smoking through quit programs just work. These programs and those that helped us reach an all-time low adult smoking rate are a result of funding provided by this Trust Fund.

American Lung Association in Hawaii and other organizations are saving lives and money while fulfilling the purpose of the Master Tobacco Settlement agreement by preventing thousands of children from starting to smoke and helping hundreds of teens and adults stop smoking. To divert any of the funds from this purpose will dismantle the gains we have worked diligently to achieve to support a healthy Hawaii. States such as Indiana, Massachusetts, and California that cut tobacco prevention and control funding have seen smoking rates jump back up.

Smoking costs Hawaii over a half a billion dollars every year in annual health care costs and lost productivity. Programs that prevent children from starting to smoke and help others kick the addiction save money and lives. Needing money to combat hard economic times is not a rationale to short circuit the intent of the Master Tobacco Settlement and to marginalize our children's and our future generations' health.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Evans, Executive Director

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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.

March 22, 2010



Aloha Senator Mercado Kim, Chair and Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

Thank you for the opportunity to respectfully provide testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1. My name is Helen Barrow with the Maui Chapter of American Lung Association in Hawaii (ALAH).

HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 proposes to cap the balance of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund at \$7,000,000, with any amounts over the \$7,000,000 to go to be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund. As well as considering Hawaii's keiki that are here right now consider Hawaii's keikis' keikis' keiki .The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund and its Advisory Board were created by Hawaii's landmark legislation (Act 304, SLH 1999) devoting a significant portion of Hawaii's tobacco settlement money to public health efforts for perpetuity .

Please do not divert funds away from Tobacco Prevention and Control programs. Our program and efforts must continue to save lives and our State money. Hawaii's adult and youth smoking rates are down because of the comprehensive efforts to have counter-marketing messages, youth prevention programs, and quit-smoking classes. But we still have more work to do. Every year, smoking costs Hawaii over half a billion dollars and the tobacco industry is spending \$42 million to market their deadly products here. The entirety of the money in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is just shy of what the Tobacco Industry spends on marketing to our keiki *each year*.

On Maui we deliver Tobacco Prevention and Cessation programs to elementary, intermediate, high schools and colleges including:

- Kahului and Kamehameha Elementary Schools
- Kalama, Iao, Maui Waena and Kamehameha Intermediate Schools
- Baldwin, Maui, King Kekaulike, Lahainaluna, St Anthony's and Seabury Hall High Schools
- UH Maui College.

In addition we provide tobacco cessation clinics and information about quitting at organizations such as the Hale O Lanakila Clubhouse, Maui Drug Court, Salvation Army and MEO Headstart. These programs would not exist if ALAH- Maui was not here to provide them.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1. Please take out all language that would reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Mahalo nui loa,

Helen Barrow, CTTS hbarrow@ala-hawaii.org
Maui Program Coordinator, American Lung Association in Hawaii

From: Debbie Odo
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 4:22:50 PM

March 22, 2010

**To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-General Funds

Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

My name is Debbie Odo, Director of Tobacco Control with the American Lung Association in Hawaii's Freedom From Smoking program that partners with the mental health, substance abuse, transitional homes, homeless, communities and workplaces statewide.

HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 proposes to cap the balance of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund at \$7,000,000, with any amounts over the \$7,000,000 to go to be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund.

Please do not divert funds away from Tobacco Prevention and Control programs. Our program and efforts must continue to save lives and our State money. Our adult programs have effectively served over 3,000 people last year and have helped people to quit-smoking and reduce the number of cigarettes per day. We still have more work to do and we are moving the smokers along the stages of change and seeing the SMI population quit smoking. Every year, smoking costs Hawaii over half a billion dollars and the tobacco industry is spending \$42 million to market their deadly products here.

The American Lung Association in Hawaii is currently working with special communities, such as those with mental health and substance abuse challenges. We also work with those challenged with HIV/Aids, homeless, Hawaii Health and the Naval Bases. Are partners include: Queens Hospital Day Treatment program, Central Oahu Community Mental Health Clinics, American

Psychiatric Systems program in Waianae, Hale Ulu Pono (Steadfast Housing for those challenged with mental illness in Kalaieloa), community group in Mililani, Maui Drug Court, many Clubhouses statewide and the list goes on.

We're reaching those who in the past did not want to quit, yet today they do because they desire to live a healthier life and would rather spend their money on substantial things like food, clothing and their electricity bill. The people that we serve appreciate our support because we provide them with free intensive intervention smoking cessation programs and medication. We are seeing the shift of requests from those challenged with schizophrenia, depression, PTSD, bi-polar and recovery quit smoking or reduce more than 50% of the number of cigarettes smoked per day.

We are empowering the disabled to give back what they've gained from the program. They are encouraging others to enroll in the Freedom From Smoking program and even facilitating the Freedom From Smoking Clinics.

Also, the American Lung Association in Hawaii lost funding to service schools statewide. We cannot provide our partnering schools the Not On Tobacco Quit Smoking Programs, tobacco 101 presentations, Music With a Message assemblies and the Word of Mouth tobacco prevention program to children in grades fourth to sixth.

Cutting Funding is likely to increase smoking rates and cost lives.

When other states such as California and Massachusetts cut funding for tobacco prevention and control, there was a reversal in progress against smoking.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD Please take out all language that would reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Sincerely,

Debbie Odo

Debbie Odo
Director of Tobacco Control
American Lung Association in Hawai'i
680 Iwilei Road
Suite 575
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
Phone: (808) 537-5966 ext. 216
Fax: (808) 537-5971
NEW E-mail: DOdo@ala-hawaii.org



Dan Youmans
President - Washington/Hawaii
External Affairs

AT&T Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 97061
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daniel.youmans@att.com
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March 23, 2010

The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Senate

*RE: Opposition to Wireless E911 Fund Raid in House Bill 2542 HD1, Proposed SD1
March 23 Hearing, 9:30 a.m.
Senate Committee on Ways and Means*

Dear Senator Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee:

AT&T opposes the provisions in House Bill 2542 HD1 Proposed SD1 that would sweep \$5 million from the Wireless E911 Fund to the General Fund. We understand that the state faces a substantial budget deficit, however, we respectfully submit that this raid of Wireless E911 surcharges would be a misuse of funds intended for public safety.

Each month our wireless customers pay into the Wireless E911 Fund with the knowledge that these monies will be used to support the E911 system. Thanks to the investment made by our customers, public safety agencies can now provide the ability to call back a cell phone customer who has dialed 911 and determine the approximate location of that customer.

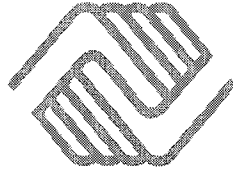
In Hawaii, wireless E911 service is critical, especially when a person does not have access to a landline phone, which is the case in many emergencies involving both residents and tourists.

The state's budget problems should not be resolved through the use of funds intended for this very important public safety purpose. If the Wireless E911 Fund will have an ongoing surplus that cannot be used for the 911 system, then a more appropriate action would be to reduce the monthly surcharge on wireless consumers.

We urge you to preserve the funds dedicated to wireless E911 so that investments can continue in this life-saving technology.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Youmans
AT&T



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BIG ISLAND

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD1, Proposed SD1, Relating to Non-
General Funds

Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30am

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to
HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

My name is Jay Ihara, Director of Operations with the Boys & Girls Club of the
Big Island.

HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 proposes to cap the balance of the Tobacco
Prevention and Control Trust Fund at \$7,000,000, with any amounts over the
\$7,000,000 to be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund

Please do not divert funds away from the Tobacco Prevention Control programs.
Boys & Girls Club of the Big Island reached 1065 youth with tobacco and drug
prevention curriculums from 2007-2009. These youth were reached by funding
from the Trust Fund. Data collected from pre and post test reveal that participants
had over an 80% increase in knowledge about the harmful effects of tobacco use,
in awareness of how the tobacco industry markets to young people, and in
demonstration of resistance skills toward tobacco use.

The Trust Fund not only funds our tobacco prevention programs, it is also an
important source of funding for our Clubs that reach over 1,000 members a year
and 4,000 youth a year in outreach. Our Clubs provide a safe and caring
environment for every member. At \$10 a year, the Club is an affordable program
for many parents who are struggling with the downturn of the economy. When the
teachers were furloughed in October 2009, we offered BE GREAT-BE SMART
furlough Friday program with no additional cost to families. To date we have an
attendance of 1969 on furlough Fridays.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund is important for the well-being of
the citizens of Hawaii. Our smoking rates are declining. New tobacco taxes and
smoke-free laws are creating a greater demand for smoking cessation programs.
Youth programs such as ours use the funding to positively impact youth across the
state.

100 Kamakahonu Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Ph: 808-961-5536
Fax: 808-961-5189

Visit the Club's Website
at www.bgcbi.com

Chief Professional Officer
George Kalani Silva

Chief Volunteer Officer
Bill Walter

Chief Volunteer Officer Elect
Toby Taniguchi

Treasurer
Donn Mende

Secretary
Newton J. Chu

Past Chief Volunteer Officer
Ivan Nakano

Directors
Akira Watanabe
Barbara A. Hastings
Bill Takaba
Bonnie Geiger
Fred Blas
Julia Neal
Mike Gleason
Mitch Roth
Randy Kurohara
Rhea Lee
Russell Chin
Russell Hayashi
Warren Lee
Wayne Yamauchi



Hawaii Island

Member Agency

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 2542, HD1, Proposed SD 1. Please take out all language that would reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD1, Proposed SD1.

Sincerely,

Jay Ihara
Director of Operations
Boys & Girls Club of the Big Island



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE BIG ISLAND

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-General
Funds

Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

My name is Kathleen Christopher, Resource Development Director with the Boys and Girls Club of the Big Island.

HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 proposes to cap the balance of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund at \$7,000,000, with any amounts over the \$7,000,000 to go to be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund.

Please do not divert funds away from Tobacco Prevention and Control programs. Our program and efforts must continue to save lives and our State money. Our adult and youth smoking rates are down because of the comprehensive efforts to have counter-marketing messages, youth prevention programs, and quit-smoking classes. But we still have more work to do. Every year, smoking costs Hawaii over half a billion dollars and the tobacco industry is spending \$42 million to market their deadly products here.

Boys and Girls Club of the Big Island serves youth between the ages of 6 and 18. We have been implementing tobacco prevention evidenced based curriculums since 2006 and have reached over 3,000 youth with the "live tobacco-free" message. Hawaii Island schools participate in our outreach efforts by providing classroom time to our youth development professionals and actively engaging the school population in events that rally youth against tobacco use. The elimination of funds to our program efforts will affect the quality of life for our children who are deserving of living healthy and happy!

Boys & Girls Club of the Big Island's tobacco prevention efforts have assisted in reducing youth smoking from 1 in 4 youth to 1 in 10 youth from 2000 to 2007. But we still have work to do. Smokeless tobacco use among our youth is rising. In Hawaii, 1,400 youth become daily smokers every year.

Cutting funding is likely to increase smoking rates and cost lives. When other states such as California and Massachusetts cut funding for tobacco prevention and control, there was a reversal in progress against smoking.

Tobacco prevention and control works!

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1. Please take out all language that would reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Christopher, RDD
kathleen@bgcbi.com
Boys and Girls Club of the Big Island
100 Kamakahonu Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Castle Medical Center
Wellness & Lifestyle Medicine



Wellness & Lifestyle Medicine Center
The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg
Medical Plaza and Wellness Center
640 Ulukahiki Street
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
Tel 808-263-5050
Fax 808-263-5054
www.castlemed.org

Date: March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-General Funds
Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1. My name is Beth Davidann and I serve as the Director of Castle Medical's Wellness & Lifestyle Medicine Center where I oversee smoking cessation services. As a hospital, we have been committed for many years to providing expert guidance to help people quit using tobacco. We have seen the devastating effect that nicotine addiction has had in our community, and we have worked with others to address this major public health problem. Fortunately, our collective efforts have been working and tobacco use rates are slowly but surely coming down and lives have been saved.

We have received funding from the Tobacco Trust Fund to expand much-needed services including tobacco cessation groups in more areas of rural Oahu, as well as providing innovative initiatives such as our inpatient bedside counseling for smoking cessation and a campaign to encourage family members to quit together. HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 cuts the entire revenue stream dedicated to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. This Trust Fund is vital to saving lives in our community. It is critical to continue funding tobacco prevention and stop smoking programs to protect our children and their families' health. Again, our efforts work. We're saving lives by helping people quit smoking and in turn this saves the state of Hawaii tremendous amounts of money in related healthcare expenses.

Please do your part in keeping funds flowing to organizations that are committed to saving lives in Hawaii and securing a tobacco-free future for the next generation. Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Davidann".

Beth Davidann
Castle Medical Center
Wellness & Lifestyle Medicine Center, Director
davidabz@ah.org
808-263-5050



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 23, 2010
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2542 HD1 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS

Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members of the committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports passage of HB 2542 HD1 Proposed SD1 for further discussion.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This bill addresses the fiscal year 2009-2010 budget shortfall by transferring to the general fund an unspecified amount of excess balances from certain special funds.

The Chamber understands the fiscal budget crisis the state is going through. Generally, the Chamber does not support diverting special fund monies to the general fund. However, given the current situation, the Chamber recognizes the need for the state to review different options to make up for the budget deficit.

One transfer we do have concerns about relate to the transfer of funds from the Tobacco Settlement Moneys. The transfer will reduce funding of a tobacco prevention and control program. Studies have shown that cuts to prevention programs result directly into higher smoking rates, which in turn increases health care costs, lost productivity, increase absenteeism, higher life insurance premium costs, greater risk of occupational injuries and work time spent on smoking rituals and costlier disability. Therefore, efforts to support tobacco prevention programs will probably save the next generation and our state from skyrocketing health care and economic costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

1001 Kalia Street, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
Phone: 808.445.0314
Fax: 808.293.8940
Email: info@childandfamily.org
www.childandfamily.org



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www.childandfamily.org



March 12, 2010

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee
Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542
Hearing: March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Senators,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542.

My name is Novelyn Hinazumi, Program Director for Child and Family Service's Kaua'i Family Center Tobacco Cessation Program. We ask that you please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Funding for tobacco prevention and treatment programs like ours work and save our State hundreds of millions of dollars.

Our Kauai Family Center Tobacco Cessation Program helps Kauai adults quit smoking. Our clients range from those that simply need and want to quit smoking, to those that also are dealing with homeless or mental illness. We outreach to folks across the island, hold cessation classes every quarter (each class is 8 weeks long), and hold individual counseling sessions.

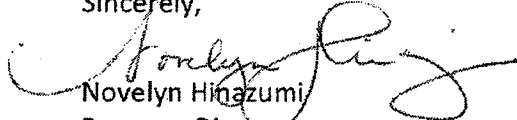
Our work is so important because we have seen the health issues that come with smoking including the loss of our clients who didn't quit before it was too late. It is such a pleasure to work with our clients who have smoked for 40 years and have quit! They appreciate the skills we provide and the genuineness of our staff to help them quit smoking. Their families are also grateful when their loved one quits because it means health for everyone, including the children.

If the revenue stream from the Tobacco Settlement is taken away from funding for tobacco prevention and control, Kauai residents will not have access to culturally appropriate services to help them quit. Smokers on Kauai are able to connect with someone locally in our community and our clients trust our program & staff. Our work is not done as I am sure you yourself know of someone that smokes. We still have many people to serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition and the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition and the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Novelyn Hinozumi".

Novelyn Hinozumi
Program Director
Child & Family Service



To: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Trisha Y. Nakamura, Esq., Policy and Advocacy Director
Date: March 22, 2010
Hrg: Senate Committee on WAM; March 23, 2010 in Room 211
Re: **Strong Opposition to Part III of HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to Part III of HB 2542 HD 1, Proposed SD 1, which will cut funds from the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund and cap the amount in the Fund at \$7,000,000 after July 1 of each fiscal year.

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawai'i (Coalition) is the only independent organization in Hawai'i whose sole mission is to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. The Coalition, along with its founding members, played key roles in setting up the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund, which now receives 6.5% of the Tobacco Settlement—nearly 75% less than 1999 when it was established.

I. The Tobacco Settlement Special Fund and a Significant Amount of the Settlement Dollars Are Meant to Fund Tobacco Prevention and Cessation

Hawai'i receives Tobacco Settlement moneys as the result of a settlement entered into between 46 states and the major tobacco companies to recover damages for tobacco-related health care costs paid by taxpayers because of the harms caused by cigarettes. The Tobacco Settlement is intended to address and prevent the harms from smoking. When the Hawaii State Legislature created the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund, it made a promise to the people to reduce youth use of tobacco use and to promote the public health.

Act 304, SLH 1999 (SB 1034, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1) lays out this promise. The Tobacco Settlement Special Fund was created to “serve as a medium for a public-private partnership to . . . **serve as a mechanism to maximize financial resources for tobacco prevention and control, health promotion and disease prevention programs, children’s health programs, and to serve as a long-term source of stable funding for prevention-oriented public health efforts.**” For the last ten years, our State Legislature has honored this promise—to reduce tobacco use to reduce and address healthcare costs caused by smoking. **If this Part III passes, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund, which already receives 75% less than when it was first created, will suffer a significant reduction in existing funds.**

II. Funding Cuts Have Already Restricted Tobacco Prevention Efforts

Cuts in funding so far have already resulted in cuts to services and entire programs such as the prevention programs from the American Lung Association and Kalihi Palama Health Center's tobacco treatment and prevention programs. The Kalihi Palama Health Center ran a play called Crossroads which educated youth about tobacco and modeled ways to reject tobacco use—from 2004 to 2009, they performed their play in over 85 schools including August Ahrens Elementary, 'Ewa Beach Elementary, Wai'alaie Elementary, Kokohead Elementary, and Jarret Middle School, Dole Middle School, and Kapolei Middle School. The play has ended. The Trust Fund gives grants to nonprofits which are able to fill in gaps that State agencies cannot. Often, they work in communities and offer culturally appropriate and relevant services to help people quit and to educate youth on the dangers associated with smoking.

III. Hawai'i Residents Want Tobacco Settlement Dollars to Go to Tobacco Prevention

A statewide poll of 500 residents across the state was conducted by the Coalition in December of 2009.

- **92% of Hawai'i residents agree that Tobacco Settlement dollars should go to tobacco prevention.** Of those 79% said it was “very important.”
- When asked whether Hawai'i should continue to fund tobacco prevention at the current level of 6.5% or cut tobacco prevention funding and spend the money to help balance the budget, **75% said we should continue to fund tobacco prevention** compared to 19% who said we should use the money to help balance the budget.

Hawai'i residents understand that tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs are critical for public health and important to their families and communities.

IV. Tobacco Prevention and Control Works

In the last ten years, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has saved lives. We've reduced smoking from 1 in 4 youths to 1 in ten youths from 2000-2007.¹ Public Health Epidemiologist Tonya Lowery St. John reports that the reduction in smoking rates between 2002 and 2008 resulted in 42,300 fewer adult smokers in the state. “This decrease has spared approximately 14,100 lives from tobacco-related deaths. It has saved an estimated \$402 million

¹ In 2007, 9.7% of high school youth reported smoking compared to 24.5% in 2000. See Department of Health, “Data Highlights from the 2007 Hawaii Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) and Comparisons with Prior Years,” available at <http://www.hhdw.org/cms/uploads/Data%20Source%3A%20YTS/2007HYTSSummary1.pdf>.

in direct medical costs, of which \$53.9 million would have been for Medicaid expenditures and State of Hawaii's share would have been \$22.4 million.”²

We have learned from other states that cuts in funding will undermine successes made in reducing smoking rates.

Although we’ve made significant progress in reducing tobacco use and saving lives because of the investment in tobacco prevention and control, tobacco use remains a serious health issue. In fact, lung cancer associated with tobacco use kills more women than breast cancer in Hawai‘i. And 1,400 Hawai‘i youth become daily smokers each year.

We ask that you not pass Part III of HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 as it will cut funding from the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. **Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. We ask that you hold this measure in Committee.**

² Calculations and sources on file with author in email.



COALITION FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

We Must Continue Funding Tobacco Prevention and Quit Smoking Programs in Hawai'i

Tobacco Prevention works and saves lives and money.

Smoking still kills too many of our friends and family.

Smoking kills more people than alcohol, murders, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs and suicides COMBINED. 1400 children in Hawai'i start smoking every year. 1100 smokers in Hawai'i will die each year from their own smoking.

Tobacco prevention programs keep kids from smoking.

In-school and after-school education programs and public messages have reduced high-school youth smoking in Hawai'i from 25% to less than 10% in just 7 years. Because of tobacco prevention efforts, thousands of children are safe from illness and early death from smoking-related cancers and diseases.

Quit-smoking programs work and help smokers quit.

Hawaii's adult smoking rate has dropped from 22.2% to 15.4% and helped thousands live longer, healthier lives. Hawaii's Tobacco Quitline, group counseling in local communities, and services that offer gums, patches and nicotine replacement all help smokers kick the habit.

Funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs saves money in health care and business costs.

Smoking costs businesses and the economy millions in lost productivity and other business costs of having chronically ill employees. Funding Tobacco Prevention is a smart investment for Hawaii's pocketbook and its future.

Hawai'i can't afford more cuts to tobacco prevention.

Tobacco Prevention is the only line of defense to protect children from the \$42 million tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly product in Hawai'i every year. Other states that cut tobacco prevention saw smoking rates for children increase ... condemning thousands more of our children to lifelong illness and possibly early death.

Last year the state legislature cut funding by half. We can't let them cut more. We must preserve tobacco prevention to protect our children and families.

We must continue Funding Tobacco Prevention and Quit Smoking Programs in Hawai'i.

Need more information or want to help? Go to www.tobaccofreehawaii.org or call us at 946-6851.

Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Hawaii

a COCA-COLA ENTERPRISES company

Senator Donna Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

949 Mapunapuna Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
808-839-6711
808-834-7718 Fax

Tuesday, March 23, 2010
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

RE: HB 2542 HD1 SD1 (Proposed) - RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS

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

My name is Dan Whitford, Area Vice President for Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Hawaii (Coca-Cola), **testifying in opposition to HB 2542 HD1 SD1** which, in part, proposes to transfer \$1 million from the deposit beverage container deposit special fund to the general fund.

As an active participant in the initial legislative discussions on the bottle tax, I sat before this Committee and pledged that Coca-Cola would continue to do its part in keeping empty cans and bottles out of the litter stream. The Department of Health, at the time, committed to using the funds to develop recycling programs and making the redemption of empties easy for the people of the state. I am pleased to report that our company is doing its part. Coca-Cola has engaged in partnerships and launched environmental initiatives and across the globe. The Coca-Cola system is a lead sponsor of the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup (ICC). The ICC is the largest one-day volunteer event in the world devoted to cleaning oceans and waterways. On September 20, 2008, sixty-three members of the Coca-Cola ohana gathered at Kailua Beach Park to collect over 200 pounds of trash threatening to impact the ocean and wildlife.

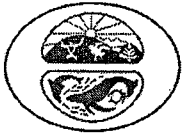
Supporters of the bottle tax argued that passage of the initiative would change the way Hawaii recycles, while opponents of the measure saw a raid of the fund from the earliest discussions. If this fund has not been adequately utilized, Coca-Cola respectfully suggests that the Department of Health be urged to comply with their recycling mandate.

Unfortunately, we have not seen the recycling programs that the Department committed to implement. The Hawaii State Auditor's 2005 Audit of the Deposit Beverage Container Program noted that, "In the bill's preamble, the Legislature emphasized that recycling is an important element of an integrated solid waste management system, which can protect and preserve environmental resources and reduce economic costs to residents and businesses. The Legislature also noted a need to expand participation in recycling programs and minimize costs to those participating and to government. The purpose of Act 176 is to increase participation in deposit programs, increase recycling rates for specified deposit beverage containers, provide a connection between manufacturing decisions and recycling program management, and reduce litter."

We are significantly concerned that even a partial depletion of the deposit beverage container special fund could result in an increase in the handling fee. The beverage industry and consumers will be expected to fund shortfalls in the program.

Coca-Cola respectfully requests that the Committee delete Section 15 the proposed draft of HB 2542 HD1 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

HB 2542 HD 1 SD 1 Relating to Non-General Funds
Hearing: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 9:30 am Room 211

Opposition to HB 2542 HD 1 SD 1

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i opposes two sections of HB 2542 HD 1 SD 1, which addresses the fiscal year 2009-2010 budget shortfall by transferring to the general fund an unspecified amount of excess balances from certain special funds; amends the refundable charge of the fuel tax credit for commercial fishers to be from the state highway fund; requires moneys in excess of a certain amount in the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund to lapse to the emergency budget and reserve fund each June 30; amends the disposition of revenues collected pursuant to chapter 245, HRS. Effective July 1, 2020.

Specifically, we oppose the one-time transfer of \$2 million from the Natural Area Reserve Fund and \$1 million from the Land Conservation Fund. These two funds support very important programs for the people of Hawai'i, including the Natural Area Reserves (which are mostly ceded land); watershed protection; protection of habitat for threatened and endangered Hawaiian species; the Youth Conservation Corps; public-private partnerships on private land; and the purchase of land for open space, beach access, cultural sites, recreation, and agriculture.

Funding for these two funds has already been reduced by roughly 50% in recent years because of the depressed real estate market. Furthermore, in 2009, to help balance the budget, the state legislature reduced the amount of the conveyance tax going into the Natural Area Reserve Fund from 25% to 20% for 3 years. We urge you not to make any more cuts to the conveyance tax funds.

Please oppose the two sections of HB 2542 HD 1 SD 1 that transfer funds from the Natural Area Reserve Fund and Land Conservation Fund to the General Fund. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

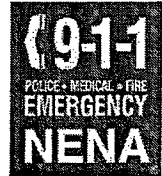


Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu

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President: Maura O'Connor * Treasurer: Kim Ramos * Secretary: Douglas Lamerson
Directors: Madelyn D'Enbeau * Maka'ala Ka'aumoana * Hannah Springer
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler



9-1-1
INDUSTRY ALLIANCESM



**HB 2542, HD1 TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY
THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY NUMBER ASSOCIATION (NENA)
THE 9-1-1 INDUSTRY ALLIANCE (9IA)
CTIA – THE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION®**

March 23, 2010

On behalf of the wireless industry and the national 9-1-1 community, CTIA¹, the 9-1-1 Industry Alliance (9IA)² and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA)³ submit the following testimony in opposition to HB 2542, HD1, the “Transfer of Non General Funds”, which will take \$5 million in revenue collected from wireless consumers under the auspices of 9-1-1 and spend the revenue for general purposes. This funding is extremely critical to our nation’s 9-1-1 systems, ensuring that wireless 9-1-1 callers can be quickly and accurately located in emergency situations. These wireless emergency calls help to save lives, locate missing children, mitigate property damage by allowing timely response, and prevent numerous crimes. NENA, the 9IA and CTIA are very cognizant of the critical budget issues that currently face Hawai’i. However, in the interest of public safety, this fund needs to be used for its intended purpose. We consider this particularly important given the fact that the Hawai’i legislature already took \$16 million from the fund at the start of this fiscal year.

Wireless carriers annually collect nearly \$2 billion dollars of dedicated taxes, fees and surcharges from wireless consumers for the express purpose of supporting and upgrading the capabilities of the 6,174 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) that exist across the U.S. In addition to the nearly \$2 billion dollars annually collected from consumers and remitted to state and local governments, wireless service providers have also expended billions to modify their networks to enable them to identify and locate wireless 9-1-1 callers.

This significant investment of capital provided in good faith by wireless consumers through 9-1-1 fees or surcharges has been, and continues to be, extremely critical in supporting public safety in any given state, including Hawai’i. However, the taxes and fees collected from wireless consumers at the state and local level under the auspices of E9-1-1 deployment need to be solely dedicated to the advancement of E9-1-1 deployment and not used for other revenue purposes. Not only is this the appropriate policy in the best

¹ CTIA – The Wireless Association® is the international organization of the wireless communications industry for both wireless carriers and manufacturers. Membership in the organization covers Commercial Mobile Radio Service (“CMRS”) providers and manufacturers, including cellular, broadband PCS, ESMR, and AWS, as well as providers and manufacturers of wireless data services and products.

² 9IA is a national industry association of over two dozen public safety emergency communications companies which advocates for the development of emergency communications technology and infrastructure and policy, for the good of public safety and the public it serves. (See www.911alliance.org for more information.)

³ NENA is *The Voice of 9-1-1*TM. NENA promotes implementation and awareness of 9-1-1 as North America’s universal emergency number and the advancement of Next Generation 9-1-1 systems. NENA is the leading professional non-profit organization dedicated solely to 9-1-1 emergency communications issues. NENA serves its nearly 7,000 members in 48 chapters across the U.S., Canada and Mexico through policy advocacy, establishment of technical and operational standards, certification programs and a broad spectrum of educational offerings. Find out more at www.nena.org.

interest of Hawai'i's citizens and the visitors that depend on an effective 9-1-1 system, but also it is consistent with the direction of the United States Congress.

As a result of other states diverting money from their 9-1-1 funds, the U.S. Congress has taken several steps to prevent this practice from occurring. First, through the ENHANCE 911 Act of 2004 (Pub. Law 108-494), Congress made clear that states are ineligible for federal 9-1-1 grant money if the state has misallocated 9-1-1 fees for unintended purposes. The National 9-1-1 Office, which will administer the federal 9-1-1 grant program, has incorporated this requirement into its regulations for administration of these grants. If Hawai'i diverts their 9-1-1 funds as directed by HB 2542, HD1 the state will be automatically ineligible to apply for such funds in the future.

More recently, Congress passed the NET 9-1-1 Improvement Act (Pub. Law 110-283) that also highlights the need to keep 9-1-1 fees protected for the purposes intended. This law addresses the issue of state 9-1-1 fund diversions in two important respects. First, the law makes clear that state and local governments have the authority to impose 9-1-1 fees on wireless and voice over-IP (VoIP) providers only if the fees are used for their intended purpose:

Nothing in this Act, the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008, or any Commission regulation or order shall prevent the imposition and collection of a fee or charge applicable to commercial mobile services or IP-enabled voice services specifically designated by a State, political subdivision thereof, Indian tribe, or village or regional corporation serving a region established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (85 Stat. 688) for the support or implementation of 9-1-1 or enhanced 9-1-1 services, provided that the fee or charge is obligated or expended only in support of 9-1-1 and enhanced 9-1-1 services, or enhancements of such services, as specified in the provision of State or local law adopting the fee or charge. For each class of subscribers to IP-enabled voice services, the fee or charge may not exceed the amount of any such fee or charge applicable to the same class of subscribers to telecommunications services.

Second, the law also requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to monitor the practice of state implementation and collection of 9-1-1 fees:

To ensue efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the collection and expenditure of fees for the support or implementation of 911 or E-911 services, the Commission[FCC] shall submit a report within 1 year after the date of enactment of the 911 Modernization and Public Safety Act of 2007, and annually thereafter, to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives detailing the status in each State of the collection and distribution of 911 fees, and including findings on the amount of revenues obligated or expended by each State or political subdivision thereof for any purpose other than the purpose for which any fee or charges are specified. (H.R. 3403 Sec 6(f)(20).

The wireless industry and the national 9-1-1 community are committed to working together with states to ensure emergency 9-1-1 services is a coordinated and collaborative operation between the public and private sectors and provided at a reasonable cost. The capital provided to state governments by wireless consumers through taxes, fees or surcharges is extremely critical in supporting the acquisition of the necessary tools to receive and act on wireless calls in order to save a life, locate a missing child or prevent a crime.

Based on the current budget approved by the Wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 Board there will be only \$5.6 million in the fund at the end of this fiscal year. Taking \$5 million from the fund would leave it at a critically low balance of only about \$600,000. In short, in addition to being contrary to federal law, diverting revenues away from the 9-1-1 fund at this time is not in the best interest of the citizens of Hawai'i who have come to rely on an effective and dependable 9-1-1 system. Therefore, the wireless industry, the 9-1-1 Industry Alliance and the National Emergency Number Association urge the Hawai'i Senate to oppose HB 2542, HD1 and not divert critical public safety funds for general revenue purposes.

Patrick Halley
Government Affairs Director
National Emergency Number Association



Paul Fahey
Executive Director
9-1-1 Industry Alliance



K. Dane Snowden
Vice President of External and State Affairs
CTIA- The Wireless Association





**"In Working, One Learns"
Hana School Building Program**

Date: 3/22/2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-General Funds -
Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

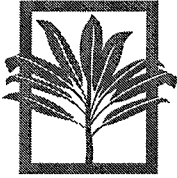
Aloha Senators,

My name is Raymond Henderson, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1. This bill proposes to cap the balance of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund at \$7,000,000, with any amounts over the \$7,000,000 to go to be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund.

Please do not divert funds away from Tobacco Prevention and Control programs. Our program and efforts must continue to save lives and our State money. Our adult and youth smoking rates are down because of the comprehensive efforts to have counter-marketing messages, youth prevention programs, and quit-smoking classes. But we still have more work to do. Every year, smoking costs Hawaii over half a billion dollars and the tobacco industry is spending \$42 million to market their deadly products here. Our program is a tobacco prevention program that impacts young men and women in high school in the small and isolated community of Hana, Maui. We provide at-risk high-school youth with a way to learn academic subjects through real-life application—a way that connects them and their community, builds their self-esteem, and shows them they have the power to change their future. Cutting this funding is likely to impact our ability to provide our award winning program that serves as a positive tobacco prevention program for the youth of our community. Cutting this funding will harm our ability to influence the lives of our young people dramatically. Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer our testimony in opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1. Please take out all language that would reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control.

Sincerely,

Raymond Henderson, Executive Director - Admin
808-264-5724
ray@hanabuild.org



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Hon. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

The Hon. Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2542 H.D.1 Proposed SD1

Relating to Non-General Funds

Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer

March 23, 2010, 9:30 a.m., Room 211

The Hawaii Primary Care Association is opposed to Part IV of the proposed Senate Draft 1 of House Bill 2542, which delays the scheduled increase in cigarette tax dispositions into the community health centers special fund by three years. Our testimony is limited to this portion of the measure. Federally qualified health centers (community health centers/CHCs) receive a portion of state cigarette tax revenues to provide health care to the uninsured and vulnerable populations across the state.

- Uninsured visits to CHCs grew by 7% over the course of the past year. The visit volume exceeds the number subsidized by DOH. This year at least one CHC has already exhausted its allotment for FY 2010.
- When DHS dropped adult dental coverage as a Med-QUEST benefit, the result was an additional 100,000+ people who were unable to afford essential dental care, services which might be provided by CHCs if resources were available to expand capacity and cover operating costs.
- When DOH slashed its in-house capacity to provide mental health services, it left thousands of people with nowhere to turn for help except community health centers which are struggling with the severity of the conditions of these patients and limits of their own and other community resources.
- Community health center patients increased by 42% over the past five years, with an even greater growth (62%) at neighbor islands CHCs.

With the increase in need we have seen since the recession has crippled Hawaii's economy, this is not the time to reduce resources for the community health centers. The patient-centered CHC model of care addresses the health and access problems of the most vulnerable, provides high quality care, and saves the State a lot of money (\$128 million in 2008). Additional funds would help CHCs build capacity to do more, and save more.

We urge you to hold this measure or delete any provisions that reduce funding to community health centers, and instead support continued funding of these critically needed programs. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 2542 H.D.1 Proposed SD1.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Alan Shian, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Acadia Hawaii Residential Treatment Center (Formerly Children's Comprehensive Services)

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctr. of HI

Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

College Connections

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kaula, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kaula-Hecia Ecumenical Youth) Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kolua Kalihii Valley

Kula No Na Poe Hawaii

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
Kona Unit

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kaula

March 19, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Mays and Means

Testimony in Support of the Intent of HB 2542 HD1 Relating to Non-General Funds

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports the intent of HB2542 HD1 Relating to Non-General Funds and recommends an amendment.

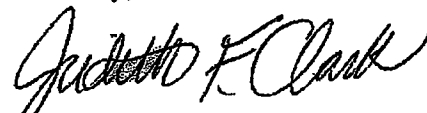
Given the dismal economic situation and severe revenue deficit, use of excess monies in special funds is a reasonable and viable option.

HYSN recommends that the bill be amended to designate these funds for health, education, and human services programs. This is desirable because:

- Low income families, children, elderly, and persons with disabilities are those most severely affected by the economic recession. Health and social services that support vulnerable populations are needed now more than ever.
- The furloughs in the public school system have resulted in the lowest number of instructional days of any state. Our children need and deserve adequate educational opportunities. Restoring the school calendar should be one of our highest priorities.
- Funding for health, human services, and education supports economic recovery. The non-profit sector is the fourth largest employer in Hawaii, accounting for more than 41,000 jobs. Non-profit organizations are small businesses that purchase goods and services, which benefit all sectors of the economy, such as transportation and real estate.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-General Funds

Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

My name is LorrieAnn Santos, Co-project Director and Program Manager with `Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network, a program of Papa Ola Lokahi, funded through the National Cancer Institute to reduce the burden of cancer among Native Hawaiians.

HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 proposes to cap the balance of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund at \$7,000,000, with any amounts over the \$7,000,000 to go to be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund.

Please do not divert funds away from Tobacco Prevention and Control programs. Hawaii's programs and efforts must continue to save lives and our State money, through reduced health care costs, workers productivity and a smoke-free environment. Our adult and youth smoking rates are down because of the comprehensive efforts of counter-marketing messages, youth prevention programs, and quit-smoking services.

BUT we still have work to do

- More than 153,000 residents smoke and smokeless tobacco use among our youth and service-oriented occupations like police officers is rising.
- 1,400 youth in Hawaii become daily smokers every year.
- Native Hawaiians still have the highest smoking rates and highest prevalence of smoking-related diseases (diabetes, cancer, heart disease and asthma) in our state, as well as higher smoking rates than the nation.
- Smoking costs Hawaii over half a billion dollars in annual health care costs and lost productivity to the tobacco industry's \$42 million marketing of their harmful products here.

Papa Ola Lokahi, a non-profit community-based consortium of public institutions and private organizations committed to improving the health status of Native Hawaiians and Hawaii's general public is proud to have developed and implemented a comprehensive tobacco-cessation protocol among the 5 Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems statewide as a former grantee of Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Funds. Through our collaborative efforts with community, state and national partners each of the 5 Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems

have integrated tobacco cessation services into their array of health promotion and disease prevention programs, including trained and certified staff and culturally tailored health education materials and resources like www.nativehabit.org.

Since 2005, Papa Ola Lokahi and the 5 Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems have been a part of Hawaii's comprehensive tobacco landscape which has reduced smoking rates from 21.2% in 2002 to 15.4% in 2009 for the general public and 33.8% to 21.2% in 2009 for Native Hawaiians. Moreover, youth rates have gone from 1 in 4 to 1 in 10 from 2000 to 2009.

When other states such as California and Massachusetts cut funding for tobacco prevention and control they saw an increase in smoking rates. Taking the Tobacco Settlement monies will eliminate essential community tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs that will ultimately result in the elimination of jobs, thereby worsening our current economic recession with significant negative long-term effects.

Please remove any and all language that would reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Sincerely,
LorrieAnn Santos
526-1700
lsantos@papaolalokahi.org
894 Queen Street, Honolulu, HI 96813



16-540 Kea'au-Paho Highway, Ste.6
Kea'au, HI 96749
Ph.(808) 966-6354

SENATE WAYS AND
MEANS COMMITTEE

Regarding HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Tuesday March 23, 2010 9:30 AM

Dear Senators:

My name is Linda Penn and I am beseeching you to please vote to "hold" HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds in Committee or to vote against cuts to funding. I care about tobacco prevention and control having seen first hand the many consequences when people are not educated.

I work at Kea'au Youth Business Center, which does entrepreneurial and skill building programs for the extremely disadvantaged youth in the Puna District. These funds are important. Without funding for tobacco prevention and control, our doors would have to shut.

We are a tobacco-free, drug-free zone in the middle of an area that is overly saturated with both. We are one of the few remaining Youth Services in this area that engages youth before they enter a life path of no return which leads to violent acting out or incarceration. We have had many success stories, i.e. one of our students won the National Spirit of Youth Award. Our students either quit smoking (or chewing) tobacco and most will not even begin. The programs we offer in sound recording, digital arts and culinary arts are appreciated immensely by parents and children alike who have somewhere to go and learn skills they can use in life. We are not simply a "hang-out" facility. Students come here and learn and thrive because they bond with our staff. We are highly trained instructors and teachers who have worked with youth for many decades.

Our students create video and radio PSA's that point out the dangers of tobacco use. With all the social services being cut back, it would be a tragedy to have to close a

facility that has proven its worth to the community. The end result would actually cost the state more as many of these children could end up incarcerated.

In March, 2007, the House of Representatives presented Kea'au Youth Business Center with a certificate congratulating us on opening our facility. The 24th Legislature of the State of Hawaii, "extend its warmest aloha and sincere best wishes...and offers its support and encouragement for continued success in all future endeavors."

I sincerely hope that the 27th Legislature will continue to support us.

Please vote to "hold" HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds in Committee or to vote against cuts to funding. Hawaii needs funding for tobacco prevention and control. Our efforts work—we've saved lives and our State money. We still have so much to do. Please ensure funding for tobacco prevention and control."

Sincerely,

Linda Penn

HCR2 Box 6838,

Kea'au, HI 96749



The Nature Conservancy
Hawai'i Program
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817

tel (808) 537-4508
fax (808) 545-2019
www.nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
(Provided by Mark Fox, Director of External Affairs)
Commenting on H.B. 2542 SD1 Proposed Relating to Non-General Funds
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 23, 2010, 9:30AM, Room 211

The Nature Conservancy appreciates that these are unprecedented times for our State budget and it is important to find ways to balance priorities and get our economy back on sound footing. We are specifically not opposing H.B. 2542 SD1 Proposed, particularly Sections 19 and 20 that would transfer some funds from the DLNR's Land Conservation Fund (LCF) and Natural Area Reserve (NAR) Fund to the General Fund. We do ask, however, that as the Committee and the Legislature evaluates unexpended balances in these funds you do your best not to cripple valuable program.

The watershed protection and invasive species control programs that are supported by the Natural Area Reserve Fund are **already experiencing more than 50% cuts** in State funding. These cuts are happening regardless of H.B. 2542 because the conveyance tax source of funding is drastically reduced with the down real estate market. The attached sheet shows the impacts on these programs from declining conveyance tax revenues over the last few years, and the resultant funding and staff cuts.

The partnerships that receive money from the NAR Fund and manage our natural resources have stopped filling open positions, will lay off more staff in the coming months, and have pulled back on protection efforts. Major additional cuts and the loss of more experienced staff will render many natural resource protection and invasive species programs either inoperable or severely diminished, leaving our watersheds and communities vulnerable to threats which do not recognize recessions.

Significant belt tightening is necessary, and natural resource programs are sharing and will continue to share in that burden.

Attachment

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

S. Haunani Apoliona Christopher J. Benjamin Zadoc W. Brown, Jr. Anne Carter Samuel A. Cooke Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge
Thomas Gottlieb Peter Ho Stanley Hong Donald G. Horner J. Douglas Ing Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Kaneshiro Bert A. Kobayashi, Jr.
Faye Watanabe Kurren Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Bonnie P. McCloskey Bill D. Mills Wayne Minami Michael T. Pfeffer
H. Monty Richards Jean E. Rolles Scott Rolles Crystal Rose Nathan E. Smith Eric Yeaman

Programs	FY09 NARF Funding	FY10 NAR Funding	FY09 Staff Support	FY10 Staff Support
Kauai Watershed Alliance	\$294,190	\$125,000	14	3
Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership	\$320,000	\$100,000	8	5
East Molokai Watershed Partnership	\$124,000	\$110,000	2	2
Lanai Forest & Watershed Partnership	\$75,000	\$125,000	1	1.5
W. Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership	\$325,620	\$117,000	5	4
E. Maui Watershed Partnership	\$525,474	\$100,000	7	1
Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Prtnrshp	\$305,405	\$100,000	6	4
Kohala Watershed Partnership	\$235,500	\$100,482	4	1.2
Three Mountain Alliance	\$448,320	\$165,000	6	4.5
WP Subtotal	\$2,653,509	\$1,042,482	52	26.2
Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC)	\$397,300	\$100,000	6	2
Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC)	\$281,325	\$90,000	5	2
Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC)	\$323,025	\$200,000	7	4
Oahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC)	\$309,900	\$190,000	6	4
ISC Subtotal	\$1,311,550	\$580,000	24	12
Aquatic Invasive Species	\$344,700	\$280,000	6	5
Invasive Ants	\$30,000	\$40,000	1	1
Invasive Species Research Grants	\$375,000	\$0	5	0
Weed Risk Assessment	\$73,275	\$60,000	2	1
Invasive Species Outreach	\$234,150	\$130,000	4	1
West Nile Virus Detection & Suppression	\$224,475	\$0	2	0
HISC Support	\$101,250	\$114,200	2	1
HISC Subtotal	\$1,382,850	\$624,200	22	9
NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM	\$3,477,838	\$1,800,000	39	28
YOUTH CONSERVATION CORP	\$474,588	\$0	4	0



Path Clinic Smoke Free Program

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-General Funds

Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

My name is Renee Schuetter, RN, M.Ed., Executive Director of The Path Clinic. This clinic provides comprehensive perinatal addiction services to women on Oahu with great success

HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 proposes to cap the balance of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund at \$7,000,000, with any amounts over the \$7,000,000 to go to be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund.

Please do not divert funds away from Tobacco Prevention and Control programs. Our program and efforts must continue to save lives and our State money. Our adult and youth smoking rates are down because of the comprehensive efforts to have counter-marketing messages, youth prevention programs, and quit-smoking classes. But we still have more work to do. Every year, smoking costs Hawaii over half a billion dollars and the tobacco industry is spending \$42 million to market their deadly products here.

The Path Clinic was recently granted Tobacco Prevention and Control funds to provide comprehensive smoking cessation services to pregnant women and women with young children on Oahu. In less than 8 weeks since beginning the program, Path has provided cessation interventions to 48 women and expects to support 150 – 180 women in becoming free of tobacco over three years. The program targets pregnant women and women who are likely to become pregnant again soon. The Cochrane Collaboration (2009) reports that smoking cessation programs for pregnant women do successfully help women quit and result in decreases in preterm births and low birth weight births by 20%. This represents a significant decrease in medical care costs which average over \$200,000 for the first year alone for a very low birth weight infant.

Additionally, The Path Clinic Smoke Free program serves a high proportion of women who also becoming free of addiction to methamphetamines or another substance. By becoming tobacco free as they become free as their primary drug, they decrease the likelihood of using the primary drug again by 20 – 25%.

Without funds for this program, The Path Clinic can not make intensive smoking cessation services available to women, even though such a program is cost effective in the short and long term. Additionally, loss of funding for this program may limit the clinic's ability to continue to operate during this difficult economic time. As a taxpayer, it is alarming that an approach that is so successful in improving birth outcomes, in decreasing substance use among young women , in supporting women to capably parent, and in preventing repeat pregnancies may not survive because of the reflexive manner in which funding for social service programs are being slashed. I urge you to take a closer look at the value of this and other Tobacco Prevention and Control Programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1. Please take out all language that would reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Sincerely,

Renee Schuetter, RN, M.Ed.
Executive Director
The Path Clinic
845 22nd Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
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THE PHOENIX CENTER

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March 22nd, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and means
Hawaii State Legislature, Honolulu, HI
Fax: 1-800-586-6659

Re: OPPOSITION to HB 2542, HD1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-General Funds
Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Senators:


This letter is in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD1, Proposed SD1.

Please do not divert funds away from Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control programs! These programs continue to save lives and our State money in both the long and short term.. Adult and youth smoking rates are down largely due to strong counter-marketing messages, implementation of youth smoking prevention programs and smoking cessation classes. If these funds are lost, many very effective programs will no longer be able to assist uninsured adults who want to quit smoking. Every year smoking costs Hawaii over half a billion dollars and the tobacco industry continues to spend \$42 million annually to market their products here.

I work for a private psychiatric practice and just received training for smoking cessation intervention to assist our patients to quit smoking. Tobacco Prevention and Control programs provide necessary adjunct community support for patients trying to stop smoking. In the past we have been able to refer patients to Kick the Nic support groups but those are no longer available. The Tobacco Quit Line is now one of the few resources left for our uninsured clients who want to quit smoking.

Please remove any language that would reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and immediate action to rectify the potential damage passage of this House Bill 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 would cause.

Sincerely,



Diana Hollingsworth, Office Manager
phoenixadmin@hawaii.rr.com

The Phoenix Center
169 Pu'ueo Street

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Transfer of non general funds

BILL NUMBER: HB 2542, Proposed SD-1

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

BRIEF SUMMARY: Provides that the legislature determines that there are excess amounts in the following funds and authorizes the director of finance to transfer such excess amounts to the general fund on July 1, 2010:

Agriculture reserve fund	\$1,500,000
State motor pool revolving fund	1,500,000
State risk management revolving fund	2,000,000
Wireless enhanced 911 special fund	5,000,000
Stadium special fund	2,000,000
Medicaid investigations recovery fund	1,500,000
HCDCA special assessment reserve fund	2,000,000
Convention center enterprise special fund	5,000,000
Foreign trade zone special fund	500,000
Compliance resolution fund-business registration fund	1,500,000
DCCA driver education fund	1,400,000
Loss mitigation grant fund	3,200,000
DOE driver education fund	2,000,000
Deposit beverage container special fund	1,000,000
Tobacco settlement special fund	7,200,000
Neurotrauma special fund	1,000,000
Special fund for temporary disability benefits	7,000,000
Land conservation fund	1,000,000
Natural area reserve fund	2,000,000
Federal reimbursement maximization special fund	500,000
UH housing assistance revolving fund	2,000,000
University revenue-undertakings fund	5,000,000
UH research and training revolving fund	
Judiciary computer system special fund	2,000,000
Judiciary driver education and training special fund	1,500,000

On June 1, 2010, the director of finance is authorized to transfer from DBEDT to the general fund the sum of \$197,000 received from the U. S. Department of Commerce Market Development Cooperator

HB 2542, Proposed SD-1 - Continued

Program as a reimbursement to the State for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Amends HRS section 235-110.6 to provide that any refunds of the fuel tax credit for commercial fishers to be refunded shall be paid out of the highway fund.

Amends HRS section 328L-5 to provide that all moneys in excess of \$7,000,000 that remain in the balance of the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund on June 30 of each fiscal year shall lapse to the credit of the emergency budget and reserve fund.

Amends HRS section 245-3(a)(8) to extend the current disposition of tobacco tax revenues from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013 to provide that: (1) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii cancer research special fund; (2) 0.75 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the trauma system special fund; (3) 0.75 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the community health centers special fund; and (4) 0.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the emergency medical services special fund. After June 30, 2013 and thereafter: (1) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii cancer research special fund; (2) 1.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the trauma system special fund; (3) 1.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the community health centers special fund; and (4) 1.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the emergency medical services special fund.

Amends HRS section 392-62 to repeal the provision that all moneys in the special fund for disability benefits, under the custody of the director of DLIR shall be held in trust for the purposes of this part only and shall not be expended, released, or appropriated or otherwise disposed of for any other purpose.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2020

STAFF COMMENTS: The proposed measure would transfer just under \$60 million in non general funds that are determined to be in excess of what is needed in the respective funds to the general fund. Due to the state budget shortfall, lawmakers are searching for moneys to cover that shortfall and are tapping the various non general funds of the state.

In a report prepared by the state auditor, the report noted that, "Special funds give agencies full control of these unappropriated cash reserves, provide a way to skirt the general fund expenditure ceiling, and over time erode the general fund. Many experts say that special funds are likely to hamper budget administration. And from a legislative perspective, they are less desirable because they are not fully controlled by the appropriation process."

Given the findings of the Auditor and the current financial crisis, it is quite clear that the creation of numerous special funds has eroded the integrity of state finances. Moneys in special funds are neither subject to the general fund expenditure limitation nor to the close scrutiny that general funds are subject to in the budgeting process. Special funds which earmark general fund revenues cannot be justified as they restrict budget flexibility, create inefficiencies, and lessen accountability.

There is no doubt that carving out portions from the general fund has created the lack of funds lawmakers face each year. Such a shortfall will inevitably lead to a call for tax increases even though money abounds in these special funds. One only has to review the measures introduced each year which set up numerous new special funds or add new fees or charges, the receipts of which are earmarked for special funds, to

see the prolific establishment of special funds. The result is what this measure proposes to do, to raid these special funds.

As has been consistently noted, these fees were increased or approved and earmarked for totally irrelevant programs. The result has been this mismatch of either not enough funds to carry out the program or, as in this case, an excess of funds that then become the target for a raid like this. Lawmakers should learn a lesson and repeal many of the earmarked sources and their special funds and cease from creating any more new special funds or earmarking any more revenues for such worthy causes.

That being said, it should be noted that when the measure allowing the raid of the 911 fund bill was under consideration last session, the public safety community pointed out that raiding these earmarked funds for purposes other than those designated by the state statute would jeopardize any matching federal funding to develop next generation technology under the Public Safety Answering Point program (PSAP) that would develop a system that would accept text messaging, video streaming, and other forms of developing telecommunication technologies. It was reported that the National E-9-1-1 Implementation and Coordination Office was about to release grant information regarding the implementation of a \$43.5 million PSAP grant program. Officials were cautioned that any state that has diverted E-9-1-1 fees for purposes not authorized by the statute . . . would not be eligible to apply for grant funding. Whether or not the state actually took the \$16 million authorized by Act 79, SLH 2009, has not been confirmed, but if it was transferred to the general fund, then it appears Hawaii is no longer eligible for these federal grants.

Rather than merely raiding these funds, lawmakers need to bring all of these special fund financed programs back to the table along with their funding sources and then set priorities among the many programs given what limited dollars there may be and fund those programs deemed of highest priority and close those for which no funding is available.

While the measure also amends the disposition of tobacco tax revenues, the proposed measure would temporarily delay the increased earmarking of tobacco tax revenue until 2013, thereby allowing more tobacco tax revenue to be deposited into the general fund until 2013.

Finally, this measure directs that refunds of the tax credit for fuels tax paid by commercial fishers be paid out of the state highway fund. While this is a step in the right direction as the fuel taxes paid by these taxpayers are receipts of the state highway fund, it still allows the credit to reduce the income tax liability of the commercial fisher which should have been a realization of the state general fund. If lawmakers wish to recognize that these fuel taxes are being paid for non-highway use, consideration should be given to refunding the entire amount from the state highway fund much as agricultural users, such as the sugar and pineapple industry, were granted refunds for their fuel use on the plantations and not on the state's highways.

Digested 3/22/10

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

March 23, 2010

House Bill 2542, HD 1, PROPOSED SD 1 Relating to Non-General Funds

Chair Kim and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, I am Rick Tsujimura, representing T-Mobile USA, Inc. (T-Mobile).

T-Mobile opposes section 5 of House Bill 2542, HD 1, PROPOSED SD 1, which would take money from the wireless enhanced 911 fund (E911 fund) to finance the general fund. It must be clearly noted that the monies collected for the E911 fund come from consumers as a fee for the use of their cellular phones. It is a fee intended to benefit cellular phone users by being able to determine their location for first responders. The diversion of monies to the general fund will not benefit cellular phone users. This diversion then will turn a legal regulatory fee into an arguably unconstitutional tax as determined in the decision by the Hawaii Supreme Court in HIC v Lingle and undermines the purpose of those funds – public safety.

Forcing only cellular phone users to pay for a tax which serves the general public is not only legally suspect but as a matter of public policy unfair and an unjustified tax on a certain population for the benefit of the larger society. The legislature must exercise discipline in avoiding raids of funds which exist for one purpose for the benefit of society as a whole. On behalf of our customers who have paid this fee and continue to pay this fee into the E911 fund we respectfully request that this committee consider some other funding source.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Tobacco Education & Assistance Program



www.kickthenic.net

*Providing Intervention and Treatment Training to Health Care Providers in Hawaii
A program of Rising Up, Inc.*

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-General Funds
Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542, HD 1. Proposed SD1.

My name is Cara Sadira, Chief Executive Officer of Rising Up, Inc. aka Tobacco Education & Assistance Program.

Please oppose 2542, HD1 Proposed SD 1. Hawaii needs all current funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs to protect our children and families' health.

The Education & Assistance Program saves lives by offering tobacco treatment for rural, hard-to reach populations, and training to healthcare and social service professionals. We have personally assisted over 500 people to stop smoking. Our clients often have mental health and drug dependency issues. Many do not speak English, and are able to attend programs in their native language (Ilocano and Tagalog) thanks to tobacco trust fund money. **We have had clients enrolled in the program die of tobacco-related disease, because it was too late for them. Our clients, who have not died, have expressed to us that they are so grateful that we have saved their lives.** They report that they were having a hard time breathing, raiding trash bins for food, because cigarettes were so expensive, and looking for butts after smoking breaks around buildings. There are thousands of community members who need these programs in place such that they:

- Don't die
- Can improve their current health (enough to breathe)
- Can get a handle on finances enough to buy clean clothes for a job interview
- Can stop an addictive drug that slowly kills them while taking away their will to live and self-esteem in the process.

Additionally, our program provides intervention and treatment training for physicians, healthcare professionals, mental health workers, etc. such that those who work in the physical and mental health field can also assist their patients/clients to stop smoking. Unfortunately, those listed above do not receive this training in medical school, social service school, etc.

As Dr. Green can validate, our training alone is an efficient use of funds to save lives of valuable community members. We have brought in physicians, etc. to conduct CME trainings for hundreds of physicians.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, SD 1. Please oppose this measure.

Sincerely,

Cara Sadira, Director
Tobacco Education & Assistance Program
(808) 557-4838
cara@kickthenic.net

Contact: Cara Sadira, Project Director, Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist * Phone: (808) 557-4838 * Fax: 1-866-825-7496

E-mail cara@kickthenic.net * Address: 516 Pepekeo Place, Honolulu, HI 96825

THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



HAWAII

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY
COMMENTING ON HB 2542 SD 1 RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS
Senate Ways & Means Committee
Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 9:30 a.m., Rm. 211
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>.**

The Trust for Public Land's (TPL's) Hawaiian Islands Program was one of the many conservation organizations that supported the passage of the Legacy Lands Act in 2005, which established the Legacy Land Conservation Fund (LLCF), and provided additional funding to the Natural Area Reserve Fund (NARF) through the real estate conveyance tax. HB 2542 proposes to transfer \$1 million from the Legacy Land Conservation Fund and \$2 million from the Natural Area Reserve Fund to the General Fund for FY2010-11.

TPL notes that both the Legacy Land Conservation Fund and the Natural Area Reserve Fund have already suffered 50% in cuts since they are tied to the conveyance tax, and real estate sales have declined dramatically. This 50% level of cutbacks is far greater than any other State program. However, both the Legacy Land Conservation Fund and the Natural Area Reserve Fund serve important and critical purposes. The Legacy Land Conservation Fund enables our State to leverage substantial federal and private funds to protect our drinking water aquifers, preserve important cultural sites and landscapes, and continue access to our shorelines and beaches. The Natural Area Reserve Fund supports the management of our natural resources and controls invasive species, and fosters partnerships with private landowners that leverage federal and private contributions.

For example, in a transaction TPL hopes to close by March 31, the State will be acquiring 3,592 acres at Honouliuli Preserve for less than \$1 million from the State Legacy Land Conservation Fund, leveraging over \$3.3 million of federal dollars. In addition, private donations of \$345,000 will be established to support the State's management of the Preserve in the future. The Preserve will conserve important watershed above the Pearl

Harbor Aquifer, O'ahu's main source of drinking water, and important native habitat for dozens of threatened and endangered species, and treasured Hawaiian cultural sites. Without the State Legacy Land Conservation Fund, this project could have never have happened -- and over \$3.6 million in federal and private dollars would have been lost to the State and the future generations of Hawai'i's people..

There is no doubt that the State faces serious financial times. However, the Legacy Land Conservation Fund and the Natural Area Reserve Fund, will be automatically cut by 50%, shouldering a disproportionate burden of the State's shortfall.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lea Hong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -".

Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands Program Director
524-8563 (office), 783-3653 (cell)

Joyce Masamitsu
Associate Director
State Public Policy, West Area



March 23, 2010

The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii Legislature

Verizon Wireless
15505 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92618
Phone 949 286-8668
Mobile 949 233-0925
Fax 949 286-8009
joyce.masamitsu@VerizonWireless.com

RE: Opposition to House Bill 2542

Dear Senator Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Verizon Wireless, I am writing this letter of strong opposition to House Bill 2542, legislation that would inappropriately divert Wireless E9-1-1 funds from their intended use to ensure availability of E9-1-1 services to wireless users and to provide critical support to Public Safety, and instead divert monies for the second consecutive year, to the General Fund.

While Verizon Wireless recognizes that the state of Hawaii is currently faced with a serious budget deficit, and policymakers are seeking ways to meet the state's fiscal needs, we do not believe that diverting funding resources essential to Public Safety to maintain, support and upgrade critical emergency 911 systems is warranted or justified.

Verizon Wireless specifically requests HB 2542 be amended, to remove "Section 2" in its entirety, leaving the wireless E9-1-1 fund intact. Failure to do so, risks jeopardizing the safety of Hawaii residents and visitors, who use wireless Enhanced 911 services to save lives, locate missing children and prevent numerous crimes.

Verizon Wireless customers are billed with a line item description "*HI State 911 Surcharge*" applied to their account every month, under the assumption that monies collected would be used for Wireless E-911 services. It would be unfair to wireless customers to bill them for a purpose for which the money is not used. The diversion of wireless 911 funds for purposes outside of wireless emergency services is therefore inappropriate.

Emergency 911 calls are increasingly placed by wireless users to report life-threatening emergencies. Today, 911 services are limited to voice calls however future technologies will allow PSAP's to receive text messaging and possibly picture and video communications. Such advanced service capabilities, will allow operators to more efficiently manage emergency communications received from wireless users and to more accurately assess the kind of emergency, the appropriate equipment, personnel or expertise first responders will need to best deal with the emergency. For this reason, Local Public Safety agencies will need additional funding beyond Phase I and Phase II

implementations to accommodate the deployment of essential Next Generation of 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) services in the very near future.

The wireless E-911 fund supports the deployment wireless 9-1-1 infrastructure and emergency services essential to the safety of the public. It provides a reliable funding resource for operators who accept emergency calls, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), to ensure their emergency systems are maintained and upgraded appropriately. Currently, PSAPs have a long lead-time in the procurement process for the counties to proceed with acquisition of equipment and services, so it is important for the fund to maintain adequate reserves. There is concern that a subsequent raid of the E9-1-1 fund, as proposed by SB 2695, will result in the PSAPs inability to support current emergency needs for public safety and will thwart access to procure new equipment to meet Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) deployment plans over the next 5 years. During these trying economic times, city and county budgets are also under siege, making the Wireless E9-1-1 fund increasingly important to ensure local government public safety agencies have access to resources needed to support critical emergency services, today and in the future.

Verizon Wireless is committed to our support of Public Safety needs in the state of Hawaii to ensure the ongoing availability, maintenance and upgrade of Wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 services as well as future Next Generation technologies that will expand the availability of emergency services assisting both the public and first responders. We believe that the legislature must move forward with its goals to address the gap in the state budget, without risking weakening the state's emergency E9-1-1 system by diverting funds for yet a second consecutive year. To this end, we respectfully ask Chairwoman Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee to not pass House Bill 2542 in its current form, and instead remove Section 2 that would transfer emergency wireless 9-1-1 fund revenues into the General Fund.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Joyce Masamitsu

WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER



March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-General
Funds
Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542, HD 1,
Proposed SD 1.

My name is Christy Inda, Director of the Preventive Health Department with the Waianae Coast
Comprehensive Health Center.

HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 proposes to cap the balance of the Tobacco Prevention and
Control Trust Fund at \$7,000,000, with any amounts over the \$7,000,000 to go to be transferred
to the Rainy Day Fund.

Please do not divert funds away from Tobacco Prevention and Control programs. Our program
and efforts must continue to save lives and our State money. Our adult and youth smoking rates
are down because of the comprehensive efforts to have counter-marketing messages, youth
prevention programs, and quit-smoking classes. But we still have more work to do. Every year,
smoking costs Hawaii over half a billion dollars and the tobacco industry is spending \$42 million
to market their deadly products here.

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center serves the federally designated medically
underserved rural community of Wai`anae and surrounding communities in the Leeward and
Central regions of the island of Oahu. It is the mission of the Health Center to make available to
all residents of the Wai`anae district complete comprehensive health and related human
services regardless of the ability to pay.

The Wai`anae Coast has the highest smoking prevalence in the State, with about 30% of the
adult population being current smokers. E Malama I Kou Ha (care for your life-giving breath) is a
tobacco cessation program at the Health Center that is funded by the Tobacco Prevention and
Control Trust Fund and provides much-needed services to adult residents of the Leeward Coast,
particularly Native Hawaiians and homeless. Approximately 20% of Native Hawaiians and 70% of
homeless individuals regularly smoke tobacco. Furthermore, Native Hawaiians have greater lung
cancer incidence and mortality rates, more than any other ethnicity in the State. Through

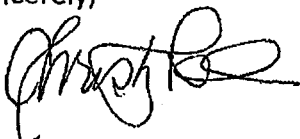
funding from the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund, we have been successfully implementing tobacco cessation and treatment programs in our community for nearly 15 years.

We hold classes on a regular basis at the Health Center and at two area homeless shelters. Our services are also requested on a quarterly basis at the Malama Recovery substance abuse program, and at least two other area homeless shelters. We serve a very vulnerable population. There are no other tobacco cessation programs on the Wai`anae Coast that offer free comprehensive tobacco cessation counseling and treatment services. In the last three years alone, we served nearly 700 individuals seeking tobacco cessation services. Fifty-five percent of those individuals completed our tobacco cessation program and of them, nearly 50% were tobacco-free six months after completing the program.

HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 will prevent us from continuing to provide tobacco cessation services as we presently do, and have successfully done for nearly 15 years. We will likely see a rise in smoking rates among our Native Hawaiians and homeless members of the community, further worsening the health of this already health disparate community.

Please take out all language that would reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Sincerely,



Christy L. B. Inda
cinda@wcchc.com

(808) 697-3511

86-260 Farrington Highway
Waianae, HI 96792



LATE

HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

March 23, 2010

The Honorable Donna M. Kim, Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee
State Senate
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

HB2542, SD 1 - Relating to Non-General Funds

Dear Chairwoman Kim & Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2542, HD 1, SD 1, which we oppose. We understand the intent of this measure is to make up the projected deficit to the state's budget. However, we believe this bill will negatively affect a well-performing trust fund and result in significant damage to successful tobacco prevention and control programs established over the past decade.

Under HRS 328L-5, the Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) is the designated entity tasked with managing the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund for the Department of Health (since 2000). Through contract with DOH, the Foundation is responsible for the investment oversight of the Trust Fund, development of an annual budget, and distribution of trust fund dollars through community-based grants and other programs related to tobacco prevention and control efforts.

The public health problems associated with tobacco use are long-term and well known. The Legislature recognized this fact when it enacted HRS 328L and specified that the funds should be invested to maximize the rate of return consistent with the objective of preserving the Trust Fund's principal. For over ten years, HCF has judiciously managed and invested the Trust Fund to assure that resources continue to be available in the long-term for statewide tobacco control programs and services. Programs funded by the Trust Fund, along with other tobacco control efforts, have resulted in significant reduction in smoking prevalence rates in Hawaii. These efforts not only save lives but also save the State millions of dollars in direct medical expenses costs as well as lost productivity.

Page Two
March 23, 2010

Our state should be proud of these efforts. The Trust Fund and interest earned from that Fund should continue to be dedicated to this cause. Erosion of the Trust Fund will surely erode the progress of this long-term public health effort. HCF respectfully requests that this committee recognize the progress of this ten-year health and public health effort and not allow that progress to be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelvin Taketa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kelvin Taketa
President and CEO

From: Helen Barrow
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:09:20 AM

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Helen Barrow
PO Box 822
Maakwao, HI 96768
2445110

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-General Funds

Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

My name is Joanne Itano, Chair of the Government Relations Committee of the American Cancer Society. HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 proposes to cap the balance of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund at \$7,000,000, with any amounts over the \$7,000,000 to go to be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund.

Please do not divert funds away from Tobacco Prevention and Control programs. Our program and efforts must continue to save lives and our State money. Our adult and youth smoking rates are down because of the comprehensive efforts to have counter-marketing messages, youth prevention programs, and quit-smoking classes. But we still have more work to do. Every year, smoking costs Hawaii over half a billion dollars and the tobacco industry is spending \$42 million to market their deadly products here.

The American Cancer Society has at its core mission to prevention of cancer. The Tobacco Prevention and Control programs have saved lives by reducing smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. In addition youth smoking has declined from 1 in 4 youth to 1 in 10 youth from 2000 to 2007. However, the work continues. More than 153,000 residents smoke and smokeless tobacco use among our youth is rising and 1,400 youth in Hawaii become daily smokers every year. Smoking costs Hawaii over half a billion dollars in annual health care costs and lost productivity.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1. Please take out all language that would reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Sincerely,

Joanne Itano
itanoj001@gmail.com

1302 Kika St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Carrie Tilley](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:09:40 AM

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs. Instead of working toward wellness for the people of Hawaii, preventing this NEEDED funding would instead take us in the wrong direction!!

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Thank you,
Carrie Tilley
UH Nursing student

Carrie Tilley
59235-C Ke Nui Road
Haleiwa, HI 96712
617-921-4012

kim5 - Deborah

From: Ruth Ruta [rutahealer@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:16 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Ruth Ruta
2609 Ala Wai Blvd. #303
Honolulu, HI 96815-3901
4320000

From: Barbara C Sterne
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:10:41 AM

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Barbara C Sterne
PO Box 44571
Kamuela, HI 96743
808 882-1513

From: Duen Yen
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:10:44 AM

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Duen Yen
1255 Nuuanu Ave. Apt. E2315
Honolulu, HI 96817
754-6400

kim5 - Deborah

From: Bessie Bourbeau [Mauibowler@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:04 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Bessie Bourbeau
760 south kihei road 227
Kihei, HI 96753
808-879-9917

kim5 - Deborah

From: Susan Sobel [susan_sobel@notes.k12.hi.us]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:04 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Susan Sobel
1695 Mailihuna Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746
808-821-4401

kim5 - Deborah

From: Kawika Liu [k.liu.hpha@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:03 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Kawika Liu
2645 Nahaku Place
Honolulu, HI 96826
265 3852

kim5 - Deborah

From: Linda Penn [natec@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:00 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Linda Penn
15-2075 24th Ave
Keeau, HI 96749
982-7107

kim5 - Deborah

From: Cindy Jenness [cindy_jenness@notes.k12.hi.us]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:46 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Cindy Jenness
53-047 Pokiwai Pl
Hauula, HI 96717
808-293-9079

kim5 - Deborah

From: Beth Davidann [davidabz@ah.org]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:42 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Beth Davidann
642 Ulukahiki Street
Kailua, HI 96734
808-263-5052

kim5 - Deborah

From: Toni Ann Symons [tasymons@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:20 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Toni Ann Symons
74-5148 Kialoa Pl.
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808-987-8322

kim5 - Deborah

From: Pedro Haro-Arvizu [haroarvi@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:36 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Pedro Haro-Arvizu
204 Koalele St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-372-5350

kim5 - Deborah

From: Andrea Davis [gsn@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:39 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Andrea Davis
59-468 Hoalike Road
Haleiwa, HI 96712
808-638-7612

kim5 - Deborah

From: HELEN BRESSLER [helenbressler@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:38 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

HELEN BRESSLER
The Path Clinic
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-734-2034

kim5 - Deborah

From: Carolann Biederman [cabcb@lava.net]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:33 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Your vision today, despite compelling budget issues, to continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding is important to me. Do not divert these funds away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Sincerely, Carolann Biederman

Carolann Biederman
44-391 Nilu Street #4
Kaneohe, HI 96744
254-8812

kim5 - Deborah

From: Christine Fukui [chrisfukuimd@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:31 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

My name is Dr. Christine Fukui. I am a pulmonologist who has practiced in Honolulu for 29+ years. Tobacco control and prevention programs are very important to me because I am tired of seeing my patients and the people of Hawaii die prematurely from tobacco related diseases. There is something that can be done to prevent this! Tobacco prevention programs work. In Hawaii the rate of teen smoking has gone from 24.5% in 2000 to 9.7% in 2007. Tobacco cessation programs work. The effect on reduction in cardiovascular disease is immediate! Smoking kills more people than AIDS, motor vehicle accidents, alcohol, illegal drugs and suicide combined. More than 50,000 Americans die from second hand smoke. HB 2542 cuts the entire revenue stream dedicated to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. If tobacco prevention and smoking cessation programs stop because of lack of funding, rates of smoking will increase as has happened in California, Massachusetts and Indiana. Smoking costs Hawaii half a billion dollars in healthcare costs and lost productivity. Healthcare costs are 40% less in nonsmokers than smokers. That is why HMO's and employers are interested in smoking prevention and cessation. Surveys show that 92% of Hawaii residents want the tobacco settlement money to be used for smoking cessation and prevention. Last year the allocation was decreased by 50% and this year it is proposed that it be 0%! In contrast the tobacco industry spends over 40 million dollars a year in Hawaii promoting tobacco. I strongly oppose HB 2542 relating to the Tobacco Settlement Money. Please do not allow HB 2542 to pass out of committee. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Christine Fukui
380 Halaki St.
Honolulu, HI 96821
728-4189

kim5 - Deborah

From: Hannah Hedrick [hedrickhneca@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:29 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Billions for death, nothing to prevent it! As the US continues to support efforts to destroy, please retain a small program intendeds to prevent destruction of human lives, especially the lives of our youth.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I have worked for 10 years on efforts to prevent lawmakers from gting programs designed to prevent youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit.

But I see increasing misuse of those funds for programs not directly related in any way to "health," and now the possibility that the funds will be even more egregiously misused.

Yes, we now have county and state legislation supporting tobacco prevention, but what use is that legislation without funding?

Balancing the budget by reducing tobacco control will have financial consequences far outweighing this temporary "solution." Our you willilng to pass cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts that may negatively impact your loved ones?.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Hannah Hedrick
PO Box 298
11-2338 Kokokahi
Mountain View, HI 96771
808-968-7013

kim5 - Deborah

From: Mary Santa Maria [mary.santa_maria@doh.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:29 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Mary Santa Maria
1686 Kalawi
none
wailuku, HI 96793-2372
808 9273288

kim5 - Deborah

From: Paul Twelker [kambeachbums@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:26 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Unrelenting Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1,

For every dollar you cut from tobacco prevention and control programs, you can count on that cut being multiplied countless times in increased costs to the state and to taxpayers in the form of tobacco-related illness.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Paul A. Twelker
Kihei

Paul Twelker
2695 South Kihei Road
#6-404
Kihei, HI 96753
808 270 4136

kim5 - Deborah

From: Carl Ciriako [Carl_Ciriako@notes.k12.hi.us]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:24 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Carl Ciriako
81-1043 Konawaena School Rd
Kealahou, HI, HI 96750
323-4500

kim5 - Deborah

From: Dwayne Tarletz [aloha@gaiayoga.org]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:24 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Dwayne Tarletz
RR 2 Box 3334
Pahoa, HI 96778
808 965-5664

From: David Kamiyama
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:27:13 AM

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

David Kamiyama
458 Keawe Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 535-6785

kim5 - Deborah

From: Shalei Aoki [saoki.cdfh@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:18 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Shalei Aoki
91-884 Fort Weaver Rd.
Suite A
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
808-689-0267

kim5 - Deborah

From: Nicole Sutton [nsutton@crch.hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:04 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Nicole Sutton
1999 Wilhelmina Rise
N/A
Honolulu, HI 96816-3313
(808) 441-8195

kim5 - Deborah

From: Kiana Rivera [r.kiana@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:04 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Kiana Rivera
415 Keoniana St.
2333 Palolo Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96815-2018
808-282-1691

kim5 - Deborah

From: Cora Cho [Pepperchan@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:14 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Cora Cho
129 Kaihone Way
Kailua, HI 96734
808 263-7622

kim5 - Deborah

From: Bernadette Freitas [bernie@huimalamahawaii.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:08 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Bernadette Freitas
Mamalahoa Hwy.
Mamalahoa Hwy.
Captain Cook, HI 96704
1-808-323-3618

kim5 - Deborah

From: Bernadette Freitas [bernie@huimalamahawaii.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:08 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

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Bernadette Freitas
Mamalahoa Hwy.
Mamalahoa Hwy.
Captain Cook, HI 96704
1-808-323-3618

kim5 - Deborah

From: Rachel Heckscher [raypublichealth@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:07 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Rachel Heckscher
149 Uhiwai Place
149 Uhiwai Place
Wailuku, HI 96793
6178213855

kim5 - Deborah

From: Alana Bryant [alanaisforlovers@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:06 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Alana Bryant
2746 Kahawai Street
Honolulu, HI 96822
8089884614

kim5 - Deborah

From: Sheila Kurosu [kurosu@hawaii.usta.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:05 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Sheila Kurosu
1500 S. Beretania Street
Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96826
8085859527

kim5 - Deborah

From: Michelle Gray [michelle@tobaccofreehawaii.org]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:04 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Michelle Gray
430 Lanipuaa Street
430 Lanipuaa Street
Honolulu, HI 96825
8082959488

kim5 - Deborah

From: Erin Moncada [erin.moncada@cancer.org]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:45 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

As a cancer survivor who has lost loved ones to lung cancer and breast cancer from tobacco exposure, I implore you: please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I work in cancer control and know that one-third of cancers can be prevented if people make the choice not to smoke. Those who have already become addicted desperately need help to quit, and young people need help not to start. Death from cancer is a particularly ugly end to life - please do not cut the funds needed to save future generations from such an end.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Erin Moncada
200 Kanoelehua St. #228

kim5 - Deborah

From: Pulani Enos [pualani.enos@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:47 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

My name is V. Pualani Enos, and I am the Executive Director of Hui Malama Learning Center on Maui.

Hui Malama provides middle school, high school, and GED programs as well as tutoring and other supplemental educational programs to students K-12 who are enrolled in public or private school. Our programs are designed to inspire, nurture, and empower students to pursue career opportunities that bolster our islands' economy. To do this, we address the whole person, not just academics and work. This includes guiding students to making healthy choices. Tobacco prevention and cessation has been a key component to this work.

Over the past seven years, funding from the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Funds has enabled us to integrate tobacco-free policies, practices and programming, which in turn encourages and supports our youth, their friends, and families to be tobacco-free. We offer media and communications programs that create messaging with tobacco-free norms and policies. We also offered cessation classes for our students and those closest to them to address their tobacco use. We have consistently and rigorously evaluated and monitored our programs to realize successful outcomes. We have seen significant positive results in our students' and their friends and families' due to the resources made available through the Tobacco Trust Fund.

But, there is still much work to be done. Hui Malama is concerned that lawmakers are looking to cut funding. Nationally, cuts to tobacco control have resulted in reversal in progress made against tobacco use. We must continue to guide and support the health of our youth in order to save millions of dollars in health care in the future. Community programs including Hui Malama are dependent on the type of Tobacco funding that existed when the Trust was initially disseminated to the states.

How will we offer the types of tobacco prevention programs we currently provide without funding from the Tobacco Trust Fund? We have sought other funding for our successful tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. Other funders and private donors have not devoted monies to tobacco prevention and treatment because they are under the impression that all Tobacco Trust Money is dedicated to these efforts. Without this funding, all of us in tobacco control and the programs and relationships built over time would be gone. Consistent funding has also allowed us to learn from and coordinate our efforts with other likeminded organizations across the state to leverage resources and innovate our services to ensure that experiences for our youth are shaped by current research findings and technological developments so that we can best help our youth become and stay tobacco-free.

We've taken the knowledge gained and lessons learned from work in Tobacco Prevention and Cessation to develop and expand our services in other areas and other topics. Thus, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has had a long-lasting and broader impact on helping our youth to develop protective factors and develop healthy living habits far beyond what was ever expected. To take away funding for critical programs in tobacco prevention at a time when health and human services, education and other resources are being cut would significantly harm youth who are already especially vulnerable. If we fail to prepare our youth for the future, who can we expect to lead us in the future ? especially when we ourselves already struggle to find solutions to the economic, health and environmental problems that plague us today.

Economists in Hawaii have warned that budget cuts which result in the elimination of critical health and human services and education programs will have a long-standing negative impacts on our future economic health. In conversations with many community members in Maui, many of us prefer the idea of slight increase in taxes and even furloughs so that the economic crisis can be shared among all of us without eliminating what we have all recognized as critical services for community members most in need. While neither option are appealing on their own, they are preferred to the dire consequences that will result from desecrating programs that the entire community has come to rely upon to ensure safety and basic needs for all.

Please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our youth need the kind of services made possible by this Tobacco Prevention and Cessation funding. Their own and their families? physical and financial health are at stake.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Sincerely,

V. Pualani Enos, J.D.
Executive Director

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Pulani Enos
375 Mahalani Drive
Wailuku, HI 96793
242-5911

kim5 - Deborah

From: Evan Mower [evanmower@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:35 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Evan Mower
15-2075 24th
Keeau, HI 96749
(808)769-1245

kim5 - Deborah

From: Dennis Nishihara [nishihard001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:57 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Dennis Nishihara
12
Wahiawa, HI 96786
228-0059

kim5 - Deborah

From: Judith Sakamoto [judy_sakamoto@clearwire.net]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:02 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

As a former counselor I worked with students who were hooked on tobacco. Because it is legal and the tobacco industry devotes millions to advertising to hook kids when they are yet naive, many of these students were "sucked" into smoking during their intermediate years. By high school when I saw them, they were ready to quit but struggled and wished they had never started.

Please do not cut this funding because the settlement money is but a drop in the bucket to what the tobacco industry spends to entrap people.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Judith Sakamoto
1114 Wilder Ave. # 404
Honolulu, HI 96822
8085218817

kim5 - Deborah

From: Zack Ritchey [zritchey@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:25 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Sincerely,

Zak Ritchey

Zack Ritchey
1711 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96848
808-225-3682

kim5 - Deborah

From: Amber McClure [ambermam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Amber McClure
876 Curtis St., Apt. 1003
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-591-2367

kim5 - Deborah

From: Thomas Royer [tcroyer@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:28 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

My brother-in-law is fighting bladder cancer that his oncologist indicates was the result of his smoking, even though he quit smoking 25 years ago!!! We are placing time bombs in the mouths of our children when we encourage or allow them to smoke. Please help stop this insanity.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Thomas Royer
100 Hauoli St, Apt. 412
Wailuku, HI 96793
5103182758

kim5 - Deborah

From: Susan Medeiros [Susan.J.Medeiros@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:12 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

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I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

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Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Susan Medeiros
16-1321 Rd. 2
Mt. View, HI 96771
808 9688869

kim5 - Deborah

From: Kathy Christopher [kathleen@bgcbi.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:34 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Kathy Christopher
100 Kamakahonu Street
Hilo, HI 96720
808-961-5536

kim5 - Deborah

From: LaVerne Bishop [lbishop@haleopic.org]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:44 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

LaVerne Bishop
2959 Umi Street
Lihu'e, HI 96766
(808) 245-2873 X

kim5 - Deborah

From: Janelle Kubo [janeltk@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:30 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Janelle Kubo
2860 Waialae Ave. Apt. 114
Honolulu, HI 96826
(808) 226-9021

kim5 - Deborah

From: Kathy Middleton [kmiddleton@seaburyhall.org]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:55 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I WAS ABLE TO QUIT SMOKING OVER 2 YEARS AGO BECAUSE OF A TOBACCAO QUITTING PROGRAM!

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Kathy Middleton
955 Kauhikoa Rd.
Haiku, HI 96708
808 575-2459

kim5 - Deborah

From: Dee White [dee@ccmaui.org]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:54 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. As a trained Tobacco Treatment Specialist, I see first-hand how young people started smoking cigarettes before they even could evaluate the long term consequences.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%. Ultimately, this will save money.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Dee White
898 Mahealani Street
Kihei, HI 96753
808 283-9791

From: Debbie Odo
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 1:24:06 PM

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Debbie Odo
680 Iwilei Road
Honolulu, HI 96789
808-537-5966

From: jeffrey.trudeau
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 1:29:14 PM

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

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Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

jeffrey trudeau
po Box 1208
haiku, HI 96708
808 573-1944

From: Jeny Bissell
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 1:30:12 PM

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

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I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Jeny Bissell
484 Kaiwahine Street
Kihei, HI 96753
808-879-3461

kim5 - Deborah

From: Marion Lobre [leiana_lobre@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:33 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs. I can't express enough how tobacco use has impacted my life, I have lost so many precious family members due to diseases impacted by tobacco use. I've watched my own Father reduced to someone who gasps for breathe and is home bound. The tobacco industry is still alive and well and spending millions to gain new addicts to their product. Please don't cut funds to combat the industry's efforts.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Marion Lobre
1204 Elizabeth Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-387-0690

kim5 - Deborah

From: Sally Jo Manea [keahimanea@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 1:41 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

OUR FAMILY IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO CUTTING TOBACCO PREVENTION FUNDING THROUGH THE GUTTING OF TOBACCO SETTLEMENT ACCOUNTS. THIS MONEY SHOULD BE USED FOR ITS ORIGINAL, INTENDED PURPOSE, THE REDUCTION OF THE BURDEN OF TOBACCO RELATED DISEASES ON HAWAII'S PEOPLE AND ECONOMY. MAHALO FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION FOR VOTING AGAINST THIS BILL.

SALLY JO AND TEPAIRU MANEA, KAPAA, KAUAI, HI

Sally Jo Manea
6415 Olohena Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746
808-822-9447

kim5 - Deborah

From: Elaine Starrett [elainesart@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 1:43 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Elaine Starrett
2771 Ohina Street
Kihei, HI 96753
808-298-9551

kim5 - Deborah

From: Lee Medeiros [SusanJ.Medeiros@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 1:43 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Lee Medeiros
P.O. Box 987
Mt. View, HI 96771
808 968-8869

kim5 - Deborah

From: Carol Kozlovich [carolkozdesigns@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 1:45 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I appeal to you as one who has lost loved ones to lung disease (a terrible way to die), a mother and a grandmother.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Carol Kozlovich
POBox 25606
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-226-9215

From: Jennifer Hausler
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 1:58:15 PM

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Jennifer Hausler
1429 Kuloko St.
Pearl City, HI 96782
808-455-3242

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: carolkozdesigns@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2542 on 3/23/2010 9:30:00 AM
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:12:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 3/23/2010 9:30:00 AM HB2542

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carol Kozlovich
Organization: Individual
Address: POBox 25606 Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-226-9215
E-mail: carolkozdesigns@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2010

Comments:

I appeal to you as one who has lost loved ones to lung cancer - a terrible way to die - and as a mother and grandmother wishing to see our young people protected from the ravages of smoking. We've done a great job so far - let's not go backwards. Thank you.

From: [Daniela Kittinger](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:12:33 PM

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Prevention is, and must always be, an ongoing commitment. Hawaii is unique in their decision to use tobacco settlement funds toward health promotion, and I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take these funds away, potentially starting a landslide of prevention funding going toward other expenses. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Daniela Kittinger
715 S. King St
Honolulu, HI 96813
798-7712

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jillf2184@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2542 on 3/23/2010 9:30:00 AM
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:07:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 3/23/2010 9:30:00 AM HB2542

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jill Friedman
Organization: Individual
Address: P.O. Box 1248 Kekaha, HI 96752
Phone: 808-635-5919
E-mail: jillf2184@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2010

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2542. This bill will take much-needed funds away from tobacco prevention and education, which the funds were intended for. Smoking and secondhand smoke are the largest single cause of preventable illness--with all its accompanying financial costs. Tobacco prevention works and reduces expenditures for health care as well as saving lives. To take funding away from tobacco prevention, cessation and education is shortsighted and will be more costly for Hawaii in both the immediate and more distant future. Please do not pass this bill out of committee and do not consider it again. Thank you.

Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-General Funds
Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

My name is _Nova LeiSpears _____, (NAME, TITLE) with The Waikiki Health Center-Stop Smoking Program _____ (Organization and program)

HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1 proposes to cap the balance of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund at \$7,000,000, with any amounts over the \$7,000,000 to go to be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund.

Please do not divert funds away from Tobacco Prevention and Control programs. Our program and efforts must continue to save lives and our State money. Our adult and youth smoking rates are down because of the comprehensive efforts to have counter-marketing messages, youth prevention programs, and quit-smoking classes. But we still have more work to do. Every year, smoking costs Hawaii over half a billion dollars and the tobacco industry is spending \$42 million to market their deadly products here.

--1 sentence about your org.

--What is your tobacco prevention/tobacco treatment program doing?

--Example of success—individual client? statistic? goal to outreach to XX schools, etc.?

--What if your program is gone? (Will anyone else work with at-risk youth to keep them tobacco-free? Will anyone outreach to people who are mentally-ill, houseless, immigrant, etc.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1. Please take out all language that would reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Sincerely,

Name/Title Nova LeiSpears_____

Ph or email

__oahulei808@gmail.com_____

Address __2428 Tusitala St.

#501_____Honolulu, HI. 96815

kim5 - Deborah

From: Dawn Pung [satsp@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 5:42 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Dawn Pung
645 Ainako Ave.
Hilo, HI 96720
935-7773

kim5 - Deborah

From: Chelsey Chapman [chapmankihei@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 6:10 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Chelsey Chapman
133 E. Makahakahe Loop
Wailuku, HI 96793
808-877-0458

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Chelsey Chapman and I am from Baldwin High School on Maui. I am 17 years old and a member of REAL: Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry. I have been involved with REAL for 3 years. I am writing to you because I strongly oppose HB 2542 that would make cuts to the Tobacco Trust Fund that currently funds tobacco prevention in Hawaii.

As a member of REAL, I have learned so much about the lies and manipulative tactics that the tobacco industry uses to target kids like me. That's what REAL is for. We get the message across to as many youth as we can that the tobacco industry is targeting our generation. The Tobacco Trust Fund was designed to support tobacco prevention efforts in Hawaii, and I strongly feel that this is what we need to use this money for.

Without adequate funding from the Tobacco Trust Fund, REAL and the many other youth tobacco prevention programs throughout Hawaii would not be able to do the work that is needed to keep tobacco use rates down and change social norms around tobacco use. Without enough funding it would also be more difficult to bring youth together to fight against the tobacco industry because they have billions of dollars to use on marketing.

Please OPPOSE HB 2542 so that the Tobacco Trust Fund can be used to continue Hawaii's tobacco prevention efforts,

Mahalo,
Chelsey Chapman
Maui

kim5 - Deborah

From: Antoinette Everett [antoinetteeverett@me.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:58 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Antoinette Everett
257 Hololani St
Makawao, HI 96768
808-572-3545

kim5 - Deborah

From: Julia Chen [juliache@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:56 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

PLEASE DO NOT CUT FUNDING FOR TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMS.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Julia Chen
45-461 Kukia
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808 4289825

kim5 - Deborah

From: Shawn Suzuki [shawn_suzuki@notes.k12.hi.us]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:38 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from programs that prevent youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I would like to add that this fund also supports education programs for all levels. Programs that help students K-12 live healthy lives, make the right choices and participate in positive activities in and out of school.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking, drug use and the like continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Shawn Suzuki
81-1043 Konawaena School Road
Kealahou, HI 96750
808-323-4500

kim5 - Deborah

From: Tracie Yoshimoto [tyoshimoto88@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:37 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Tracie Yoshimoto
1097 Pukana St.
Hilo, HI 96720
808-896-1670

kim5 - Deborah

From: Ellen Levine [tao___el@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:15 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

This is crucial for health improvement in our population

Ellen Levine
14-4375 Govt. Beach Rd.
Pahoa, HI 96778
808 936-9005

kim5 - Deborah

From: Therese Argoud [targoud@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:33 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Therese Argoud
3314 Woodlawn Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96822
988-7692

kim5 - Deborah

From: Bryan Talisayan [btalisayan@waikikihc.org]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 3:16 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Bryan Talisayan
1414 Wilder Avenue #2e
Honolulu, HI 96822
808-791-9371

kim5 - Deborah

From: Beverly Hewett [bhewett@waikihc.org]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 3:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Beverly Hewett
277 Ohua Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815
808-791-9332

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542.

My name is Courtney Viernes-Silva. I have been a REAL youth board member for over five years now. REAL is a youth-led anti-tobacco company movement. HB 2887 would reallocate funds from the tobacco trust fund leading to significant cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and control in Hawaii.

If Hawaii cuts these funds tobacco companies will have even more of a chance to continue to target, addict, and kill more of our people. I believe Hawaii should keep the Tobacco Trust Fund for the purpose it was meant for which is tobacco prevention.

I ask you to protect my generation by OPPOSING HB 2542.

Much Mahalo,

Courtney Viernes-Silva
Statewide Youth Leader of REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the
Tobacco Industry
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542.

My name is Dahlton Cordeiro-Silva. I am a 17 year old attending Baldwin High School. I am a kickboxer for Central Maui, so good health is very important to me. This is why I am writing you to save the tobacco trust fund for tobacco prevention programs.

The tobacco trust fund is important to me because it saves lives. My grandpa smokes and I wish he didn't. With programs that are funded by our tobacco trust fund he might someday be able to finally quit smoking. And without the programs that get support from our tobacco trust fund more people will eventually die from tobacco related disease.

I feel confident in fighting tobacco use, so please continue funding tobacco prevention programs by keeping our tobacco trust fund for what it was meant for by opposing HB2542.

Thanks,

Dahlton Cordeiro-Silva
1013 Ulukanu St.
Waikapu, HI 96793

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

I'm Hannah Fuqua from Maui. I am 16 years old and am a student at Baldwin High School. I am currently a member of REAL, Hawaii's youth-led movement exposing the lies and manipulation of the tobacco industry. I am writing today to ask you to oppose HB 2542.

Since being in REAL, I have learned leadership skills and am proud to be involved in such an important group. That is why I am writing to support continued use of the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention programs.

Without this funding, campaigns like REAL would not continue to exist. Without your support, Hawaii's youth risk becoming smokers.

Please oppose HB 2542.

Thank you,
Hannah J. Fuqua
REAL Statewide Leader
Maui

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542.

My name is Darcy Ann DeRego and I am an 11th grader at Baldwin High School. I am 16 years old and live in Wailuku with a healthy family. I love to workout everyday and healthy living is very important to me. I am in the Peer Education Program and we help other teens with their issues and give them great information about tobacco, sex, drugs, etc. We promote it and prevent it. A very important issue that we focus on is tobacco. This is why I'm writing to save the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention.

When I was younger, I lost my favorite grandma to cigarette smoking. My dad used to smoke when I was younger, but luckily when I got into sports he stopped smoking. I still have a couple of family members who smoke and it's very hard for them to stop.

The Tobacco Trust Fund saves so many lives, keeps youth from starting to smoke, and saves Hawaii money. If the Tobacco Trust Fund were to be taken away, way more kids will be smoking and the number of deaths will increase. Please save the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention by opposing HB2542.

Mahalo,

Darcy Ann DeRego
588 Malio Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

I am writing this letter in concern of recent news of efforts that are being discussed to discontinue our state's Tobacco Trust Fund that supports tobacco prevention programs. I strongly believe that these funds and programs are essential to the health of the people of Hawaii and the disappearance of such efforts would have an extremely negative effect.

You were elected to represent us and take stances that would best benefit us as a whole, no matter how challenging it may seem, and keeping these programs and funds are just that. I implore you to think carefully as you make decisions about the best possible and most honest stance on this issue. I ask that you keep the money set aside for tobacco prevention as was intended.

It has been shown blatantly in states that have removed such funds that progress made to reduce tobacco use was turned around when efforts were cut. From a member of the generation that is being targeted the most by tobacco advertising and promotion, I ask for your support before it's too late by opposing HB 2542.

Sincerely,

Chris Komatsu
374 S. Lanai Street
Kahului, HI 96732

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Casey Cummings. I am from Kapaa but currently attend Kapiolani Community College on Oahu. I am part of REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry. I'm asking you to oppose HB 2542 which would take funds away from the Tobacco Trust Fund.

I believe that Tobacco Trust Fund monies should continue to go to tobacco prevention programs such as REAL! REAL has been an extreme influence in my life. REAL has given me the opportunity to voice valuable information to educate hundreds of youth across the state and nation about tobacco use and marketing tactics. I was also able to gain experience in the proper procedures to help pass bills that make Hawaii a healthier place to live. I have also gained a lot of leadership experience, which will help better my future.

Tobacco use rates among Hawaii's teens are the lowest they've ever been. Programs like REAL, DARE, Smart Moves, American Lung Association's Word of Mouth and Not On Tobacco (NOT) programs, and in-school tobacco cessation are working. All of these programs provide a safe environment for myself and my peers. But even though tobacco rates are at an all-time low, tobacco use is still a problem and we need to continue these efforts to prevent and help people quit if we want a better future for Hawaii.

Please oppose HB 2542.

Thank you,
Casey Cummings
Honolulu, Hawaii

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Amanda Victorino. I am 17 years old and a member of REAL: Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry. I am writing to you because I want the Tobacco Trust Fund to continue for the purpose of tobacco prevention.

The tobacco industry makes money by targeting youth without concern for the fact that the products they are selling to us, such as candy flavored tobacco, are extremely hazardous to our health. By preserving the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention, groups such as REAL can continue to work against the tobacco industry to stop their youth-targeting tactics and prevent tobacco use in Hawaii. Without this important funding, we would see an increase in tobacco use and an increase in targeting of youth by tobacco companies.

Please make a difference in many people's lives by keeping the Tobacco Trust Fund at the current level to help prevent tobacco use in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542

Thank you very much,

Amanda Victorino
REAL Youth Leader
Kapolei, Hawaii

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators:

My name is Alfonso Villarreal. I am 26 years old and attend Hawaii Pacific University. I am writing to you because I would like Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund to continue to be used for the purpose of tobacco prevention. Therefore I am strongly opposed to HB 2542.

For years the tobacco industry has targeted youth around the country as replacement smokers. They disregard the repercussions of their actions until they are confronted by various laws and prevention programs that reduce the effectiveness of their recruitment techniques. Although these laws and preventive actions have been effective, it is necessary to maintain preventive actions to reduce the negative effects of innovative youth-friendly products.

The maintenance of the Tobacco Trust Fund as a source of funding for preventive groups such as REAL is necessary to keep the rate of youth tobacco use low. So far this is proving to be a successful strategy with youth tobacco rates cut in half in less than 10 years.

Please do not provide the opportunity for the tobacco industry to slowly drain away the life of Hawaii's youth. Please oppose HB 2542 today.

Mahalo,

Alfonso Villarreal
Honolulu, Hawaii

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542.

My name is Briana Rapoza and I am a sophomore at Baldwin High School. I'm begging you not to cut the tobacco trust fund. When I heard what could be happening, I was frightened to say the least.

I want you to know that Hawaii's tobacco prevention and control programs do work. Did you know that more than 1,000 children become daily smokers each year in Hawaii? Hawaii's prevention programs have helped reduce youth smoking rates from 1 in 4 youth to 1 in 10 youth. That's a big jump in less than 10 years of work.

These programs also help save Hawaii money. We spend half a billion dollars each year on health care for smokers. Health care for non-smokers is 40% lower. Think about it this way, if we can kick the smoking habit even just a little bit, then we'd have more money to spend on other important things in our society. However nothing can be done if this funding is cut.

These funding does make a difference in providing critical information to youth and the community about tobacco use. And studies show that states that have cut their tobacco trust funds for prevention such as California have seen a rise in smoking.

Hawaii is ranked relatively low in the tobacco use rates among young people. Let's do all that we can to keep it that way. Tobacco is the number one killer of people all around the world. It takes away mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and friends. Let's save lives and keep tobacco prevention and control working. Vote NO on HB2542.

Mahalo,

Briana Rapoza
1704 Wili Pa Loop
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542.

The Tobacco Trust Fund supports Hawaii's tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs. We still have a lot to do concerning tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs.

The most important thing about these programs is they keep youth from starting to use tobacco. In the past years, we've reduced the youth smoking rate by a lot. But healthcare costs to provide those with smoking related diseases health services aren't helping the current hard economic times. Each year, the use of tobacco costs Hawaii more than half a billion dollars annually in health care. If we cut tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs health care costs will end up costing the state more in the future.

I ask you to please not cut the Tobacco Trust Fund because without it our health will be unprotected. We need it to save the next generation from becoming addicted.

Thank you for your time,

Alison M. King
19 Palekalko Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators:

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542.

My name is Alex Halley, and I am 16 years old. I attend Baldwin High School on Maui. I am involved in a youth-led movement against the tobacco industry called REAL. I am writing to ask you not to cut the Tobacco Trust Fund that supports tobacco prevention programs like REAL.

I feel that continuing to fund tobacco prevention programs can make a difference at both the state and community level when it comes to keeping tobacco use rates low among my generation. REAL is one of the best programs that I've ever been in and has helped me in so many ways. Without good programs like this youth tobacco use rates would go up and tobacco companies would be unstoppable.

Please oppose HB2542 to keep youth tobacco prevention programs alive in Hawaii.

Thank you so much,
Alex Halley
Wailuku, Hawaii

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542.

My name is Abrahm Arkin, I am a graduate of Konawaena High School on the Big Island. I am a part of REAL, Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry.

I strongly believe the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund should be preserved for tobacco prevention efforts such as REAL. That is what the funds were intended for.

Please oppose HB 2542. Hawaii needs funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs to protect our children and families' health.

Thank you,

Abrahm Isaiah Arkin
76-6257 Alii Drive, C
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

From: [harriet rocha](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 1:13:56 PM

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

harriet rocha
37 kekaulike st
hilo, HI 96720
974-4307

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Stephen Duadua. I am a REAL Youth Board Member and live on the Big Island of Hawaii.

I'm asking you to strongly oppose HB 2542 that would cut funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund that are currently being used for tobacco prevention and cessation programs including Hawaii's Youth Advocacy Group known as REAL.

REAL is important to me as well as to our community. REAL allows youth to be heard and gives us the ability to stand up to tobacco companies that continue to target us everyday. REAL also teaches us to make changes in our communities that help to make healthier lives for ourselves and others.

Currently Hawaii has the second lowest smoking rate in the nation among youth. If we cut the Tobacco Trust Fund that supports tobacco prevention and cessation programs, smoking rates will increase as well as healthcare costs. And eventually we will also see more people dying from tobacco related disease.

Groups like REAL have made great strides in tobacco prevention and if you cut the Tobacco Trust Fund now, all the money and time spent on youth prevention will be reversed. And Hawaii will end up paying more for tobacco prevention and cessation efforts later down the line.

I hope you will take all these things into consideration when you make your decision. Please oppose HB 2542 to protect my generation and those to come from nicotine addiction.

Mahalo,

Stephen Duadua
Pahoa, Hawaii

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542.

Hello, my name is Karen Joy Atrogenio. I'm 17 years old and I'm a senior at Baldwin High School. I am asking you to save the Tobacco Trust Fund. I know the economy is down but I really wish you would hear me out about why I want the tobacco trust fund saved for tobacco prevention and cessation.

I have seen first-hand the effects smoking has on a person. Some of my good close friends have been smoking for years. It really makes me irritated that they would do such a bad thing to their bodies. Whenever me and my friends go running, one of my friends is always out of breath. She already has a son and she really needs help to quit. So if you take away the trust fund, then she'll have no opportunity to get support to quit.

Many people who want to quit need a good support system and this tobacco trust fund helps provide programs that do help stay away from deadly cigarette. These programs do help save lives, help keep youth from not using cigarettes, and help save Hawaii money in health care costs.

I know how much you guys need to find money to help the state. But if we keep the tobacco trust fund it will help save funds spent on healthcare costs for people who will get sick from smoking. Hawaii spends over half a billion dollars annual health care costs and lost productivity. We need this funding so we can protect our society to live a healthier life.

Please save the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention by opposing HB2542.

Thank you very much,

Karen Joy Atrogenio
26 Ainaola St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542.

I'm a student at H.P. Baldwin High School as a senior. I would like to see continued funding for tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs to let our children to be safe and let them make healthy decisions in the future.

Hawaii's tobacco prevention and control works and is saving peoples' lives. Smoking kills more people than drugs, alcohol, car crashes, etc. A lot of Americans die from exposure to secondhand smoke. I want to see Hawaii's tobacco trust fund saved for tobacco prevention because a lot of people need to learn about tobacco and then try to quit smoking.

By being a Peer Educator I have seen many teenagers smoking at such a young age and it's sad of what their lives will be like in the future if they don't quit. I support Hawaii's tobacco prevention because it keeps youth form starting to smoke. It also saves Hawaii money from healthcare costs for those who get cancers and other tobacco related diseases.

Please continue to save the world with fresh air and save the tobacco trust fund for tobacco prevention by opposing HB2542.

Mahalo,
Keani Kaluakini
56 Umu Kala St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542.

My name is Kamalani Keahi and I am a senior at Baldwin High School. I am writing you this letter in the hope that you will continue to support tobacco prevention programs by not cutting funding for these programs through the tobacco trust fund.

I am in the Peer Education Program and we have learned a lot about tobacco. We had many people who are funded by the tobacco trust fund come to our classroom to talk about the effects of tobacco in our lives and in society. I feel that tobacco is a big problem here in Hawaii that needs to be solved.

I have learned that smoking kills more people than any other drugs, murders, alcohol, and accidents. It is a deadly habit that can begin at a young age and is very hard to stop. My grandparents were heavy smokers. When I was younger, they wanted to move into my parent's house. My dad told them that if they wanted to live with us they needed to quit smoking because he didn't want my sister and me to be affected by their smoking. Because they loved us and wanted to be with us, they quit smoking with the help of quit smoking programs. They haven't smoked since then.

I believe if you care about the youth of Hawaii you will continue to support the tobacco prevention programs by opposing HB2542.

Mahalo,

Kamalani Keahi
1030 Eha St. #104
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542 to save the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention.

My name is Katalina Iulio. I am a senior at Baldwin High School. I am part of the PEP program (Peer Education Program). I educate my fellow peers about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, and everything that will keep them safe. I really and truly believe that saving this tobacco prevention funding will save lives of millions of people.

I've seen and watched people who have loved ones die from smoking because they are so used to using nicotine that's in cigarettes as their stress reliever or they're too hooked to quit. My dad used to smoke uncontrollably but my little brother started to get asthma so he had to stop and he's not smoked for 3 years. He wouldn't have been able to quit without the help of a quit smoking program that gets supported from the tobacco trust fund.

Keeping this funding will definitely save lives. Prevention has reduced youth smoking from 1 in 4 youths to 1 in 10. These efforts also save Hawaii money. Please be considerate and keep this funding for its intended purpose of tobacco prevention.

Thank you for your time.

Katalina Iulio
56-104 Waipono Lane
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542.

My name is Kenna Green and I'm a junior at Baldwin High School. I'm in the Peer Education Program at my school, and we deal with prevention, promotion, and awareness of all the different issues going on in the world today. It has taught me the effects and consequences of many different unhealthy decisions. One of the most important things we learn about is tobacco. It has become a big issue in our state and country, which is why we need the tobacco trust fund to continue to support tobacco prevention.

Although I was not a witness of a death caused by tobacco, I hear about one all the time. Smoking kills more people than alcohol, murders, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, and suicides combined. If there is no prevention, then these numbers will rise even more. Just think, if kids and teens didn't know how harmful cigarettes and tobacco are, then there would be way more people smoking. They'd think there was nothing wrong with it.

Please save the tobacco trust fund for tobacco prevention because without the prevention programs there will be more deaths from tobacco. We need to stop kids from even trying tobacco and we cannot do that without the Tobacco Trust Fund.

Thank you,

Kenna Green
652 Kaikoo St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 22, 2010

To: To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1: Relating to Non-General Funds
Hearing: WAM, March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Please do not divert funds away from Tobacco Prevention and Control programs. I work for a large private preschool system on Maui with over 200 children ages 3 and 4 yrs. The Maui office of the American Lung Association, which receives funds from the Tobacco Prevention program, has been able to provide our preschool staff and parents information given by a local pediatrician on the signs and symptoms of asthma in young children, what we all need to be aware of on a daily basis. Hawaii has the highest rate of asthma in young children in the nation so this is vitally important health and safety information that we all need to have. We are also planning to bring the pediatrician back in the fall to address more parents directly on the importance of managing their children's asthma. This is an invaluable resource for our parents and staff.

Please take out all language from these bills that would reduce funding for tobacco prevention and control. I know that these funds are vitally important to keeping our Hawaii keiki healthier and away from tobacco products. Our preschoolers will be teens in a very short number of years and we want to continue to provide them awareness of the dangers of smoking. There have been significant gains in reducing the numbers of teens that smoke in the past decade. Smoking costs Hawaii over \$500 million in annual health care costs and lost productivity. Don't be short-sighted and cut these funds no matter how dire our economic situation is right now. We may not recover these gains in the future if the funds are cut now. We must continue to make progress and we need these funds to do it. Although I am not able to testify in person, I hope that you will consider my letter important enough to matter when you make your decision.

Mahalo for your consideration,

W. Poni Medeiros
848 Makiki Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

poni_bill848@yahoo.com

kim5 - Deborah

From: Rick Rutiz [rick@hanabuild.org]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:07 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Rick Rutiz
PO Box 968
Hana, HI 96713
(808) 248-8581

kim5 - Deborah

From: Lisa Maddock [biedy143@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:15 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Lisa Maddock
120 Kaeleloi Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96821-2439
808-394-5994

kim5 - Deborah

From: May Okihiro [mokihiro@me.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:17 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

As a pediatrician, a mother of 2 young children and as a community member I know all too well of the ills from first and second hand tobacco exposure.

We are deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. These programs work and save lives. Please work to look not only at short term outcomes but long term impact.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

May Okihiro
46-193 Yacht Club St.
HI, HI 96744
808-255-5915

kim5 - Deborah

From: Karen Rodhe [kaydenalayne@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 2:18 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Karen Rodhe
111 mano drive
Kula, HI 96790
808 876-0009

kim5 - Deborah

From: Deanna Moncrief [deanna@benchmarkwellness.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 3:20 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Deanna Moncrief
103 S. Kalaheo Ave.
Kailua, HI 96734
808 537 1333

kim5 - Deborah

From: thomas trottier [tomt@clearwire.net]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 3:50 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

thomas trottier
po box 880029
pukalani, HI 96788
808 269-1738

kim5 - Deborah

From: Michele Nihipali [nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 3:53 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Michele Nihipali
54-074 A Kam Hwy
Hauula, HI 96717
808 293-1522

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds
March 23, 2010 in Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542.

Hello, I'm Tupusa Satele and I'm a senior attending Baldwin High School. I'm in the Peer Education Program (PEP) and this is my second year taking this class. I joined PEP because I wanted to prove my uncles that smoking was bad. Every single one of my mom's brothers smoke and it wasn't good for them or our loved ones around it.

I support all the programs that prevent people from smoking because it seriously is bad for those who do it and everyone being exposed to it. Smoking kills more people than alcohol, murders, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, and suicides combined. If you cut the funds for tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs it will be such a big problem because there will be too little information going out to people about the dangers.

Please save the tobacco trust fund for tobacco prevention by opposing HB2542.

Thanks,

Tupusa Satele
2117 Onaona St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds

Dear Legislators,

My name is Melissa Haake. I attend Baldwin High School on Maui as a sophomore. Today, I am writing you to save the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention programs.

Throughout my whole life, I've been surrounded by smokers, from my father, grandfather, aunty, uncle, to even my siblings smoking. I lost my grandfather to cancer in 2004, and I don't want to go through that hurt again. My father has been smoking for a very long time, and over the years I have noticed how it affects our family financially. It also affects his health as well as mine. From a young age, I have been exposed to secondhand smoke. Sadly, I've been watching my dad smoke all my life and I fear to face the day when he gets sick or even passes away from tobacco.

If the tobacco prevention programs get cut, more people are likely to start or continue to smoke. I believe that people should be educated about the effects that tobacco will have on their body. Tobacco use kills more people than other issues like alcohol, murder, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, and suicides combined. So we know that it is a huge problem. Therefore, please continue to fund the tobacco prevention and cessation programs by opposing HB 2542.

Melissa Haake
444 One Street
Kahului, HI 96732

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542.

I am a student at H.P. Baldwin High School and I have come to learn that the tobacco trust fund that supports many of Hawaii's tobacco prevention programs may be cut. As a youth in Hawaii, I feel that funding these programs is very important in the fact that we need to keep Hawaii as tobacco-free as possible. With the help of the tobacco trust fund we have been doing this rather well. However, if the funding were to get cut, tobacco use would increase tremendously, because no one would be publicly advertising the bad side of tobacco, thus leaving people unaware of the risks of tobacco.

Smoking is also costing Hawaii a great amount of money. But with all the informative messages that are being produced using the tobacco trust fund, youth smoking has decreased. The percent of youth smokers has gone from 24.5% in 2000 to 9.7% in 2007. And hopefully if there is continued funding for tobacco prevention, one day this number will reach zero. None of that will be possible if tobacco prevention funding is cut.

I'm asking you today to oppose HB2542 in order to save lives in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Lezlie Kanamu
595 Pohala St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB 2542

Tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs need to continue because they protect our children and families' health. These programs help prevent not only this generation, but also the next generation from becoming smokers. We know that tobacco prevention and control works because it saves lives, keeps youth from starting, and saves Hawaii money in health care costs.

Smoking kills more people than alcohol, murders, AIDS, car accidents, illegal drugs, and suicides combined! If we take away tobacco funding, then guaranteed more people will die from it. Please keep these programs funded, because in the long run it will help and be more beneficial for us as a state.

I ask for your support by opposing HB 2542.

Mahalo,

Matthew Patao-Torres
146 Poniu Circle
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2542.

I would like to implore you to help keep funding tobacco trust fund dollars for tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs because they are important to me and my health. I was diagnosed with asthma at the age of four. I was often sick as a child, and although no one ever smoked in my family, I struggled to build up strong lungs and physical endurance. Breathing in secondhand smoke was always a challenge for me.

I am now 17 years old and haven't had a serious asthma attack in the past few years due to Hawaii's clean air law and no-smoking boundaries. This law was passed by programs that are funded with the tobacco trust fund dollars.

I ask you to please continue to fund tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs with the tobacco trust fund. I appreciate you listening to my concerns and hope you will make the healthier, happier choice for everyone by opposing HB2542.

Thank you,
Serena Perry
Puunene, Hawaii

March 22, 2010

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senators Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1:
Relating to Non-General Funds

Dear Legislatures:

I am writing today to share with you my opposition to HB 2542 which would divert the Tobacco Trust Fund away from prevention programs and instead be used as general funds to help balance the state budget.

Tobacco Prevention programs have been proven effective in reducing tobacco use in Hawai'i. Over the last seven years tobacco prevention programs have reduced smoking amongst youth from 25% to less than 10%. Adult smoking rates have also declined, from 22.4% to 15.4%.

**Please remember that these numbers are more than a statistics. These percentages represent lives saved. Lives which may be your mother, father, brother, sister, or child. 1,100 Hawaiians die each year of smoking related illnesses.*

Although smoking rates have declined due to prevention programs, 1,400 children in Hawai'i begin smoking each year. Tobacco companies continue to heavily market to our youth. If HB 2887 is passed and prevention funds are no longer available, these rates will climb even higher.

Tobacco Prevention efforts are our children's only defense to protect them against the millions of dollars big tobacco companies spend each year trying to lure them into this deadly addiction. Not only does prevention saves lives, it also saves money. Smoking related illnesses cost millions of dollars each year due to chronic disease and loss of productivity.

By voting "No" for HB2887 you have the unique opportunity to save lives and do the right thing. I ask you to protect the best's interests of the citizens who YOU serve and OPPOSE HB 2542.

Thank you consideration,

Megan Taddonio
Teenline Hawaii
Prevention Specialist

From: Penny Smith
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to Part III, HB 2542 Proposed SD 1
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 4:37:44 PM

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair; Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Non-General Funds

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Please do not cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are looking to take funds away from preventing youth from using tobacco and helping smokers quit. I believe these programs work and save lives, and it's very important to me to keep them funded to save lives now and keep them strong into the future.

I also support using the settlement moneys won from the lawsuit against tobacco companies as they were intended: to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Legislature, our State has dedicated funding for tobacco prevention and control programs for the last ten years. This has reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2% to 15.4% and slashed youth smoking rates from 25% to 10%.

Please don't balance the budget on the backs of the next generation's health. Smoking continues to cost our State over half a billion dollars in health-related costs and lost productivity annually and this cost will rise if we cut the programs that reduce smoking. Other states that cut their tobacco prevention efforts are moving backwards in their fight to reduce smoking, save lives and cut health costs.

Please continue funding tobacco prevention and control funding and do not divert moneys away from life-saving and cost-saving efforts. Please do not pass any cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Part III, HB 2542, HD 1, Proposed SD 1.

Penny Smith
Kuuala
Kailua, HI 96734
808261-8926

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I understand that there is a proposal to place an annual cap on funding of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The program has been successfully managed and demonstrated tangible benefits to taxpayers and to public health.

Please don't punish the program for its success.

As a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, please protect Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Please do NOT cap funding for this program.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,
kathy ball
95-2043 Waikalani Pl
A405
Mililani, HI 96789-3446

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I understand that there is a proposal to place an annual cap on funding of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The program has been successfully managed and demonstrated tangible benefits to taxpayers and to public health.

Please don't punish the program for its success.

My husband of almost 40 years died last year at age 59 from the effects of long term tobacco use. Although he quit 18 months before he died, it was too late...the damage was done. Prevention and access to cessation programs are critical to keep others in Hawaii from dying prematurely. Tobacco is one of the few legal products, that when used as intended it will kill you! Stop our young people from starting this highly addictive habit.

As a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, please protect Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Please do NOT cap funding for this program.

Mahalo!

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

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I understand that there is a proposal to place an annual cap on funding of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The program has been successfully managed and demonstrated tangible benefits to taxpayers and to public health.

Please don't punish the program for its success.

As a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, please protect Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Please do NOT cap funding for this program.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,
Heather Newby
94-1230 Ka Uka Blvd
Apt. 9
Waipahu, HI 96797-4497

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I understand that there is a proposal to place an annual cap on funding of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The program has been successfully managed and demonstrated tangible benefits to taxpayers and to public health.

Please don't punish the program for its success.

If you cap the amount of funding of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, you will end up paying for it down the line with more children starting to smoke and more people getting sick from tobacco-related causes. Don't do it; don't cap the funding that goes to valuable anti-tobacco programs.

As a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, please protect Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Please do NOT cap funding for this program.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,
Karen Seth
44-361 Niihau St Apt 3
Kaneohe, HI 96744-2620

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I understand that there is a proposal to place an annual cap on funding of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The program has been successfully managed and demonstrated tangible benefits to taxpayers and to public health.

Please don't punish the program for its success.

The proposal would limit tobacco prevention, control and cessation spending to less than half of the CDC's recommended minimum annual investment for our state to insure a strong, effective, comprehensive tobacco control program. And that's assuming that \$7 million will remain annually in that fund. Previous legislative cuts to the Fund's allocation leave the amount being placed into the Fund annually at an estimated \$3 million. The Fund needs to be allowed to grow so that the state can eventually spend the CDC recommended minimum \$15 million per year to fully address and curtail the dreadful affects of tobacco on our population. Diverting those funds now would be a penny wise and a pound foolish. The healthcare costs that would be borne by taxpayers in the future would be way beyond any short-term benefit that those diverted funds could be used for. This is the one bill that you will consider this year that will have life and death implications. Please consider your actions carefully.

As a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, please protect Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Please do NOT cap funding for this program.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,
Don Weisman
647 Akoakoa St
Kailua, HI 96734-3910

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I understand that there is a proposal to place an annual cap on funding of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The program has been successfully managed and demonstrated tangible benefits to taxpayers and to public health.

Please don't punish the program for its success.

As a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, please protect Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Please do NOT cap funding for this program.

Mahalo!

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

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I understand that there is a proposal to place an annual cap on funding of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The program has been successfully managed and demonstrated tangible benefits to taxpayers and to public health.

Please don't punish the program for its success.

As a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, please protect Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Please do NOT cap funding for this program.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,
Pamela Foster
44-547 Kaneche Bay Dr
Apt B
Kaneche, HI 96744-2579

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I understand that there is a proposal to place an annual cap on funding of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The program has been successfully managed and demonstrated tangible benefits to taxpayers and to public health.

Please don't punish the program for its success.

We have gone far in our efforts to protect and keep our ohana safe from tobacco. Please don't limit the program funding when we have so much more left to do.

As a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, please protect Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Please do NOT cap funding for this program.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,
Christina Cook
45-812 Keneke St
Kaneche, HI 96744-3430

March 23, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I understand that there is a proposal to place an annual cap on funding of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The program has been successfully managed and demonstrated tangible benefits to taxpayers and to public health.

Please don't punish the program for its success.

As President of the Oahu Affiliate of the American Heart Association, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research at JABSOM, and a cardiologist who trains residents and takes care of patients, I can attest to the crucial role of smoking cessation in the improvement we have seen in cardiac health in Hawaii over the past few years. The new technologies and medicines for treating heart disease are very exciting, and can help a lot. However, we tend to forget that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" which is particularly true when it comes to smoking. Nothing we can do in the hospital or clinic compares to the benefits of stopping or preventing smoking. Please continue to support these programs.

As a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, please protect Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Please do NOT cap funding for this program.

Mahalo!

Sincerely,
Ralph Shohet
4151 Nuuanu Pali Dr Apt A
Honolulu, HI 96817-1057

March 23, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I understand that there is a proposal to place an annual cap on funding of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The program has been successfully managed and demonstrated tangible benefits to taxpayers and to public health.

Please don't punish the program for its success.

As a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, please protect Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Please do NOT cap funding for this program.

Mahalo!

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

March 23, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Kim:

I understand that there is a proposal to place an annual cap on funding of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The program has been successfully managed and demonstrated tangible benefits to taxpayers and to public health.

Please don't punish the program for its success.

Tobacco use prevention and control are critical to encourage the next generation of potential tobacco user not to start this bad habit which will have bad health implications. Smoking affects the smoker and everyone around him or her, second hand smoke is just as damaging in the long run. Please do not reallocate settlement funding or place a cap on Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. The future health of Hawaii's citizens is at stake. Thank you very much.

As a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, please protect Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Please do NOT cap funding for this program.

Mahalo!

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