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Hearing on: February 17, 2010

Conference Room #308 @ 10:00 a.m.

Copies Needed: 2

DATE: February 16, 2010

TO: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

FROM: Dennis Arakaki, Executive Director

RE: Opposition to HB 2887 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Honorable Chair Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Rep. Lee and members of the House Committee on Finance, I am Dennis Arakaki, **representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Hawaii Catholic Conference.**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of over 250 Christian churches. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 220,000 Catholics in Hawaii. We oppose this bill that transfers temporarily to the general fund the portion of moneys from the Hawaii tobacco settlement special fund designated for the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

I understand the challenges that your committee faces in finding answers to the revenue shortfall before the state. However, funds that were intended for preventative health programs that will save the state long term costs of chronic illnesses and prevent youth from engaging in the costly habits of smoking. Consider the Healthy Hawaii Initiative which is funded by the Tobacco Settlement fund:

- The goal is to reduce the incidence of chronic disease through addressing the primary prevention areas of physical activity, nutrition and tobacco use.
- Objective is to increase sustainable changes in physical activity and healthy eating.
- HHI funds and coordinates tobacco prevention and control with other divisions across the department

Although the bill calls for a temporary suspension of fund allocation there are no guarantees that the fund diversion won't continue to be a means to balance the budget. I urge you not to resort to this method of dealing with the budget shortfall.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 17, 2010
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308
Agenda #1**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2887 RELATING TO THE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT
MONEYS**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the committee:

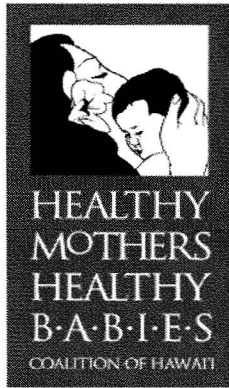
My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber and its Health Issues Committee do not support HB 2887 relating to the Tobacco Settlement Moneys.

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 measure will drastically reduce funding of a tobacco prevention and control program, which helps people quit smoking and educate youth about the dangers of tobacco use. Furthermore, studies show that cuts to tobacco prevention programs result directly into higher smoking rates, which in turn increases health care costs, lost productivity, increased absenteeism, higher life insurance premium costs, greater risk of occupational injuries, work time spent on smoking rituals and costlier disability.

While we understand the current budgetary situation, we feel that decreases in funding will dismantle the gains we've made to support a healthy. Tobacco prevention is saving the next generation and our state from skyrocketing health care and economic costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



February 16, 2010

TO: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair, Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Finance
FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director
RE: **HB 2887 Relating To Tobacco Settlement Moneys**
Hearing: Wednesday, February 17th at 10am

Honorable Chairperson Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Finance

HMHB is a statewide coalition of public and private agencies and individuals committed to the improvement of maternal and infant health status in Hawaii through education, coordination and advocacy. **HMHB is testifying today against the passage of HB 2887 Relating To Tobacco Settlement Moneys.** Use of substances during pregnancy is linked to adverse behavioral outcomes and developmental/behavioral problems, including fetal growth restriction, low birth weight, birth defects and mental retardation. Smoking and drinking, respectively, are considered the largest preventable cause of neonatal morbidity and mental retardation in developed countries. The Cochrane Collaboration (2009) concluding that smoking cessation programs in pregnancy reduce the proportion of women who continue to smoke and reduced low birth weight and preterm birth by approximately 20%.

The PATH Clinic is a recipient of moneys from the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund. The PATH Clinic, the only comprehensive perinatal addiction clinic Hawaii, began providing services in April, 2007. Since opening they have served over 160 women from all areas of Oahu. The risk for adverse birth outcomes in the population served at PATH is very high due to poverty, racial minority status, high rates of medical co morbid conditions, and substance abuse, including very high rates of tobacco use. However, **the birth outcomes of women who receive services are far better than average state and national outcomes for all births.** Thus, the healthcare burden on the State of Hawaii is reduced from fetal exposure to cigarettes and other substances. 70% of the pregnancy women who receive services reduced the number of cigarettes smoked per day, with a quit rate of 8%. Pregnancy provides a “teachable moment” for smoking cessation. The passage of this bill would eliminate this meaningful and important program at the PATH Clinic.

We urge you not to pass this bill.

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Testimony OPPOSING HB 2887, "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. 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.

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

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

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,

Ralph Shohet, M.D.
Cardiologist
Director of Cardiovascular Research, University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine
President, American Heart Association Oahu Metro Board of Directors



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

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Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

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Hardy Spoehr

TESTIMONY:

HR 2887, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

February 17, 2010, 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol Building, Room 308

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director

Aloha Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee on Finance. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2887.

HB 2887 will weaken Hawaii's comprehensive Smoke-Free Workplaces Law and its educational programs. Our current law and related educational programs ensures basic protections for the public; particularly our young. This bill would weaken the state's ability to fund smoking cessation programs and tobacco education programs. Our state cannot afford to compromise the health of our next generation.

We are particularly concerned because Native Hawaiians have one of the higher, and in some cases the highest, incidences of cancers and the highest incidence of mortality due to heart disease in the state.

Hawai'i's Smoke-Free Workplaces Law and its subsequent tobacco education programs is a model for the nation. Why at this time when many states across the nation view this law as a model for their own adoption, we in Hawai'i is going the other way. We need to continue this effort. We ask that you hold this bill in committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2887 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys.



To: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair, Committee on Finance
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Members, House Committee on Finance
From: Deborah Zysman, MPH, Executive Director
Date: February 15, 2009
Hrg: House Committee on Finance; February 17, 2009 in Rm 308 at 10:00 a.m.
Re: **Strong Opposition to HB 2887**
Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887, which will totally eliminate the revenue stream from the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is the only independent organization in Hawaii whose sole mission is to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our organization is a small nonprofit organization of over 3,000 organizations and members that work to create a healthy Hawaii through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts. The Coalition started in 1996, under the auspices of the American Cancer Society. 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.

By joining the settlement, **Hawai‘i made a promise to the people of Hawai‘i to reduce youth use of tobacco and to advance public health.** This promise is reflected in Act 304, SLH 1999 (SB 1034, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1) which created the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund and the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. 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.”**

If this bill becomes law, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund will suffer a 100% reduction from its original funding.

II. Hawaii 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% Hawaii residents agree that Tobacco Settlement dollars should go to tobacco prevention.** Of those 79% said it was “very important.”
- When asked whether Hawaii 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.
- Of those who support keeping funding at the current level, 62% feel strongly we should maintain funding.

Hawaii residents understand that tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs are critical for public health and important to their families and communities. They strongly support using tobacco settlement dollars to prevent people from starting to smoke and helping smokers quit is the right thing to do. Please consider the will of the people and continue to use tobacco settlement funds for tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs

III. Tobacco Prevention and Control Works

In the last ten years, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has saved lives, kept youth from starting to use tobacco, and saved Hawaii money.

Debbie Taamu started smoking at age 12. She recently quit a year ago with the help of Kokua Kalihi Valley and remains tobacco free. Debbie notes, “Without Kokua Kalihi Valley’s program, I don’t think I could have quit. I saw quit-smoking commercials on television and thought about quitting. One day, I saw a sign about Kokua Kalihi Valley’s program. I decided to get help. Since then, I’ve been smoke-free. I am so grateful for their help. We need to make sure there is funding for programs like these to help people quit. Debbie is just one person helped by tobacco prevention and control.

Hawaii now has the fifth-lowest smoking rate in the nation with 15.4 percent of adults smoking in 2008¹ as compared to 21.1 percent in 2002.² We've reduced smoking from 1 in 4 youths to 1 in ten youths from 2000-2007.³ 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 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."⁴

We have learned from other states that cuts in funding will undermine successes made in reducing smoking rates. When Indiana cuts its funding of tobacco prevention programs by 70%, their smoking rates increased to 23.9% in 2006. California had a well-funded Tobacco Control program in 1999 that reduced youth smoking; however, funding cuts in 2003 led to an increase in high-school smoking rates from 13.2% to 15.4% between 2004 and 2006, and declines in cigarette consumption came to a virtual standstill between 2002 and 2005.

IV. Smoking and Tobacco Use Remains a Major Health Issue and Economic Problem for Hawaii: We Still Have Work to Do

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 more than 1,000 Hawai'i youth become daily smokers each year. Smoking costs us over half a billion dollars per year in smoking-related health care costs and lost productivity. All that stands between the \$42 million tobacco companies spend each year in Hawaii and the next generation is the counter-education efforts of tobacco prevention programs and messages. Tobacco-related health costs take an enormous toll on our business and economy: smoking costs us over half a billion dollars per year in smoking-related health care costs and lost productivity—addition costs our State cannot afford in these difficult economic times.

¹ See Centers for Disease Control, "State-Specific Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Current Cigarette Smoking Among Adults --- United States, 2008" available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5844a3.htm#tab2>.

² For prior smoking rates, see the Hawaii Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data at <http://hawaii.gov/health/statistics/brfss/index.html>.

³ 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>.

⁴ Calculations and sources on file with author in email.

The Trust Fund has funded over 50 organizations since its start; 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. Cuts in funding have 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—in 2008 and 2009, they performed their play in over 20 schools including Waialua, Salt Lake, August Ahrens, Maunawili, and Alvah Scott Elementary Schools and Dole Middle School. The fate of this program is in the air.

We ask that you maintain the 6.5 percent of Tobacco Settlement dollars funding the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund so that these community-based services can continue. **Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. We ask that you hold this measure.**



HAWAII COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

February 16, 2010

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairman Oshiro and Committee Members:

HB 2887 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

The Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF), which has managed the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (Trust Fund) for the Department of Health (DOH) since 2000, opposes HB 2887.

HCF is the designated entity under HRS 328L-5 and through its contract with the DOH responsible for the:

- Management and investment oversight of the Trust Fund, including development of an annual budget, and
- Distribution of Trust Fund dollars through community-based grants and support for other programs that continue Hawaii's comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts.

The Tobacco Trust Fund was established with a long-term view and understanding that attempting to reduce tobacco consumption and the serious public health problems associated with tobacco use would require a comprehensive strategy implemented over many years. Consistent with the objective noted in HRS 328-L, HCF has managed the Trust Fund with that view in mind, to assure that resources continue to be available over the long-term for statewide programs and services in accordance with the statewide Strategic Plan for Tobacco Prevention and Control. Payments to the State of Hawaii from the Master Settlement Agreement will expire but changing behavior and social norms requires time, continued attention, and resources.

And Hawaii has seen real results. Through the Trust Fund's investment of approximately \$40 million over the first ten years and the effort of many partners in tobacco prevention and control, smoking prevalence rates for adults and youth have decreased significantly.



HAWAII COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Hawaii's smoking prevalence rate now ranks as the fifth lowest in the nation. This decrease in smoking has saved 14,000 lives in the last six years alone. However, recent data shows over 153,000 Hawaii adults still smoke and there are significant disparities. Hawaii residents who are unemployed, with low-incomes and with low educational levels still smoke at higher rates. Given the economic challenges faced by many Hawaii residents, now is not the time to pull back from investing in tobacco prevention and control. A statewide cessation program for the uninsured and underinsured is now available and funded by the Trust Fund. Community-based intensive cessation programs have been funded by the Trust Fund. Programs to support Hawaii youth have been funded by the Trust Fund.

The Legislature has **twice** reduced the allocation from the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund to the Trust Fund – from 25% to 12.5% to 6.5%. In light of 2009 legislative action, the Trust Fund CY 2010 budget developed between the Department of Health and HCF was reduced to \$6.4 million to in an attempt to maintain momentum, sustain the documented gains, and preserve resources for the on-going and long-term effort.

This Bill would reduce the allocation to the Trust Fund to zero for a period of five years. Absent a continuing allocation, the cost of Hawaii's tobacco prevention and control efforts, even at a scaled down level, would substantially erode the principal in the Fund compounded by the loss of interest on the Fund.

HCF recognizes the economic challenges currently facing the Legislature. However, to reduce the Trust Fund's revenue stream to zero is a short-sighted reaction to a long-term public health problem. Other states which have exhausted their tobacco settlement resources or diverted those resources from tobacco prevention and control have seen smoking prevalence rates increase. In the end, should Hawaii's progress be reversed, the public will bear the burden of increased health care costs, lost productivity, and premature death and tobacco-related illnesses. HCF urges this Committee to preserve the hard-won gains made in tobacco prevention and control over the past ten years.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schember-Lang
Sr. Program Officer
Hawaii Community Foundation



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TO: HEALTH COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**FOR: HEARING SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 AM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010**

**RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB 2887 RELATING TO
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT MONIES**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Committee Members:

The American Lung Association in Hawaii is in strong opposition to HB 2887.

It is no accident that in less than a decade - from 2000 to 2008 - 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 the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund which receives a small portion of the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement monies.

Cuts made by the 2009 State Legislature to the amount of dollars going into that Trust Fund have resulted in a significant reduction in smoking cessation and prevention programs in Hawaii this year. States such as Indiana, Massachusetts, and California that cut tobacco prevention and control funding have seen smoking rates jump back up.

Smoking continues to kill more people than does AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, illegal drugs, murders and suicides combined, while also costing Hawaii over a half a billion dollars in annual health care costs and loss of productivity.

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.

Please continue to help all our communities to counter the tobacco industry's predatory tactics and keep our children and future generations tobacco-free. 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, MPH,
Executive Director

February 16, 2010

Aloha Chair Marcus R. Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee, and Members of the Finance Committee,

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887
Hrg: FIN Agenda #1, February 17, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887. We need to continue funding tobacco prevention and control—it's about saving lives and the next generation.

My name is Christy Inda, Director of the Preventive Health Department at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. Founded in 1972, the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center serves the federally designated medically underserved rural community of Waianae and surrounding communities in the Leeward and Central regions of the island of Oahu in the state of Hawaii. **The Wai'anae Coast has the highest smoking prevalence rate in the State**, with an estimated 29.7% of the adult population being current smokers. E Malama I Kou Ha (care for your life giving breath) is a tobacco cessation program that is funded by the Trust Fund and provides much-needed services to adult residents of the Leeward Coast, particularly Native Hawaiians and homeless. HB 2887 cuts the entire revenue stream dedicated to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. This Trust Fund is vital to our community.

We need to continue funding tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs to protect our children and families' health. Our efforts work. We're saving lives by providing culturally-tailored tobacco cessation services to those who want to improve their quality of life by quitting tobacco. Over the past three years, our tobacco cessation program has served an average of 250 people per year and boasts an overall quit rate of about 50% at three and six months post program.

But we still have work to do. Other states such as California, Massachusetts and Indiana that have cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs have seen a reversal in progress against tobacco use.

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center urges you to maintain the funding of tobacco prevention and control so that we can continue to save our State lives and money. Please feel free to contact Christy Inda if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christy Inda, M.S., R.D.
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center
(808) 697-3511
cinda@wcchc.com

MARILYN J. GAGEN, CPA LLC

February 16, 2010

To: Chair Marcus M. Oshiro, Committee on Finance
Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee, Committee on Finance
Members, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: FIN, February 17, 2010 in Room 308 at 10:00 a.m. (Agenda #1)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2887.

My name is Marilyn J. Gagen. Tobacco prevention and control programs are important to me because my husband and both of his parents died from tobacco related illnesses. My husband was only 59 when he died last February after being a life long smoker.

Please do not pass out HB 2887 of Committee. We need to continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect our children and families' health. All that stands between the next generation and tobacco use is tobacco prevention programs.

Tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs save lives and save our state money. We have made significant gains to reduce smoking rates from 21.2% in 2002 to 15.4% in 2008. And we have reduced youth smoking from 1 in 4 youth to 1 in 10 youth from 2000 to 2007. But there is still work to do. More than 153,000 Hawaii residents still smoke and more adults and youth are using smokeless tobacco.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen a reversal in progress against smoking when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Hawaii cannot afford to go backwards in our effort to save lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887. Please hold this bill in committee.

Sincerely,

Marilyn J. Gagen

February 16, 2010

Aloha Chair Marcus R. Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee, and Members of the Finance Committee,

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887
Hrg: FIN Agenda #1, February 17, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887. We need to continue funding tobacco prevention and control—it's about saving lives and the next generation.

My name is Maelynn Potter, Prevention Services Program Manager of Maui Youth & Family Services. Maui Youth and Family Services was established in 1978 by the County of Maui as the Maunaolu Youth Residential Shelter and incorporated as a private non-profit agency in 1982. MYFS' mission is to "build better lives with Hawaii's families" by providing a range of behavioral and mental health programs that work together to wrap appropriate services around children and families. By providing services that emphasize prevention, MYFS focuses on developing stronger families and youth who become responsible and contributing members of the community. Maui Youth & Family Services is funded by the Trust Fund and provides much-needed services to adolescent youth of Maui. HB 2887 cuts the entire revenue stream dedicated to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. This Trust Fund is vital to our community

We need to continue funding tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs to protect our children and families' health. Our efforts work. We're saving lives by providing the "Project Towards No Tobacco (TNT)" curriculum to middle school youth across Maui Island. TNT continues to help youth quit, and keep them from starting.

"Project Towards No Tobacco (TNT)" is a curriculum that effectively provides strategies to youth to quit smoking or to teach refusal skills to youth that will keep them from starting. Through out the TNT curriculum, all students write a letter to the Phillip Morris company that allows them stop selling cigarettes. Here are a few examples of what students write...

"I think you should really stop selling your products because people are getting cancer",
"Stop falsifying your advertising where people think it's a good idea to smoke, but its not"
"I don't like that you made cigarettes. It kills people and give them ling cancer."
"The health consequences that are in your product is ling cancer, stink breath, yellow teeth and unhealthy gums"
"I really don't like it, I'm scared that my family and friends are going to die because of the poison you put in it."

But we still have work to do. Other states such as California, Massachusetts and Indiana that have cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs have seen a reversal in progress against tobacco use.

Maui Youth & Family Services urges you to maintain the funding of tobacco prevention and control so that we can continue to save our State lives and money. Please feel free to contact Maelynn Potter if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maelynn Potter
Maui Youth & Family Services
(808) 579-8414 ext 8201
maelynn.potter@myfs.org

To: House Committee of Finance
Hearing: Wednesday February 17, 2010
Time: 10:00 AM
Place: Conference Rm. 308

Re: HB2887 – Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Testimony in Opposition

Chair Oshiro and members of the Finance Committee, this is a very bad bill that will take away the small amount money that is currently going into our Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund. This money is use by many community organizations to help stop people from smoking and to prevent others from taking up this dangerous habit.

I just want to point out that over 150,000 of our residents still smoke. Even in these hard times we need make sure that everyone has somewhere to go to get help to quit smoking.

I know that last you reduced the money that the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund was getting from \$6 million to \$3 million. Now you want to take the rest. Please do not do this. My daughter use to smoke, she got help at the Kalihi-Palama Heath Center and has been smoke free for over six months. She was a smoker for 16 years.

Please do not pass this bill. I know you can find money from somewhere else to run the government.

Mahalo
Douglas Lum

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 2887 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 2887 relating to the Tobacco Settlement Money. Please do not allow HB 2887 to pass out of committee.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

February 15, 2010

Aloha Chair Marcus R. Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee, and Members of the Finance Committee,

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887
rg: FIN Agenda #1, February 17, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887. We need to continue funding tobacco prevention and control—it's about saving lives and the next generation.

My name is Debbie Odo, Director of Tobacco Control with the American Lung Association in Hawaii). The American Lung Association in Hawaii's Freedom From Smoking program for adults is funded by the Trust Fund and provides much-needed services to continue to serve those with Mental Health and Substance Abuse challenges. HB 2887 cuts the entire revenue stream dedicated to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. This Trust Fund is vital to our community

We need to continue funding tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs to protect our children and families' health. Our efforts work. We're saving lives by reaching those who can't afford smoking cessation services and medication. Those with duo diagnosis want and need the help and they are quitting.

One gentleman in one of my worksite clinic purchased dentures right after he quit. He's smoke free and is not ashamed to smile. Another person lived in the Wahiawa bushes, diagnosed with schizophrenia, PTSD, depression and has nine months clean from ice. She also quit smoking for 6 months and will be trained to run the American Lung Association in Hawaii's Freedom From Smoking Clinic for those with duo-diagnosis. These are just of few of my success stories.

But we still have work to do. Other states such as California, Massachusetts and Indiana that have cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs have seen a reversal in progress against tobacco use.

American Lung Association in Hawaii urges you to maintain the funding of tobacco prevention and control so that we can continue to save our State lives and money. Please feel free to contact Debbie Odo if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Debbie Odo
American Lung Association in Hawaii
(808) 537-5966 ext. 216
Dodo@ala-hawaii.org

February 15, 2010

To: Chair Marcus M. Oshiro, Committee on Finance
Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee, Committee on Finance
Members, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: FIN, February 17, 2010 in Room 308 at 10:00 a.m. (Agenda #1)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2887.

My name is Jeannine Copp, Maui resident. Tobacco prevention and control programs are important to me because I know smoking is one of the biggest killers in our society. I am very sensitive to smoke and it has been a great benefit to me to have smoking in the community decrease as fewer people are using cigarettes. I saw the effects of long-term smoking in my grandfather who needed an oxygen tank to breathe and ultimately died from emphysema. I know others who struggle greatly with quitting. It is such an addictive substance that clearly prevention is crucial to decreasing the use. For those already suffering from the addiction, please allow ample resources for them to find the help they need.

Please do not pass HB 2887. We need to continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect our children and families' health. All that stands between the next generation and tobacco use is tobacco prevention programs. Tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs save lives and save our state money.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen a reversal in progress against smoking when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Hawaii cannot afford to go backwards in our effort to save lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in **opposition to HB 2887**. Please hold this bill in committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2691 Relating to Smoking.

Sincerely,

Jeannine C. Copp

Ph or email jcwakka@yahoo.com

Address P.O. Box 2337

Kihei, HI 96753

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 10:24 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hbonmaui@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2887 on 2/17/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/17/2010 10:00:00 AM HB2887

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Helen Barrow
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hbonmaui@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2010

Comments:

To: Chair Marcus M. Oshiro, Committee on Finance
Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee, Committee on Finance
Members, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: FIN, February 17, 2010 in Room 308 at 10:00 a.m. (Agenda #1)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2887.

My name is Helen Barrow. Tobacco prevention and control programs are important to me because my dear grandfather died from a tobacco related disease before I ever got to know him. Hawaii's keiki need healthy grandparents and parents. We also need to keep life saving tobacco prevention programs.

Please do not pass out HB 2887 of Committee. We need to continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect our children and families' health. All that stands between the next generation and tobacco use is tobacco prevention programs.

Tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs save lives and save our state money. We have made significant gains to reduce smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And we have reduced youth smoking from 1 in 4 youth to 1 in 10 youth from 2000 to 2007. But there is still work to do. More than 153,000 residents still smoke and more adults and youth are using smokeless tobacco.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen a reversal in progress against smoking when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Hawaii cannot afford to go backwards in our effort to save lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887. Please hold this bill in committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2691 Relating to Smoking.

Sincerely,

Helen Barrow

email:

hbonmaui@gmail.com

Address

PO Box 822,
Makawao ,Hi 96768

February 16, 2010

Aloha Chair Marcus R. Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee, and Members of the Finance Committee,

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887

Hrg: FIN Agenda #1, February 17, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887. It is important that funding continues for tobacco use prevention, cessation and control in Hawaii. Please commit to keeping funds flowing to organizations that are committed to saving lives and securing a tobacco-free future for the next generation.

My name Beth Davidann and I am the Director of Castle Medical Center's Wellness & Lifestyle Medicine Center that has provided tobacco use prevention and cessation programs and services to our community for many years. We have received funding from the Trust Fund to allow us to expand much-needed services to providing tobacco cessation groups in more areas of rural Oahu, as well as providing innovative initiatives such as our inpatient bedside counseling for smoking cessation. HB 2887 cuts the entire revenue stream dedicated to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. This Trust Fund is vital to our community

We need to continue funding tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs to protect our children and families' health. 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.

We still have work to do. Other states such as California, Massachusetts and Indiana that have cut funding for tobacco prevention and control programs have seen a reversal in progress against tobacco use.

I urge you to maintain the funding of tobacco prevention and control so that we can continue to save our State lives and money. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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

February 16, 2010

To: Chair Marcus M. Oshiro, Committee on Finance
Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee, Committee on Finance
Members, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: FIN, February 17, 2010 in Room 308 at 10:00 a.m. (Agenda #1)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2887. My name is LorrieAnn Santos, I am Co-project Director and Program Manager of `Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network, a program of Papa Ola Lokahi. Tobacco prevention and control programs are important to the health and welfare of Hawaii's people.

As such, Papa Ola Lokahi and `Imi Hale have supported the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems in their development of a comprehensive tobacco cessation protocol, adapted from the DHHS Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality and integrated into the array of clinical services and programs administered by the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, statewide, that was initially funded by tobacco settlement dollars from Hawaii Community Foundation.

Please do not pass out HB 2887 of Committee. We need to continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect our children and improve the health of Hawaii's families.

Tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs save lives and save our state money. We have made significant gains in reducing the State's overall smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. However, marginalized groups such as Native Hawaiians, whose smoking rates have also declined, still have the highest smoking rates in the state at 21.4% and the highest prevalence of smoking-related diseases (cardiovascular, cancer, diabetes, and asthma).

We have also reduced youth smoking from 1 in 4 youth to 1 in 10 youth from 2000 to 2007. But there is still work to do. More than 153,000 residents still smoke and more adults and youth are using harmful smokeless tobacco products.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen a reversal in progress against smoking when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Hawaii cannot afford to go backwards in our effort to save lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in strong opposition to HB 2887. Please hold this bill in committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2887 Relating to Smoking.

Sincerely,

LorrieAnn Santos
Telephone: 808-258-5811
Address: 45-415 Loli'i Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 16, 2010

To: Chair Marcus M. Oshiro, Committee on Finance
Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee, Committee on Finance
Members, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: FIN, February 17, 2010 in Room 308 at 10:00 a.m. (Agenda #1)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2887.

My name is Megan Inada, Tobacco Program Coordinator at Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services. Tobacco prevention and control programs are important to me because not only do I see people struggling to overcome their nicotine addictions at work but I have seen the devastating effects tobacco use can have in my own family. Today my uncle battles with emphysema from years of smoking. I see how he fights to just take a breath. And I don't want to anyone else to have to go through this, because it is preventable. But in order to help people quit and keep others from starting, we need sufficient funding.

Please do not pass out HB 2887 of Committee. We need to continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect our children and families' health. All that stands between the next generation and tobacco use is tobacco prevention programs.

Tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs save lives and save our state money. We have made significant gains to reduce smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And we have reduced youth smoking from 1 in 4 youth to 1 in 10 youth from 2000 to 2007. But there is still work to do. More than 153,000 residents still smoke and more adults and youth are using smokeless tobacco.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen a reversal in progress against smoking when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Hawaii cannot afford to go backwards in our effort to save lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887. Please hold this bill in committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition to HB 2691 Relating to Smoking.

Sincerely,

Megan Inada
225-3039
437 Pau Street #704
Honolulu, HI 96815

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 2:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jillf2184@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2887 on 2/17/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/17/2010 10:00:00 AM HB2887

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jill Friedman
Organization: Individual
Address: P.O. Box 1248 Kekaha, HI
Phone: 808-635-5919
E-mail: jillf2184@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2010

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. These funds were intended for tobacco prevention and control and it is absolutely necessary that they be used for this purpose.

Smoking and secondhand smoke are extreme health hazards, and are responsible for a huge portion of medical expenses, as well as much unnecessary illness, pain and suffering and premature death. Most people who smoke begin at a young age, and regret their decision for much of their lives. These funds need to be used to prevent young people from making that tragic mistake, by enforcing laws against tobacco sales to minors as well as helping young people to make the right decision.

For every person who begins or continues to smoke, many more will suffer from exposure to the secondhand smoke generated by that person. Prevention, cessation and control are necessary for the public health.

To divert these funds to any other purpose would be immoral and unethical if not illegal. And if the bill is passed it could be legally challenged. Please do not pass this bill.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 12:03 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lbishop@haleopio.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2887 on 2/17/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/17/2010 10:00:00 AM HB2887

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: LaVerne Bishop
Organization: Hale 'Opio Kaua'i, Inc.
Address: 2959 Umi Street Lihu'e, HI
Phone: 808-245-2873 X 228
E-mail: lbishop@haleopio.org
Submitted on: 2/16/2010

Comments:

Hale 'Opio Kaua'i ,Inc is strongly opposed to continuing to dessimate services for families and children. Prevention and early intervention works; where these efforts have not been funded, the community has been harmed. Show leadership in these dire economic times by raising taxes to pay for programs we know benefit the community.
Thank you.