

HB 2887



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Senate Committee on Health
Senate Committee on Human Services
March 16, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Testimony of
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
And
Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Dean and Professor of Medicine
Barry & Virginia Weinman Endowed Chair
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB2887 HD1 – Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Aloha, Chair Ige, Chair Chun Oak land and members of the Senate Committees on Health and Human Services. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 2887 House Draft 1. While we cannot support a reduction of the allocation to the Hawai'i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund, we do appreciate and support those provisions which serve to confirm and clarify the sunset date (2015) on the use of tobacco master settlement agreement monies for operating purposes by the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

This coming May, we will graduate 62 physicians, twelve of whom are Native Hawaiians. That gives us a great sense of pride, because we know those students – and really, all our graduates – understand the critical health care needs of Hawai'i's diverse people. Our state's Native Hawaiians citizens, in particular, are five times more likely to die from diabetes than Caucasians in Hawai'i. Other disparities exist among our citizens of Japanese and Filipino ancestry.

The Legislature's investment in JABSOM is allowing us to grow MORE physicians. This year, despite a more than \$3 million dollar reduction in our state general funding, we will – without new state appropriations – increase the size of our incoming class from 62 to 64 students. This

is a modest increase, to be sure, but one that required commitment from our faculty, staff and administrators, and something we would not be able to consider without the support you have given us through the tobacco settlement monies.

It is important to understand that although we graduate 62 (and soon to be 64) students per year, the school of medicine educates and trains a total of 250 medical students year-round. Through partnering with our major local hospitals, we simultaneously train another 240 medical "residents": men and women with their medical degrees who are treating patients while mastering their skills in fields including primary care, pediatrics, obstetrics and family medicine. We have another ten students who are from disadvantaged backgrounds whom we are training for a fifth year of college study, so that they may become medical students. Additionally, we have another 120 or so undergraduate and graduate students studying health sciences, including Public Health, Medical Technology and Communication Science Disorders.

We need to keep JABSOM on a course to success because we face a rapidly growing physician shortage, because we attract major funding into the community -- \$42 million last year -- that supports jobs in Hawai'i providing research and outreach to benefit our community, and because we treat Hawai'i's people for tobacco-related disease and strive to reduce the tobacco addiction that costs our state more than \$350 million a year and destroys the quality of our citizens' lives.

Briefly, on workforce, our latest research shows that 40% of Hawai'i's current practicing physicians are expected to reach retirement age within 10 years. According to national standards, we are already more than 500 physicians short, based on our population. Just maintaining that already underserved status will require us to graduate or recruit into the state more than 150 physicians each year. In the meantime, JABSOM is the best source of doctors for Hawai'i.

- JABSOM clinical faculty members (paid and volunteer) represent more than one-third of the practicing physicians in Hawai'i.
- Nearly half of all physicians currently practicing in Hawai'i are graduates of JABSOM or its post-graduate residency training program.

When JABSOM's Kaka'ako campus was built, the medical school also had to assume its own expenses for electricity, security and custodial services – costs that were previously absorbed

by UH Mānoa. The tobacco settlement funding allows us to meet those expenses without which we would be forced to request additional general funds.

We are making every effort to reduce the amount of general fund support required for JABSOM. In addition to the state-imposed budget cuts this past year, we have instituted a “green initiative” that is projected to save \$1 million this year by shortening hours of operation – and at times shutting down completely – our medical education building. As you know, that is on top of the fact that our facility already is more efficient than many other state buildings because of features, including the energy saving seawater cooling system, which allowed JABSOM to be awarded a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in 2008.

Finally, tobacco cessation and tobacco dependence treatment for the people of Hawai'i are prominent throughout the medical school's curriculum.

Our JABSOM faculty, residents, medical students, and related healthcare professionals provide daily care for patients who smoke, and routinely offer them help in quitting through interventional counseling.

Tobacco dependence and its management are taught throughout all four years of our medical school curriculum. They are integrated with patient care responsibilities in the post-graduate residency training programs. And our faculty and students are actively involved in community education, including a variety of programs that benefit Kindergarten through 12th grade students and through hospital-based services that benefit the people of Hawai'i. Our students also voluntarily treat Hawai'i's homeless families at four state-sponsored shelters, twice per week.

Because it is well-reported in the medical literature that smokers are almost 30% more likely to quit after being counseled by their physician, it should be recognized that JABSOM provides the State with an invaluable resource that reinforces key tobacco cessation messages and contributes significantly towards helping Hawai'i smokers quit

In setting aside a portion of the tobacco settlement to pay construction debt, the Legislature allowed the medical school's new campus to be built. In allowing us to use tobacco settlement monies for some of our operating expenses, you have allowed the medical school to survive.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



March 14, 2010

Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

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

Hearing:

3:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 16, 2010
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016

RE: HB2887, HD1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION

Chairs Chun Oakland and Ige, and members of the Committee on Human Services, and Committee on Health. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB2887, HD1 which 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. It requires interest and earnings of the Hawaii tobacco settlement special fund to be deposited into the general fund. It also reduces the portion of moneys from the Hawaii tobacco settlement special fund to be transferred to the tobacco enforcement special fund. Finally, it encourages the nonprofit entity responsible for the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund to increase its annual expenditures to assist in revitalizing the economy. The effective date would be July 1, 2010, and would sunset on June 30, 2015.

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 Society has been a national leader in the effort to reduce tobacco use by implementing proven strategies at the national and local level. This includes ensuring that all states maintain a comprehensive, effective tobacco control program that addresses education, prevention and cessation in the community at large.

The Society does acknowledge that Hawaii is facing an economic downturn that could be protracted. However, because of this, we need to ensure that there is adequate funding for tobacco control. Prevention does work. If program funding is reduced all the gains we have made will be loss. Some states (California, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts and Minnesota) that have curtailed funding of tobacco prevention and cessation programs are now seeing their smoking reduction rates stalled or reversed.

This past November, the CDC reported the first increase in cigarette smoking in 15 years. They contributed this to cuts in funding to state tobacco control programs.

The reversal in smoking rates has already hit Hawaii. There is an embargoed Department of Health report, "The 2009 Hawaii Youth Tobacco Survey," that states that our current (2007) youth smoking rate of 9.7% has increased to 11.3%. Also reflected in the report is an alarming decrease on middle school students who are taught about the dangers of smoking, from 79.9% in 2000 to 62.1% in 2009.

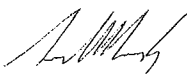
Last year, the Legislature reduced the allocation for the tobacco trust fund from 12.5% to 6.5%. Due to this decrease, many community based tobacco control programs had to reduce prevention and cessation services. A number of organizations had to terminate prevention and cessation specialists. Others are struggling just to maintain services at reduced levels. We believe that the total elimination of funding will further erode tobacco control efforts in Hawaii and impact disparate groups that traditionally have had the highest smoking rates, then our youth, and finally the general adult population.

Continued funding for our community based programs is important because they are the key to changing the community environment to support the tobacco-free norm. We must not continue to slide backwards. Our tobacco prevention and cessation programs were successfully working prior to cuts being made to the funding stream to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.

In closing, we did endorse the provision of this bill that "encourages the entity responsible for the trust fund to increase...its annual expenditures from the trust fund for programs and projects authorized under section 328L-5." We would point out that the state of Hawaii has never met the CDC recommended minimum level for tobacco control funding. For the last several years, requests by the tobacco control community for increased funding have gone unheeded.

Mahalo for giving us the opportunity to provide testimony regarding our concerns and anxieties over this important issue. **We would urge the committees to hold this measure. Let us not slide back further. If we do we will surely pay more in health care cost in the future.**

Very truly yours,



George S. Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations



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Testimony OPPOSING HB 2887, HD1 “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

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 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887 HD 1.

My name is Cara Sadira, Chief Executive Officer of Rising Up, Inc. aka Tobacco Education & Assistance Program. **Please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee.** Hawaii needs 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 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,
Cara Sadira, Chief Executive Officer,
Tobacco Education & Assistance Program/Rising Up, Inc.
(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 Pepeekeo Place, Honolulu, HI 96825

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Hye-ryeon Lee [hyeryeon@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 1:39 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: Testimony for HTH/HMS hearing, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Categories: Blue Category

March 11, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887 HD 1. My name is Hye-ryeon Lee and I live at 3094 Kaloaluki Street in Manoa valley. I am a health communication researcher and on the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I am writing this letter to urge you to hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. HB 2887 will dramatically decrease the funding of community programs that help people quit smoking and educate youth about the dangers of tobacco use. The allocations to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund must not be reduced. Decreases in funding will dismantle the gains we've made to support a healthy Hawaii. Our comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts have resulted in significant gains—our high school youth smoking rates are below 10% and Hawaii has the second lowest tobacco-related deaths at 1,200 a year.

The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) Best Practices Guidelines for tobacco control recommends that to be most effective, the state of Hawaii should be spending between \$10.8 and \$23.4 million on a comprehensive, statewide tobacco control program. At the current allocation of 12.5%, the Trust Fund is receiving approximately \$5 million per year. By spending the money on prevention we can save money on health care in the end. The data is clear on this: Based on the experience in CA and MA every dollar spent on tobacco prevention and cessation can save up to \$3.00 in health care and other associated costs spend because of tobacco use. Prevention saves our state money and lives.

The purpose of the tobacco settlement with the tobacco industry was to offset the costs the state incurred in association with tobacco use. In settling this case, the 46 states involved indicated the funds would be used to reduce the impact of tobacco use. While there are many programs deserving of funding, the tobacco settlement funds should first and foremost be used for its intended purpose - tobacco prevention and control. Tobacco use costs the state and it's residents over \$328 million each year in health and other associated costs, not to mention the pain and suffering to tobacco users and their families from disability and premature death. Good news is that all these human and financial costs associated with tobacco use can be prevented. However, to prevent tobacco use in Hawaii, we need an adequate level of funding. I strongly believe that t is your responsibility as a representative of your constituents to ensure this.

If money is diverted, smoking rates will increase. Massachusetts cut their funding from 48 million dollars in 2002 to 2.5 million dollars in 2004. Per capita cigarette consumption increased by 3.2% and significant declines in youth smoking rates were dramatically stalled. We cannot afford to lose ground in the fight against tobacco and its serious effects on people! Despite these hard economic times, Hawaii's lawmakers must continue to

invest in the health of Hawai'i people. There is still a lot of work to do. Native Hawaiians smoke 7% more than the general population and \$336 million is spent in annual health care costs directly-caused by smoking.

Please preserve funding of tobacco prevention and control programs and oppose efforts to decrease the 12.5% dedicated to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. Please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in committee. I thank you for your work to make Hawaii one of the healthiest in the nation. Please continue to support the funding of comprehensive tobacco prevention and control funds.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter or if you need additional information on this issue. I can be reached at 988-5172 by phone and hyeryeon@hawaii.edu by e-mail.

Sincerely,

Hye-ryeon Lee, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Speech & Cancer Research Center of Hawaii
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, HI 96822

Opinions presented here are personal views and not the official views of the University of Hawai'i or any other organization or entity.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Debbie Odo [DOdo@ala-hawaii.org]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 6:55 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: Strong Opposition to HB2887 HD 1
Attachments: image001.jpg

**To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.**

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

My name is Debbie Odo, Director of Tobacco Control, from the American Lung Association in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking cost our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

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 even going to the movie. 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 be contributing citizens from their community who are giving back by helping others quit.

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

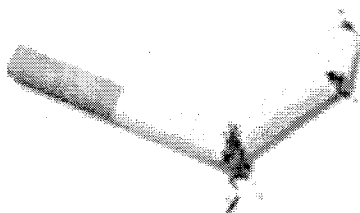
Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee. The health and welfare of Hawaii depends on you. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1

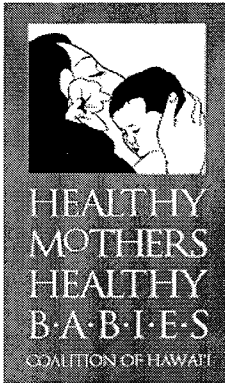
Sincerely,

Debbie Odo

Debbie Odo
Director of Tobacco Control
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680 Iwilei Road
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February 16, 2010

TO: Senator Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair and Members of the Committee On Human Services
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Josh Green, MD., Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Health

FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director

RE: **HB 2887, HD1 Relating To Tobacco Settlement Moneys**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 3pm

Honorable Chairperson Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee on Human Services

Honorable Chairperson Ige and Vice Chair Green and Members of the Committee on Health

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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e-mail: jackieb@hmhb-hawaii.org website: www.hmhb-hawaii.org



Submitted via email to: HMSTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: March 16, 2010
Conference Room #016 @ 3:00 p.m.

DATE: March 11, 2010

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services | Senate Committee on Health
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair | Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair | Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

FROM: Dennis Arakaki, Executive Director

RE: Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Honorable Chairs Senator Chun Oakland and Senator David Ige, and members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Health, I am Dennis Arakaki, **representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Hawaii Catholic Conference.**

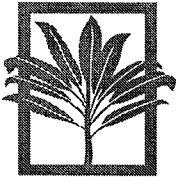
Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of over 250 Christian churches. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, which under the 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.



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2085, HD 1

Relating to Health

Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer

March 16, 2010 3:00 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association supports this measure. Since there is soon to be a change in Administration and since major QUEST contracts are not due to expire anytime soon, it is rational to ensure that the responsibility for crafting the next RFPs is reserved for those who will also be held accountable for applicants' performance. Moreover, changes in national health care policy and funding may have a significant effect on future QUEST programs so proceeding unnecessarily with an RFP now may result in wasted time and effort.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.



WAIKIKI HEALTH CENTER

REACHING OUT FROM THE HEART OF WAIKIKI.

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/H

From: Sheila Beckham, RD, MPH
Executive Director, Waikiki Health Center

Re: HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Hawaii needs funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs to protect our children and families' health.

Waikiki Health Center (WHC) is a federally qualified community health center, providing primary medical and social services to families and individuals that are homeless, uninsured, or others marginalized by society for their medical conditions, language barriers, lifestyles, or substance abuse issues.

WHC is receiving its first year of funding for the provision of Tobacco Cessation services. The target population are homeless, people with HIV/AIDS, or other patients of the health center with co-morbid diabetes, heart disease, depression, or hypertension. The program is integrated into the primary care visit and includes brief intervention as well as lengthier tobacco treatment interventions.

Without this funding, we would not be able to provide a formal cessation program. Without this funding, the number one preventable cause of death would continue to escalate.

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.



COALITION FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

To: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services
From: Trisha Y. Nakamura, Esq., Policy and Advocacy Director
Date: March 15, 2010
Hrg: Senate Committee on HTH/HMS; March 16, 2010 in Room 016
Re: **Strong Opposition to HB 2887, HD 1: Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887, HD 1 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 Hawai'i (Coalition) is the only independent organization in Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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) that 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. 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. 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 Hawai'i money. Take Debbie Taamu, for example. Debbie started smoking at age 12, when there were no prevention programs or counter-marketing messages. 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.

Hawai'i 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

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>.

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 cut 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 Hawai‘i: 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 1,400 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 Hawai‘i 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.

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

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.

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'alae Elementary, Kokohead Elementary, and Jarret Middle School, Dole Middle School, and Kapolei Middle School. The play has ended.

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 in Committee.**



ALU LIKE, Inc.

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

March 16, 2010

To: Senators Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Ige, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on
HTH/HMS Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB2887 HD1

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.

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 do not hold HB 2887 HD 1 in committee, not only will the children and community 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. The money that the general fund would gain will be lost many times over due to these costs. This bill does not add to the general fund. It will greatly deplete it.

Please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Hawaii needs funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs to protect our children and families' health.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887.

Mahalo,

DarLynne Kaahanui

1177 Kalia Street, Suite 203
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E-Mail: info@hawaii.cfs.org
www.childandfamily.org



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March 15, 2010

**To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs,
Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs,
Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.**

Aloha Senators,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887 HD 1.

My name is Novelyn Hinazumi, Program Director for Child and Family Service's Kauai 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 homelessness 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

Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children

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 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,


Novelyn Hinazumi
Program Director

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 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on
HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on
HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

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



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

COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Regarding HB 2887, HD 1

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 3:00pm

Dear Senators:

My name is Linda Penn and I am beseeching you to please vote to "hold" HB 2887, HD 1 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 2887, HD 1 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

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

March 15, 2010

To: Senator David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs Joint Committee on
HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Less Ihara, jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on
HTN/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services
Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 Hd 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HHTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00p.m.

My name is Musu Maneafaiga CHW for Smoking Cessation Program at Waianae Coast
Comprehensive Health Center Malama I Kou Ha.

Please hold HB 2887 Hd in Committee. Hawaii needs funding for tobacco prevention and
tobacco treatment programs to protect our children and families' health.

Our smoking cessation program serves the Native Hawaiians and Homeless population
stretching from Ka'ena Point to Kalaelo. Last year we educated over 2,400 Leeward
Coast residents and assisted over 260 in quitting. It has been through our funding that we
have been able to reach this high population and provide free nicotine replacements and
counseling to assist with the quit attempts.

We serve four different homeless shelters, as well as outreach on the beaches and parks on
the Leeward Coast. Through our program we cover homeless shelters Waianae Civic
Center at Waianae and Vets at Kalaelo and we have been able to help many from the
Micronesians, Hawaiians, Samoans, Caucasians, and Waianae Coast Health Center
Patients.

Without the funding we have to run our smoking cessation program, we will be unable to
provide services to the homeless who are already underserved and worthy of receiving
treatment. Waianae has the highest rate of lung cancer, Diabetes, COPD etc. Please we
need to continue our service and help people to stop smoking and return to better health.

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

Musu Maneafaiga/ CHW

469-1033 or 397-3559 mmaneafaiga@wcchc.com
86-260 Farrington Hwy.
Waianae, Hawaii, 96792



March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS

Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS

Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887 HD 1.

My name is Alicia Higa, Tobacco Treatment Specialist & Project Coordinator with Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center's Smoking Cessation Program, E Malama I Kou Ha.

Please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Hawaii needs funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs to protect our children and families' health.

Our smoking cessation program serves the Native Hawaiian and homeless population stretching from Ka'ena Point to Kalaeloa. Last year we educated over 2400 Leeward Coast residents and assisted over 260 in quitting. It has been through our funding that we have been able to reach this high-risk population and provide free nicotine replacements and counseling to assist with quit attempts.

We serve four different homeless shelters, as well as outreach on the beaches and parks of the Leeward Coast. Through our Waianae Civic Center shelter we have been able to help many from the Micronesian community through the help of one of our Micronesian patients who has quit for two years! He is so thankful for our assistance that he has now recruited over seven family members to our classes and acts as our translator and support for them. In our US Vets class at the Kalaeloa shelter we have many veterans who have also quit through our program and have acted as recruiters for us. One in particular, has been successfully quit for almost three years and still comes to see us every week to share his talent of playing his saxophone with us as well as to bring new veteran

residents to our weekly meetings. He is amazed at how much better he can play now that he has quit smoking and thanks us every week.

Without the funding we have to run our smoking cessation program, we will be unable to provide services to the homeless who are already underserved and worthy of receiving treatment. Waianae has the highest rates of native Hawaiians, who in turn also have the highest rates of lung cancer. Please allow us to continue the work we do for our community by opposing HB 2887 and HB 2691.

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,

Alicia Higa, Tobacco Treatment Specialist

#561-6997/697-3599, ahiga@wcchc.com

86-260 Farrington Hwy.
Waianae, Hawaii, 96792

WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER



March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887 HD 1.

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

Please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee.

Hawaii needs funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs to protect our children and families' health.

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. It is the mission of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center to make available to all residents of the Waianae district, complete comprehensive health and related human services regardless of the ability to pay.

The Wai`anae Coast has the highest smoking prevalence rate 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 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.

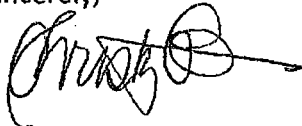
We hold classes on a regular basis at the Health Center and at two area homeless shelters. Our services are also requested on a quarterly basis at the Malama Recovery substance abuse program, and at least two other area homeless shelters. We serve a very vulnerable population. There are no other tobacco cessation programs on the Waianae 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 2887 cuts the revenue stream dedicated to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. This Trust Fund is vital to our community. Without continued funding from the Trust Fund, we will be unable to continue 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.

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 2887 Relating to Smoking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christy Inda', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Christy Inda
Director of Preventive Health
(808) 697-3511
cinda@wcchc.com

**JJ's Drain Service
1429 Kuloko St.
Pearl City, HI 96782
Ph. 455-4030**

March 11, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887 HD 1.

My name is Jennifer Hausler.

Please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Hawaii needs funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs to protect our children and families' health.

--Why tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs are important to you.

--If you have a business background, how tobacco prevention and control saves our economy. Employees who smoke have higher healthcare costs and more absenteeism v nonsmokers.

--If you have a medical background, how has tobacco prevention and control impacted the health of Hawaii residents—or the lack of programs impacted the health of patients, etc.

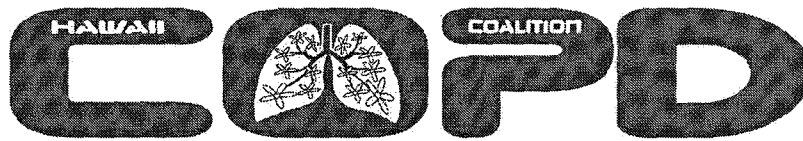
--If you have a connection to programs, what our communities and State would look like without programs.

My husband is dying from emphysema and COPD from years of smoking and wishes tobacco had not been so addictive. It's too late for him but not too late for our kids and grandkids if we can keep up the tobacco prevention!

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,

Jennifer Hausler
JJ's Drain Service Co Owner
jenhausler@hotmail.com
1429 Kuloko Street
Pearl City, HI 96782



To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: **Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.**

My name is Valerie Chang. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Coalition. I strongly oppose HB2887, HD1. I was diagnosed out of the blue with severe emphysema at age 42 in 2000, from no known cause. It was the scariest time in my life. There were and still are very few resources to turn to and was very little information available to me. To serve patients with emphysema and chronic bronchitis, I co-founded the Hawaii COPD Coalition in 2007.

Our organization provides services and support to Hawaii's people affected by COPD, more commonly known as emphysema, chronic bronchitis and similar conditions.

- o COPD is the fourth leading cause of death and second leading cause of disability in the US, with 12 million diagnosed and another 12 million undiagnosed.
- o Hawaii 2007 and 2008 statewide survey data reveal that over 30,000 Hawaii adults have been told they have COPD, emphysema and/or chronic bronchitis.
- o Smoking is the major cause of these health conditions.

I strongly **OPPOSE** HB 2887, HD1 relating to the Tobacco Settlement Moneys which would eliminate all funding flowing into our community tobacco prevention and control programs, including our Project SUCCESS. This project is funded primarily by a grant from the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation.

- o Over 30 clinics have been offered at many locations throughout the state (including Maui, Kauai and the Big Island and many Oahu sites), providing free breathing tests to interested community by healthcare professionals (nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, physicians' assistants, and healthcare students)
 - o Over 800 people have received lung testing and thousands obtained materials and medical information
 - o Over 147 smokers were referred to the Hawaii QuitLine
 - o 58% of smokers quit for one month, 46% quit for three months, and 25% quit for six months.
 - o Over 140 people had tests interpreted by lung specialists and were referred for follow up care
- o The project offers resources about COPD, smoking cessation, blood pressure, and other health topics.
- o Monthly support group meetings have been held since November 2007, providing information and support to dozens of people throughout Oahu.
- o Annual COPD Education Day are held at Queen's Conference Center, with speakers and exhibitors on lung health and smoking cessation issues
 - o 100-200 patients and caregivers attending annually as well as 50-100 healthcare professionals, students and exhibitors.
- o Collaborators with Project SUCCESS include: Kapiolani Community College's Respiratory Therapy program, UH-Manoa's School of Nursing, DOH's Tobacco Prevention and Education Program, Straub, Kaiser Permanente, Longs Drugs/CVS Caremark, American Legacy, American Lung Association, American Thoracic Society, American Association for Respiratory Care, Hawaii Society for Respiratory Care, Community Health Centers, Queen's Medical Center, Hawaii Primary Care Association, Hawaii Thoracic Society, and many others.
- o Project SUCCESS was highlighted and received a travel grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to share information about Project SUCCESS at the 11th Annual Asthma and COPD Symposium in 2009 in San Diego. Other states and countries are looking to Project SUCCESS as a model for their case-finding lung clinics.

We do appreciate the difficult financial situation the state is in, but these funds devoted to tobacco prevention, education and cessation must continue to fund our community programs, so that the good work we are doing is not undercut and the health of our people is not compromised. Thank you for carefully considering this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information. Please vote to hold HB2887, HD1 in committee.

Aloha,
Valerie Chang, JD
Executive Director, Hawaii COPD Coalition
Website: <http://hawaiicopd.org>, e-mail: copd.hawaii@yahoo.com
(808)699-9839
733 Bishop Street, Suite 1550, Honolulu, HI 96813

HALE 'OPIO KAUA'I, INC.

Community Programs for Children, Youth and Families

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March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs,
Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs,
Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement
Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

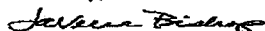
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887 HD 1. My name is LaVerne Bishop, Program Director with Hale 'Opio Kaua'i, Inc.

Please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Hawaii needs funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs to protect our children and families' health and to advance programs that develop protective factors against unhealthy lifestyles.

Hale 'Opio has served high-risk youth on Kaua'i since 1975 by working directly in the schools to connect youth academically and socially to their community. An important part of our programming is ensuring our youth do not use tobacco. With the collapse of social services, child and adolescent mental health, and education, our State needs funding for essential prevention services including tobacco prevention. Please ensure funding for the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund so that our State can continue to make smart investments in the health and well-being of our children.

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,



LaVerne Bishop



**Testimony to the Senate Committees on Human Services and Health
Tuesday, March 16, 2010
3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2887 HD1 RELATING TO THE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT
MONEYS**

Chairs Chun Oakland and Ige, Vice Chairs Ihara and Green and members of the committees:

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 have concerns with 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.



Home of the
Wildcats

Konawaena High School

81-1043 Konawaena School Road
Kealahou, Hawaii 96750
Ph. 808-323-4500
FAX 808-323-4515

Shawn S. Suzuki
Principal

Glenn Gray
Vice Principal

Bill Trumbo
Athletic Director

March 11, 2010

Regarding: HB2887 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Monies

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am writing to ask your consideration to oppose HB 2887. This Bill proposes reducing/redirecting Tobacco Settlement monies- monies that support the Tobacco Trust Fund. Konawaena High School is a fortunate recipient of a grant via this fund. This funding will provide a Peer Education teacher and two (2) Part-Time Teachers (PTT) over the next two (2) years. In addition to tobacco cessation projects, it will continue to support our Peer Education Program (PEP) and myriad projects that encourage positive choices for all youth in our feeder schools and community.

High school students in this program have already produced and delivered lessons about substance abuse, bullying, abstinence, and dating violence. Having this funding reduced/removed jeopardizes the delivery of these important messages and lessons- especially to and for youth in a smaller, semi-rural community such as ours. In this current economic climate I believe it is imperative that funding for programs that support the health and well-being of our children, communities, and schools be at the fore.

Again, as a school facing a difficult economic situation, our Peer Education Program Empowers Project focuses on tobacco cessation and positive choices in all areas for high, middle, and elementary school students. Please don't make it even more difficult for schools and like-organizations to continue such important educational programs. Thank you much for your consideration. I may be reached at work (808)323-4500 or cell (808)895-3493 with any additional questions or concerns.

Most Sincerely,

Shawn S. Suzuki
Principal, Konawaena High School

To request interpreter or translation services call the school principal.

Achievement, Character, Success for Life

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887 HD 1.

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 hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. 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

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Alana Bryant [alanaisforlovers@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 2:07 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Alana Bryant
2746 Kahawai Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Alan Shepard [ashepard@waikikihc.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 9:26 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

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I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Alan Shepard
350 Aoloa St.
#B240
Kailua, HI 96734

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Alan Steffen [asteffen@crch.hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 12:14 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Alan Steffen
2047 Nuuanu Ave., 1902
honolulu, HI 96817

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.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 2887.

For years the tobacco smokers. They disregard various laws and prevention techniques. Although it is necessary to maintain public health, it is not necessary to maintain public health youth-friendly products.

A & B

ound the country as replacement options until they are confronted by effectiveness of their recruitment strategies. If these strategies have been effective, it is not necessary to maintain public health negative effects of innovative 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 2887 today.

Mahalo,

Alfonso Villarreal
Honolulu, Hawaii

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.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 2887 HD 1.

Thank you very much,

Amanda Victorino
REAL Youth Leader
Kapolei, Hawaii

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Angela Sy [sya@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 3:51 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Angela Sy
1255 Nuuanu #414
1960 East West Rd. Biomedical Bldg. D-104D Honolulu, HI 96817
587-8609

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

My name is Angelo Perez. I am a senior P.E.P. student at Baldwin High School. I am writing to show my support to save the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention. I have learned that teaching kids early about the harsh consequences of smoking will prevent them from becoming future smokers. If the funding is cut, many prevention programs will not have the resources to help spread the word.

When people smoke and attain tobacco-related diseases and cancer caused by tobacco, they actually cost the state billions of dollars in annual health care costs. Prevention programs actually help the state save money.

I have personally seen first-hand the effects of smoking. My grandfather died from lung cancer. He always told me that we wished he was informed about the addiction and the hazards of smoking when he was younger. He told me countless times that it was very hard to quit. He was never able to do so. He said it was frustrating to try and fail every time. I have learned from his stories that smoking is not cool or pleasurable.

Please help protect Hawaii's people by opposing HB2887 that would cut the Tobacco Trust Fund. Saving these funds for their intended purpose helps save the future generations and leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you,

Angelo Perez
1754 Miliala Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Arthur Mori [amori@chaminade.edu]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 9:05 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

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Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Arthur Mori
571 Hao St
honolulu, HI 96821
373-4386

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on
HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on
HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

I am Ashley Hudson from Maui, Hawaii. I am 16 years old and currently attend Baldwin High School. I am a Special Projects Leader from REAL, Hawaii's youth led movement to expose the lies and manipulations of the tobacco industry. I am writing you because I am strongly opposed to HB 2887.

In REAL, we do presentations to help teens see the effects the tobacco industry has on youth through advertising. Here on Maui we do a lot of work to educate teens on the lies tobacco companies are using. REAL is a good campaign and I hope it continues. But we rely on funds from the Tobacco Trust fund to keep our campaign alive.

Please help us by opposing HB 2887. Hawaii's tobacco trust fund benefits the youth of Maui and affects all of our lives. If the prevention programs get cut, smoking rates in Hawaii will increase and there will have to be more money spent to reverse tobacco's damages in the future.

Thanks,
Ashley Hudson
Maui

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Barbara C Sterne [bcsterne@att.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 1:50 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Barbara C Sterne
PO Box 44571
59-217 Hokulele Dr
Kamuela, HI 96743
808 882-1513

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Bessoe Bourbeau [Mauibowler@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 12:26 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Bessoe Bourbeau
760 south kihei road 227
Kihei, HI 96753

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on
HTH/HMS

Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on
HTH/HMS

Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Brandon Antonius. I live on Maui and currently attend Maui Community College. I belong to REAL: Hawaii's youth-led movement exposing the lies and manipulation of the tobacco industry. I am asking you to oppose HB2887.

With the passing of Hawaii's Smoke-free Workplaces Law, our generation is now being constantly barraged with advertisements for other tobacco products (OTPs). These other tobacco products are youth-friendly and come in candy flavors like peach, grape, strawberry, and cherry. OTP products are specifically popular among youth and are much cheaper and simpler to hide the use of.

Funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund helps Hawaii's tobacco control community work against campaigns that promote youth-friendly products, such as Camel SNUS, and other candy flavored tobacco products. If the Tobacco Trust Fund is cut for tobacco prevention, we cannot fight the battle against a tobacco industry that preys on my generation. Hawaii now has the second lowest youth tobacco use rates in the nation but without adequate funding to continue prevention programs tobacco rates will go back up.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB 2887 HD 1.

Mahalo,

Brandon Antonius
Wailuku, Hawaii

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Brenda Nakandakari [bnakandakari@queens.org]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 7:58 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Brenda Nakandakari
2557 Ferdinand Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96822

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

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 HB2887.

Mahalo,

Briana Rapoza
1704 Wili Pa Loop
Wailuku, HI 96793

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Brooks Bays [bgbaysjr@commspeed.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 10:54 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the the honor of the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

Please do not consider diversion of Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

Smoking costs our people in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking, not to mention the human suffering and families shattered: smoking-related lung disease killed my grandmother, and cancer killed both grandfathers. Cutting these programs would be a long-term disaster for a short-term gain. Please do not attempt to balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health.

These programs are successful, and states that have cut them have suffered. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%. PLEASE do not let this progress be lost.

All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

PLEASE do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you very much for the honor of the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Much aloha,

Brooks G Bays, Jr
Honolulu, HI 96816

Brooks Bays
1673 B Paula Dr
Honolulu, HI 96816

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Caki Kennedy [palidogs@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 2:26 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Caki Kennedy
PO Box 975
Volcano, HI 96785
808-985-9151

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Camille Chong [ccnal@hotmai.com]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 7:48 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Camille Chong
1617 Young St., A101
1617 Young St.
Honolulu, HI 96826
808-386-1430

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Carl Ciriako [Carl_Ciriako@notes.k12.hi.us]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 3:40 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Categories: Blue Category

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

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

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Carol Kozlovich [carolkozdesigns@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2010 11:28 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Carol Kozlovich
POBox 25606
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-226-9215

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Carrie Tilley [tilleycarrie@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 4:53 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

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

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Monies
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.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 2887 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 2887.

Thank you,
Casey Cummings
Honolulu, Hawaii

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Charae Tongg. I'm a junior at Seabury Hall and a board member of REAL, Hawaii's youth-led movement exposing the lies and manipulations of the tobacco industry. REAL is supported by funds from the Hawaii State Tobacco Trust Fund. That is why I am in strong opposition to HB 2887.

REAL is a great tobacco prevention program that works closely with youth, which is most important for keeping our generation smoke-free. We educate teens on the manipulation used by the tobacco industry to target us as the next generation of customers. This is essential to helping protect people from this dangerous industry. The Hawaii State Tobacco Trust makes our work possible. And without programs like REAL there is no one standing up to the tobacco industry.

Please OPPOSE HB 2887 to preserve great tobacco prevention program like REAL.

Thank you,

Charae Tongg
REAL Maui Leader

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Charae Tongg [ctongg@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 12:45 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Charae Tongg
Pu'ukoa
Kauhikoa
Haiku, HI 96708-5117
(808)359-9231

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Charles ashman [cashman729@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 9:03 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Charles ashman
32 Kahoa st
Hilo, HI 96720
808-640-3636

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Charles Tudor [sallyskids@juno.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 3:20 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Charles Tudor
15-447 Anae Street
Pahoa, HI 96778

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.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 2887 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 2887 so that the Tobacco Trust Fund can be used to continue Hawaii's tobacco prevention efforts,

Mahalo,
Chelsey Chapman
Maui

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on
HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on
HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.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 show 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 holding HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee.

Sincerely,

Chris Komatsu
374 S. Lanai Street
Kahului, HI 96732

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Cindy Knowles [Cindy_Knowles@notes.k12.hi.us]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 7:36 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Cindy Knowles
Kihapai street
Kealakekua, HI 96750

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Cleota Brown [dsidiversity@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 8:04 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Cleota Brown
47-413 Waihee Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808-247-0179

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Cora Cho [Pepperchan@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 7:29 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Cora Cho
129 Kaihone Way
Kailua, HI 96734

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

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 keeping HB2887 in committee.

Thanks,

Dahlton Cordeiro-Silva
1013 Ulukanu St.
Waikapu, HI 96793

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

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 HB2887.

Mahalo,

Darcy Ann DeRego
588 Malio Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Dawn Hurwitz [hurwitzd@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 8:45 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Dawn Hurwitz
P.O. Box 536
Pahoa, HI 96778
808 965-9600

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Dennis Nishihara [nishihard001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 1:18 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Dennis Nishihara
12
1269 D Loko Drive
Wahiawa, HI 96786

D

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.

D

Elizabeth K. Tam, M.D.
Honolulu, HI 96816

Date: March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS

Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS

Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys before Senate HTH/HMS on March 16, 2010 at 3 p.m.

Please do not pass HB 2887 out of committee. It is vital that Hawaii continue to fund tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs, to protect public health and the economic future of everyone in Hawai'i.

Our family has lost loved ones to lung cancer and heart disease related to tobacco use. As a pulmonologist, I care for patients and families who struggle with tobacco-related heart, lung, and vascular disease. Tobacco smoke not only causes and aggravates disease, it can also block the actions of important medications.

Even worse, it is gene modification of the worst kind. Its sinister effects can be passed on to the children and grandchildren of people who breathe smoke. Many of our Asian and Pacific Islanders are particularly susceptible, lacking the more effective forms of some crucial enzymes that break down toxins in smoke.

Tobacco's grip is worsened by a powerful and intelligent industry that spends \$40 million EACH YEAR in Hawaii. This is many times the amount that we invest specifically in tobacco prevention and control. Against this Goliath, our recent efforts have been extraordinarily effective, thanks to the vision of the lawmakers who made the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund possible. The funding program wisely crafted a decade ago builds the capacity of communities and families to combat industry tactics. It provides for clever, culturally appropriate counter-messages, local style. It is building a system to monitor tobacco use and probe where the industry is targeting.

tameliza@earthlink.net

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Duen Yen [duenhsiyen@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2010 12:46 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

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

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Dwayne Tarletz [aloha@gaiayoga.org]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 6:43 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Dwayne Tarletz
RR 2 Box 3334
Pahoa, HI 96778

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Edward Takayesu [takayesu@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 11:57 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Edward Takayesu
323 Kepa rd.
Kula, HI 96732
808-269-0444

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Emily Murai, a junior at Baldwin High School on Maui. I am a member of REAL, Hawaii's youth-led movement exposing the lies of the tobacco industry which is supported by funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund. I am strongly opposed to HB 2887.

Every time I participate in REAL events, I experience the joy of knowing that I may be preventing someone from smoking and educating them on the lies and manipulations of the tobacco industry. I've been fortunate to be involved in REAL. I've learned so much, and it has opened my eyes to what goes into the advertising and targeting of youth by Big Tobacco.

As a newer member of REAL, I would be devastated to see it come to an end because funds were no longer available. REAL has given opportunities to youth advocates, and I strongly support what REAL stands for.

Please support the continued funding REAL and other prevention programs across Hawaii by OPPOSING HB 2887.

Sincerely,

Emily Murai
Maui REAL Member

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: george wanic [usaf4t4@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 3:53 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

george wanic
2503 bingham st.
honolulu, HI 96826
946-5147

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: GERALD FOSTER [Jfoster@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 7:25 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

GERALD FOSTER
1461 Aunauna St
KAILUA, HI 96734
261-1017

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Ginger Nagamine [gnagamine@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 2:02 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Ginger Nagamine
94-479 Mulehu St.
Mililani, HI 96789

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: greg bonilla [mobettahgolf@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 10:08 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

greg bonilla
92-381 awaawahea pl
kapolei, HI 96707

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.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 2887.

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 2887.

Thank you,
Hannah J. Fuqua
REAL Statewide Leader
Maui

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Helen Barrow [hbarrow@ala-hawaii.org]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 10:35 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Helen Barrow
PO Box 822
Makawao, HI 96768

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: HELEN BRESSLER [optimumevolution@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 6:55 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

HELEN BRESSLER
The Path Clinic
845 22nd Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-734-2034

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Henry Fujita [htfujita@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 8:20 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

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Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Henry Fujita
2870 Booth Road #B
Honolulu, HI 96813
808 5336658x

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Iris Fukui [fukuir002@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 7:59 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Iris Fukui
5713 Haleola
Honolulu, HI 96821

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Jacqueline Harris [agatha1@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 3:59 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Jacqueline Harris
2838
Ipolani St.
Makawao, HI 96768
808-572-1562

dige1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2010 2:47 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: jillf2184@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2887 on 3/16/2010 3:00:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for HTH/HMS 3/16/2010 3:00:00 PM HB2887

Conference room: 016
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: 3/13/2010

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 2887. This bill will divert funds that are intended to be used for tobacco-related purposes such as prevention and cessation, and use them for unrelated purposes. This is unethical, will be harmful to the health of Hawaii residents, and will result in much higher healthcare expenditures in both the immediate and more distant future.

Smoking and secondhand smoke exposure are a major public health problem, and the leading single cause of preventable illness, unnecessary pain and suffering, disability, premature death and tragic loss of human potential as well as an extreme waste of financial resources. Most smokers begin at a young age while they lack the maturity to make the best decision and spend much of their lives regretting their addiction and in many cases struggling to quit. Because smoking is so addictive, it is far easier and cheaper to prevent it than to deal with the long-term effects of an unfortunate decision made early in life. Cessation services are necessary for current smokers and prevention will in the long term decrease the need for cessation.

Using these funds for their intended purpose--tobacco prevention and cessation--is in the best interests of the Hawaii public and is the right thing to do. I ask that the committee kill this bill and do not consider it again.

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee
on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee
on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

By: Jo Ann Ikehara, BS, RRT, CPFT Kalihi, Oahu

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement
Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Chairs and Members of the Health and Human Services Committees,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Hawaii needs funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs to protect our children and families' health.

Please do not allow these funds to be tampered with. Tobacco abuse is too deadly and costly a foe. Do not allow the sacrifice of smoking and tobacco prevention programs in order to deal with the state's budget shortfall. The risk of tobacco use proliferating is much too great and will be very expensive (in treatment of the diseases, illnesses, disability, etc) to deal with in the future.

I make this plea as a working respiratory therapist who tests and treats persons who develop chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and related heart and blood vessel diseases. Diseases that are almost completely preventable were it not for a history of tobacco experimentation and abuse that often began while they were in middle school or younger. We can't allow any lapse in our vigilance and actions against this deadly health hazard.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in Strong Opposition to HB2887 HD1.

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Joanne Amberg [joanne.amberg@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 8:04 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Joanne Amberg
548 Kaimake Loop
Kailua, HI 96734
8082623845

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Monies
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is John Pimentel and I am a youth leader from Naalehu with REAL: Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry. I am writing to you because I want the Tobacco Trust Fund to continue to be used for the purpose of tobacco prevention.

The tobacco industry makes so much money off of youth who they target as lifetime customers of their addictive product. These companies have no regard for the fact that their product is deadly. Also these companies continue to market products such as candy flavored tobacco to young people for experimentation in order for them to become addicted to nicotine.

The Tobacco Trust Fund enables campaigns and groups like REAL to counter-market the tobacco industry's targeting tactics and implement tobacco prevention initiatives. If we, along with the many other groups that supported by the Tobacco Trust Fund, loose our funding for our work, smoking rates and cancer rates in Hawaii will go up and there will be no one to expose Big Tobacco's lies about their products which means tobacco companies will gain even more control.

Also community groups like REAL offer teens a chance to join the movement, stand up for what we believe in, and change our lives.

Please, I do not want to see Tobacco Trust Fund monies taken away and used for anything other than tobacco prevention in Hawaii. We are making a difference. Please let us continue to do just that.

Thank you very much,
John Pimentel
REAL Youth Leader
Naalehu, Hawaii

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Jonathan Oshiro [jdoshiro@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 9:19 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Jonathan Oshiro
550 Uluhala St.
550 Uluhala St. Kailua 96734
Kailua, HI 96734
2634177

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Juan Moncada [juan@tobaccofreehawaii.org]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 2:14 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Juan Moncada
P.O. Box 7621
844 Hale Manu Street
Hilo, HI 96721
808-345-0240

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

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 HB2887.

Mahalo,

Kamalani Keahi
1030 Eha St. #104
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

Hello, my name is Karen Joy Atrejenio. 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 HB2887.

Thank you very much,

Karen Joy Atrejenio
26 Ainaola St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887 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

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Kathleen Baker [kbaker4@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 3:02 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Baker, Ph.D.

Kathleen Baker
PO Box 893842
Mililani, HI 96789

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: KATHERINE rOSS [KCROSS@HAWAII.RR.COM]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 9:57 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

KATHERINE rOSS
PO Box 603
Papaikou, HI 96781
808-987-9881

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Kathy OConnor [kaukathy@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 9:09 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Kathy OConnor
Liona St.
Honolulu, HI 96814

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

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 from 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 HB2887.

Mahalo,
Keani Kaluakini
56 Umu Kala St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Ken Kasaoka [kkasaoka@cwassociatescpas.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 2:33 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Ken Kasaoka
1511 Nuuanu Ave., #132
700 Bishop Street, Suite 1040
Honolulu, HI 96817
8086954035

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

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 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Kerilee Erice, and I am a Baldwin High School Peer Educator. I am also a member of REAL, Hawaii's youth-led movement exposing the lies and manipulations of the tobacco industry. I am asking you to save Hawaii's Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention and cessation.

We need to continue funding the tobacco prevention programs to protect the health of our families and friends. Personally, I see many classmates who are beginning to smoke, and I believe that tobacco prevention programs have the power to save my peers from eventual tobacco-related deaths. Ever since we started tobacco prevention in our state, we've reduced youth smoking rates from 1 in 4 youth to 1 in 10 youth. If funds are cut and programs disappear, it is very likely that smoking rates will increase and more people will die from something that is completely preventable.

I ask for your support by holding HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee for the future of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Kerilee Erice
P.O. Box 4081
Kahului, HI 96733

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Aloha!

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

I'm Kimberly Lising. I'm a 15 year old sophomore currently attending Baldwin High School. I live on Maui in Wailuku. I'm a student of the Peer Education Program and I am writing this letter to discuss why you should keep the Tobacco Trust Fund for it's intended purposes of tobacco prevention and cessation.

Our Tobacco Trust Fund should not be used for anything other than prevention because tobacco is a big problem now. As elected officials you should want kids to quit or not ever start using tobacco. Using the funds for something other than their intended purpose sends a message that Hawaii doesn't care about the thousands of people who die from tobacco related deaths each year. These are our families and may even be your families that are being affected by tobacco.

The programs that are being supported by the Tobacco Trust Fund actually save lives. We can't forget that smoking causes cancers that are completely preventable. Young kids are smoking now and my peers are likely to get tobacco-related diseases if we don't continue to educate them about the dangers and ways that they can quit.

We are Hawaii's future, so we need your help to fight the problem of tobacco by keeping the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention and control.

Thank you,

Kimberly Lising
565 Hilinai St.
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Krystal Pelayo. I live on Oahu and currently attend University of Hawaii at Manoa. I belong to REAL: Hawaii's youth-led movement exposing the lies and manipulation of the tobacco industry. I am asking you to oppose HB2887.

With the passing of Hawaii's Smoke-free Workplaces Law, our generation is now being constantly barraged with advertisements for other tobacco products (OTPs). These other tobacco products are youth-friendly and come in candy flavors like peach, grape, strawberry, and cherry. OTP products are specifically popular among youth and are much cheaper and simpler to hide the use of. When Hawaii established the Smoke-free Workplace law it was a great accomplishment and a step forward in protecting our people. However, we must not stop at just this. The Tobacco Trust Fund needs to be saved and used for the intention it was initially sought out for.

Funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund help Hawaii's tobacco control community work against campaigns that promote youth-friendly products, such as Camel SNUS, and other candy flavored tobacco products. If the Tobacco Trust Fund is cut for tobacco prevention, we cannot fight the battle against a tobacco industry that preys on my generation and the generations that follow. Hawaii now has the second lowest youth tobacco use rates in the nation but without adequate funding to continue prevention programs tobacco rates will go back up.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB 2887 HD 1.

Mahalo & God bless,

Krystal Pelayo

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

My name is Lachelle Sakamoto and I am currently a senior attending Baldwin High School, and a part of the Peer Education Program. I feel that the tobacco prevention programs are very important to keep. These days a lot of kids are smoking, and this can continue to be reduced by continuing to fund prevention programs. But these programs can't exist with the support from the Tobacco Trust Fund.

The tobacco companies are taking many lives. I have many aunties and uncles who have smoked everyday for a really long time. And just recently my aunty was in the hospital due to chronic asthma due to smoking. I feel we really need more tobacco prevention and stop smoking programs because I don't want to see other people suffer.

Please save the Tobacco Trust Fund by opposing HB2887. We need it to continue funding tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs to protect our children and families' health. Tobacco prevention is saving the next generation and our state from increasing health care costs. These programs are saving so many lives and changing them forever.

Mahalo,
Lachelle Sakamoto
P.O. Box 804
Haiku, HI 96708

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Lara O`Connor [islelara@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 9:24 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Lara O`Connor
1888 Kalakaua Ave.
Apt #1505
Honolulu, HI 96815
8082033860

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Laura Novell [kauail@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 6:29 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Laura Novell
POB 630698
229 5th Place #2
Lanai City, HI 96763
808-563-0079

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Aloha!

My name is Lea Meliza Pigao. I am from the beautiful island of Maui and currently attend University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am 18 years old and am currently on the state youth board for REAL, Hawaii's youth-led movement exposing the truth about the tobacco industry. I am writing because I do not want Hawaii's Tobacco Trust Fund to be used for anything other than what it was originally intended to be used for which is tobacco prevention and cessation. That is why I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to HB 2887.

The Tobacco Trust Fund should continue to be used for tobacco prevention because that is what the Hawaii State Legislature originally determined it **SHOULD** be used for. I truly believe that the Tobacco Trust Fund has benefited young people like me. Tobacco companies continue to target youth more than others because of our vulnerability and how we are easily influenced. The Tobacco Trust Fund supports campaigns and programs like REAL that allows us to counter-market the tobacco industry's influence. If REAL and other community prevention groups lose their funding, smoking rates will go up, especially for young people. Also there will be no one to expose the tobacco industry, and these tobacco companies will gain higher control.

I plead with you not to take any of the Tobacco Trust Fund monies away from tobacco prevention. I truly believe this statewide youth movement and other programs like REAL are making a difference. The children are the future, and I know we can make a difference in Hawaii. Please oppose HB 2887.

Thank you,
Lea Meliza Pigao
Honolulu, Hawaii

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Leah ashman [lkaihail@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 9:07 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Leah ashman
30 Kahoa st.
Hilo, HI 96720
808-640-3294

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Leimomi Shearer [leimomi@huimalamahawaii.com]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 6:51 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Leimomi Shearer
69A Railroad Avenue
8 Pukihae St
Hilo, HI 96720
808 969 9220

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Lezli Yano [Le2li@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 1:48 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last ten years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Lezli Yano
91-2024 Kamakana Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

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 HB2887 in order to save lives in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Lezlie Kanamu
595 Pohala St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Lleliena Loynaz. I am testifying today in strong opposition of HB 2887 which would dramatically reduce the funding for tobacco prevention and control programs in Hawaii by reallocating funds from Hawaii's Tobacco Trust Fund.

I have been involved in tobacco control for almost nine years. I have witnessed how funding for tobacco prevention has changed and mobilized our communities, not to mention our youth. Through community programs and initiatives, we have been able to focus our efforts on youth: tobacco industry's next customer. As a result, use rates have dropped significantly across Hawaii.

It is because of the access to these funds that our state can say they have seen dramatic changes in tobacco use; however, regardless of how low tobacco rates may be, it is critical to maintain the aggressive stance against the ongoing marketing and promotion of the tobacco industry that is aimed specifically at Hawaii's young people. Cuts to funding would mean less programming, which of course weakens the strength and momentum of our efforts in tobacco prevention. Cuts in funding also means more young people recruited as customers each year, less outreach to those who wish to quit, increased rates of tobacco-related diseases, increased health care costs, and ultimately the death of thousands of individuals.

I am asking you today to OPPOSE HB 2887. The tobacco industry has absolutely no regard for human life, for the citizens of our state and definitely not for our youth. If you support this bill you are sending a clear message to tobacco companies that Hawaii is "open for business". Our state needs to take a strong stance to preserve these funds for their intended purpose of tobacco prevention and control.

Mahalo for your time,

Lleliena Loynaz
Registered Voter

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Lorrie-Ann Santos [lsantos@papaalokahi.org]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 8:48 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1. Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee.

Hawaii must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

Eliminating funding would eliminate needed programs and services and ultimately jobs! This will only worsened our current economic recession. Hawaii's top economists testified against cuts -- warning that further reductions will have significant negative effects!

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. Hawaii's comprehensive and strategic approach is an exemplary model that is being looked at by other states and countries. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking. Nor can we afford to risk destroying the state's social safety net to essential services or compounding the state's highest unemployment rate that are hurting not only our most vulnerable, but our working class!

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Short-term tax increases (1% GET with exemptions to food and drug and cigarette and other tobacco products by as little as \$1) should be the solution legislators are working towards as a solid collective, in addition to using Rainy Day Funds, which do no good untouched during this global economic downturn.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Lorrie-Ann Santos

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Mark Doo [markdoo@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 8:35 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Mark Doo
2101 Nuanu Ave. #1205
Honolulu, HI 96817

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Mark Goldman [mgoldman@lhawaii.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 3:16 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Mark Goldman
1396 Kinoole St.
Hilo, HI 96720
8089616139

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Mark Gray [magray13@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 9:56 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Mark Gray
95-209 Hoakakea Place
Mililani, HI 96789

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Marlo Hamada [jmrskq@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 8:26 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Marlo Hamada
6108 Opaekaa Road
Kapaa, HI 96746
8086514065

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Marvin Watts [MWattsr@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 1:16 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Marvin Watts
15-2717 Mahimahi St.
Pahoa, HI 96778
808-965-8662

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

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 holding HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee.

Mahalo,

Matthew Patao-Torres
146 Poniu Circle
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Melissa Chong. I'm 20 years old. I'm representing REAL: Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing Big Tobacco. I'm in strong opposition to HB2887 that would cut tobacco prevention funding from the Tobacco Trust Fund.

Groups like REAL rely on funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund to do our work for tobacco control. Without these funds we can't continue to fight against companies that are spending more than \$42 million a year in Hawaii to promote their deadly and addictive products. We just can't stop this fight against tobacco companies because that is what the companies are waiting for. Using the Tobacco Trust Fund for something other than tobacco control is exactly what tobacco companies want to see happen because then there is no one to stand up to them.

There is no doubt that if tobacco control efforts are cut then tobacco use rates will go back up. This will cost the state millions and million of dollars in health care costs. So I'm asking you to please protect Hawaii's future by holding HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Let's continue to stay strong against the tobacco industry in Hawaii.

Thank you very much,
Melissa Chong
Hilo, Hawaii

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on
HTH/HMS

Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on
HTH/HMS

Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

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 holding HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee.

Melissa Haake
444 One Street
Kahului, HI 96732

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Melissa Le and I am a sophomore at Henry Perrine Baldwin High School. I'm asking you to save tobacco trust funds for tobacco prevention programs.

Smoking tobacco doesn't just affect the smoker it affects everyone around them. My grandpa used to smoke but the health effects stayed with him until his death. He was tobacco-free for 20 years, but what it had done to him stayed with him forever. My late uncle also smoked a lot of tobacco. It was unfortunate that the day of his death was also the day of my birthday. I remember that day so well. I had to cancel all the plans I made and I haven't celebrated my birthday since then. You see, tobacco affects everyone even those that don't smoke it including entire families who loose the people they love.

I myself also used to smoke tobacco. I experienced it firsthand and I know what it can do to you. You just keep on craving it and craving it causing the tobacco industries to make more money.

I believe that we need to continue to fund tobacco prevention programs. There is evidence that these programs have been highly successful in the past decade. The percentage of youth who smoke has dropped from 24.5% to 9.7%. Smoker healthcare costs also cost about 40% more compared to non-smokers. That is over half a billion dollars every year in healthcare for smokers in Hawaii. Hawaii's economy is really low right now so if we prevent people from buying and using tobacco, it would really help now and in the long-run.

Cutting prevention funds makes it likely for smoking rates to rise so it's important to keep these funds for prevention. Sure, these programs may seem like they cost a lot but they do work and they cost much less in the long run. Please keep the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention to better Hawaii. Please oppose HB2887.

Mahalo,

Melissa Le
North Kihei

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Michele Nihipali [nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 3:38 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Michele Nihipali
54-074 A Kam Hwy
54-074 A Kam Hwy
Hauula, HI 96717
293-1522

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Michelle Gray [michelle@tobaccofreehawaii.org]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 7:36 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

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

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Monica Medrano and I'm a junior at Baldwin High School on Maui. I am a member and statewide leader of REAL: Hawaii's youth-led movement exposing the lies and manipulations of the tobacco industry. I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED TO HB 2887** that would cut the Tobacco Trust Fund.

By taking these funds away the Tobacco Trust Fund prevention programs will be lost and smoking rates will increase. Also campaigns such as REAL will not be able to continue our work to stand up to tobacco companies who are targeting our generation.

As a teenager in Hawaii, I believe that the funding is greatly needed for smoking prevention to continue to protect my generation. Please take action to **OPPOSE HB 2887**.

Sincerely,

Monica Medrano
REAL Statewide Leader
Maui

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Nancy Knepper [nalanilk@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 1:20 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Nancy Knepper
264 Elilani St.
Makawao, HI 96768
808-573-7860

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in opposition to HB2887.

I am Narcis Magliba. I'm from Baldwin High School, and I'm asking you to please vote "NO" on HB 2887.

This issue is important to me because my brother has been smoking since 12 years old. Now he is 23 and has a hard time breathing.

Funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund help people stop smoking and help educate people to never start. If funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund are cut, programs will be cut. How will our family and friends be able to stop smoking and even know the dangers of ever starting? We all need these programs! From these programs I've learned how many people die from smoking, and I don't want anyone else dying from tobacco use.

I'm asking you to save these funds. Prove to us that you are willing to stand up to protect Hawaii's children. Please take what I've said to heart and hold HB 2887 in committee.

Thank you,

Narcissus Magliba
608 Kainalu Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in opposition to HB2887.

The tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs need to continue to protect our children and families. Tobacco prevention is saving our state from skyrocketing healthcare costs. Tobacco prevention saves lives, keeps youth from starting, and saves Hawaii money.

There is still a lot of work to do because more than 1,000 teens in Hawaii become daily smokers each year. Tobacco companies spend more than \$42 million per year in Hawaii marketing on this deadly product. All that stands between tobacco marketing and youth is the counter-education efforts of tobacco prevention programs and messages. Cutting funding is likely to increase smoking rates and cost lives, so the funding needs to continue to save the lives of many families and children.

Please hold HB 2887 in committee to save lives.

Thank you,
Nicole Giannotto
117 Makahakaha Loop
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Nicole Sutton. I am the Project Director for REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry. I am testifying today in strong opposition of HB 2887 which would dramatically reduce the funding for tobacco prevention and control programs in Hawaii by reallocating Hawaii's Tobacco Trust Fund.

Since the Master Settlement Agreement the tobacco control community in Hawaii, made up of many organizations and thousands of individual advocates, has worked tirelessly to develop and implement evidence-based community programs and initiatives for the purpose of tobacco prevention. Many of these programs specifically focus on youth tobacco prevention and cessation. As a result, over the course of 6 years tobacco use rates have dropped significantly across Hawaii. But still much work remains as there is considerable disparity in those affected by tobacco.

Regardless of how low tobacco rates may be, looming large is the ongoing assault on Hawaii's young people by the tobacco industry through the marketing and promotion of a highly addictive product. Cuts to funding would lead to less programming on the frontlines of prevention to counter the influence of this industry. Cuts in funding also mean more young people recruited as tobacco industry customers each year, less outreach to those who wish to quit, increased rates of tobacco-related diseases, increased health care costs, and ultimately the death of thousands of individuals.

I am asking you today to oppose HB 2887. I have worked in tobacco control for more than nine years now and have witnessed first-hand the absolute disregard for human life that drives the tobacco industry. Not opposing this bill sends a message to tobacco companies that Hawaii is "open for business". Our state needs to take a strong stance to preserve these funds for their intended purpose of tobacco prevention and control.

Mahalo,

Nicole Sutton
REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry
Honolulu, Hawaii

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Patricia Arita [paarita@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 9:49 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Patricia Arita
419 Anolani St.
Honolulu, HI 96821
808-377-5186

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

My name is Rachel Hu and I am a sophomore at Baldwin High School. I am a participant in the PEP program, and I am writing you today to save the tobacco trust fund for tobacco prevention.

I truly believe that Hawaii's tobacco prevention programs are working. It is a known fact that smoking kills more people than alcohol, murders, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, and suicide COMBINED! That's a lot of deaths that are preventable. By having programs that teach students the bad effects of smoking, we're reducing the number of youth that start. In fact we've reduced youth smoking from 1 in 4 youth to 1 in 10 youth in just 10 years because of programs made possible through the tobacco trust fund.

Unfortunately for myself and my loved ones, the message about smoking came too late. By the time my brother got to high school and heard these tobacco prevention messages, he had already been smoking for 3 years. Students need to be able to hear messages, and as a PEP student I can see how important it is that the tobacco prevention funds are kept for these programs to continue.

I know as legislators you are concerned about money and what you are spending it on but these tobacco prevention programs are 100% worth it and I ask that funding not be cut.

Please oppose HB2887.

Thank you,

Rachel Hu
438 Kamehameha Ave.
Kahului, HI 96732

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Rachel Kruse [rkruse@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 12:07 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Rachel Kruse
P.O. Box 1772
Keaau, HI 96749
808-937-0780

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Rae Watanabe [raew@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 3:57 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Rae Watanabe
La'i Rd
Honolulu, HI 96816

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Raulette Carson [carsonp003@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 1:20 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Raulette Carson
38 St. Judd St.
#18B
Honolulu, HI 96817

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Renee Schuetter [rschuetter@ucera.org]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 2:39 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: Strong Opposition to HB 2887HD1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys Hearing
HTH/HMS, 3/16/10 3pm #016

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00pm

Thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony in Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD1.

My name is Renee Schuetter. I am the Executive Director of The Path Clinic which has recently received Tobacco Settlement Funds to provide an intensive Smoking Cessation Program to pregnant women and women with young children.

Please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Hawaii needs funding for tobacco prevention and tobacco treatment programs to protect the health of our children and families.

States in which tobacco prevention programs lose funding see increases in the number of teen smokers. That means more pregnant smokers and more preterm and low birthweight infants, a heartbreaking as well as expensive problem for the state. It also means bigger healthcare bills for the state of Hawaii for decades to come.

Tobacco treatment programs are investments in the citizens of our state. When a pregnant woman or a woman who will become pregnant in the near future quits smoking, she is improving not only her health, but the health of the fetus she carries and of her family. The financial return is big and quick when we invest in behavior change during pregnancy, and the returns keep on coming. The 2009 Cochrane Collaboration concuded that smoking cessation programs during pregnancy do reduce the proportion of women who continue to smoke, and reduce low birthweight and preterm births by approximately 20%. In addition, when women who are recovering from addiction to other substances also quit smoking, their relapse rate for the primary addiction decreases significantly.

As you know better than most, the times call for very wise investment of our limited state funds. Empowering pregnant women to quit smoking is an investment in health, in confidence, in productivity, and in the financial well being of the state of Hawaii. Supporting the health of our community through tobacco prevention and cessation programs targeted toward the most vulnerable people is the right thing to do. It lifts us up and gives us hope.

Mahalo, Renee Schuetter

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chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Richard Sato [satorm@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 3:04 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Richard Sato
2734 S. King St. #415
Honolulu, HI 96826
(808) 271-8359

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Robin Kealoha Black [hulabird@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 8:46 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Robin Kealoha Black
43 E. Lanikaula St
Hilo, HI 96720
8089612030

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Rose Bricker [Rose@bgcbi.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 9:25 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Rose Bricker
100 Kamakahonu St.
100 Kamakahonu St.
Hilo, HI 96720-2592
(808) 640-1034

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Ruby Saito [rnsaito@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 7:36 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Ruby Saito
44-141 Nanamoana St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Ruby Tidwell [rubyjt479@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 4:38 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Ruby Tidwell
14-3379 Mayzee
Road
Pahoa, HI 96778-81ND
808-965-0289

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Ryan Mandado [ryan_mandado@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 9:50 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Ryan Mandado
1545 Ahonui st
1545 Ahonui st
Honolulu, HI 96819-3506
(808)2188286

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Sally Ancheta [sancheta@ala-hawaii.org]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 8:16 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Sally Ancheta
39 Ululani Street
Hilo, HI 96720
808 935-1206

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Samantha Agtunong, and I'm a senior at Baldwin High School on the island of Maui. I'm currently a second-year student in our PEP class (Peer Education Program). Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 to preserve the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention efforts in Hawaii.

I believe that tobacco prevention is saving the next generation and our state from skyrocketing health care costs. By saving these funds and keeping these prevention programs, we will be able to continue educating our peers about the health risks of tobacco use. Taking these programs' funding away would be such a big devastation to many schools and our public health services.

I have personally seen young teenagers smoking around school and even in public. It's really a shame and a sad sight to see because they have much more to experience in life and smoking just might cut it short. That's why we have to continue to fight to educate and protect my generation.

Thank you for your time in reading my concern about cutting the Tobacco Trust Fund. I ask for your support by holding HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee.

Mahalo,

Samantha Agtunong
540 Akolea Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Sandra Dyel [sdyel1990@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 7:06 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Sandra Dyel
94-1049 Kaukahi Pl. D-3
Waipahu, HI 96797
2206368

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Sara Jean Banks and I am opposed to HB 2887 which would cut the Tobacco Trust Fund.

I am currently the Oahu Island Coordinator for REAL: Hawaii's Youth Movement against Big Tobacco. A cut to the Tobacco Trust Fund Master Tobacco would ultimately lead to cuts in funding for prevention groups such as REAL. I believe Hawaii should continue to use the Tobacco Trust Fund for the original intended purpose which is tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. If Hawaii cuts these prevention funds, tobacco companies will have more opportunities to target, addict, and kill more of our people.

I ask you to protect my generation and future generations by OPPOSING HB 2887.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sara Jean Banks
REAL Oahu Island Coordinator
sarajeambanks@gmail.com

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

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 HB2887.

Thank you,
Serena Perry
Puunene, Hawaii

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators:

My name is Sheryll Yotsuda. I am 22-years old and attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am an alumnus of REAL: Hawaii's Youth Movement, Exposing the Lies of the Tobacco Industry. I am strongly opposed to HB 2887 and want to see the Tobacco Trust Fund be used for the purpose of tobacco prevention.

The tobacco industry is making a killing off of young adults and youth of my generation. They do not care that they are targeting us with deadly products like candy flavored tobacco and new products like SNUS of which there is no research on the health effects of using.

The Master Settlement Agreement funds provides the Tobacco Trust Fund which enables campaigns and groups like REAL to counter the influence of the tobacco industry by creating community programs and initiatives to spread the truth about tobacco use. If groups that work in tobacco prevention lose funding for their efforts, smoking rates in Hawaii will go back up and there will be no efforts to expose the truth about the tobacco industry need to recruit at least 1200 new smokers everyday to replace the 1200 people they kill every single day!

Please do not allow these companies a chance to gain control in Hawaii. Please oppose HB 2887. REAL and other groups are making a difference in tobacco prevention. Please let us continue to do just that.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sheryll Yotsuda
REAL! Alumni Network
Speech Communication Society
Honolulu, Hawaii

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.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 2887 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 hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee to protect my generation and those to come from nicotine addiction.

Mahalo,

Stephen Duadua
Pahoa, Hawaii

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Susan Smith [sdsrdh@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 12:40 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

My father died at the age of 67 of lung cancer from smoking; my youngest sister barely survived throat cancer 7 years ago. I also work as a dental hygienist and see the disastrous effect of tobacco usage on oral health every day.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Susan Smith
76-770 Hualalai Road
76-770 Hualalai Road, Kailua Kona HI 96740 Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
329-1123

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in opposition to HB2887.

I am from the Baldwin High School PEP class. I feel that tobacco prevention is the right way to save lives and reach youth. Tobacco companies are a bad influence for us, and they need to stop. Children should not be pressured to buy or smoke tobacco because it's addictive and kills. Still tobacco companies target us to smoke a product we aren't even allowed to buy. So we have to increase, not decrease, the amount of tobacco prevention in our communities.

You can help do this by saving the Tobacco Trust Fund for prevention programs. You have the ability to help save lives in Hawaii by holding HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee.

Mahalo,

Taylor Jade Caliva
618 Alino Liho St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Teresa Alderdyce [aldert@juno.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 1:24 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Teresa Alderdyce
Makaleka Road
Naalehu, HI 96772
808--929-9121

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Terry Lee Poaipuni [tpoaipuni@hnpk.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 3:08 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

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Terry Lee Poaipuni
5101 Uakea Street
5101 Uakea Street
Hana, HI 96713-0189
808-248-7502

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Thomas Royer [tcroyer@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 1:18 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Please "hold" HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our State must continue funding tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs to protect the health of our families and future generations. Continuing funding for these life-saving programs also saves our economy from hundreds of millions of dollars in smoking-caused health-costs.

I am concerned that the Legislature is looking to divert Tobacco Settlement funds away from programs that keep children from starting to use tobacco and help smokers quit. These funds were intended to prevent and reduce tobacco use.

The last 10 years of strong tobacco control efforts have worked. We have reduced adult smoking rates from 21.2 percent in 2002 to 15.4 percent in 2008. And youth smoking rates have dropped from 25% to less than 10%.

Our State cannot afford to cut programs now. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our children and the next generation's health. We cannot afford the hundreds of millions of dollars that smoking costs our State in lost productivity and medical expenses related to smoking.

Other states such as California and Massachusetts have seen progress against smoking reverse when they cut tobacco prevention program funding. Cutting funding for tobacco prevention and control programs may result in more youth smoking. All that stands between our children and the \$42 million dollars tobacco companies spend marketing their deadly products in Hawaii every year is our prevention programs.

Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Thomas Royer
100 Hauoli St, Apt. 412
Wailuku, HI 96793
5103182758

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Trina Nahm-Mijo [nahmmijo@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2010 6:09 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

Trina Nahm-Mijo
200 W. Kawili St.
PO Box 304, Kurtistown, HI 96760
Hilo, HI 96720
808-974-7551

March 15, 2010

To: Senators David Ige and Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Senators Josh Green, M.D. and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairs, Joint Committee on HTH/HMS
Members, Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887 HD 1 Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys
Hearing: HTH/HMS, March 16, 2010 in Room 016 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to HB2887.

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 HB2887.

Thanks,

Tupusa Satele
2117 Onaona St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: William Kepler [keplerw001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 2:37 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887 HD 1, Mar 16 at 3 p.m.--Testimony in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland; Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, Jr.; and Members of the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

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Please do not pass HB 2887 HD 1 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment in opposition to HB 2887 HD 1.

William Kepler
405 Liholiho Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
8082443410

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: jacobaknolls@skins4life.com
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 8:17 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: hb2887 testimony

I support house bill 2887. It's time. Let's give it back to the people.

Sincerely, Jacob Knolls

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: kawikc@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 8:13 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: Testimony in support as per HB2887

I strongly support this bill. Kawika Crowley

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

Testimony

DATE: Tuesday, March 16, 2010
TIME: 3:00pm
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**Strong Support of HB-2887.
Submitted by Michael Zehner**

I am in strong support of this bill. Section 3 of this bill makes it clear *“According to the latest available data, the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund has a sizeable balance, but relatively low annual expenditures. The legislature finds that the trust fund is a repository from which expenditures may be increased to assist in revitalizing the economy, as well as serve an important public health purpose.”*

The loudest opposition to this bill comes from the anti-smoking groups who line their pockets with government funds to promote their private agendas as well as the furtherance of their own greed. I myself am testifying on my OWN TIME and MY OWN MONEY. **Why does the anti-smoking lobby need to get paid to “believe” in something?** All they do is parrot the same story as the Health Dept., ACS, ALA, and AHA. Why is the state paying twice to hear the exact same thing? Besides with the millions already collecting dust in the fund, there would still be plenty of money out there, just no inflow for a few years which the fund could easily weather.

I hope the Senate is aware that the smoking rate increase doom and gloom stories by the anti-smoking lobby are dubious at best. Take this example from the Star Bulletin.

“Smoking rates in Indiana increased after funding of tobacco-prevention programs were cut by 70 percent in 2006, according to the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii.”

http://www.starbulletin.com/editorials/20090424_Dont_raid_tobacco_fund.html

The fact is this; The smoking rate in 2005 was 27.3% and it was 24.1% in 2007 in Indiana per the Federal CDC. So where's the increase?

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSS/display.asp?state=IN&cat=TU&yr=0&qkey=4396&grp=0&SUBMIT4=Go>

Ohio also wisely reallocated “tobacco control” funds.

2002	\$46 million for “tobacco control”	smoking rate = 26.6%
2004	\$12 million for “tobacco control”	smoking rate = 25.9%
2010	\$ 9.7 million for “tobacco control”	smoking rate = {latest

data 20.1% (2008)}.

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSS/display.asp?state=OH&cat=TU&yr=0&qkey=4396&grp=0&SUBMIT4=Go>

The fact is that “tobacco control” spending cuts do not normally increase smoking rates with the exception of a few short lived and cherry picked anomalies.

Another Doom and Gloom by the anti-smoking lobby is that smokers cost more in health care costs. However this is not true is one compares overall lifetime costs. For example the *Netherland’s Minister of Health* in conjunction with *The Netherland’s National Institute for Public Health and the Environment* found **that smokers SAVE ON AVERAGE \$91,000 in lifetime medical costs** and that the illnesses that non-smokers are more likely to get in old age cost more in the long run. If all 200,000 smokers in Hawaii were to quit, we could expect to have to pay \$18.2 billion in addition medical expenses over the next 60 years or so.

http://www.pantagraph.com/news/article_42ef17ab-eb24-53a7-b2e5-3a0f962c0c07.html

In addition this bill is exactly what we need for our budget short fall. Either we put our teachers back to work on Fridays or we continue to waste it on gross TV spots and the attorneys and mercenaries of private special interest groups.

Mahalo for the ability to testify on this measure,

Michael Zehner
Honolulu, HI

952-0275

mz9995@hotmail.com