

HB 2887

LATE

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

HB2887 HD1, RELATING TO TOBACCO SETTLEMENT MONEYS

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

March 16, 2010 3:00 PM

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health is sensitive to the State's economic situation;
2 however, we oppose HB2887 HD1 which eliminates the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund portion to the
3 Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.
4 **Fiscal Implications:** The Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (TPCTF) would be without any
5 new revenue from the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund (TSSF) through June, 30, 2015, which is
6 projected to be \$3 million to \$3.7 million dollars a year or roughly about \$16.7 million for the five year
7 period.
8 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health (DOH) is very concerned about further erosion
9 of the TSSF for public health purposes. The historic master tobacco settlement by 46 state attorneys
10 generals was to recoup costs and to stanch the continued health and economic cost of tobacco in their
11 states. In 1999 the Hawaii Legislature passed Act 304 and provided 25% of the TSSF to establish the
12 TPCTF. 25% was also designated to the DOH for health promotion and disease prevention programs.
13 As of the 2009 legislative session, the public health portion of the funding has been eroded to 21.5%:
14 6.5% for the TPCTF, and 15% for the DOH. The majority of the settlement money or 78.5% that comes

1 from the profit of the tobacco industry companies now goes to the General Fund, University of Hawaii
2 medical school, and the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund (see Tables 1 and 2).

3

Table 1. July 1, 1999- June 30, 2001 Distribution

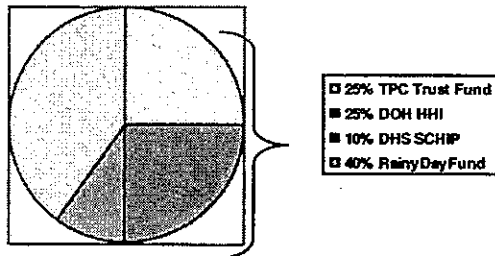
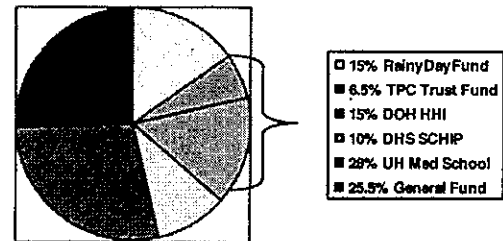


Table 2. July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015 Distribution



4

5 The TPCTF has been well used. The smoking prevalence for youth decreased 54% from 1999 to
6 2007 (27.9% in 1999 to 12.8% in 2007). The smoking prevalence for adults decreased 14% from 2000
7 to 2007 (19.7% in 2000 to 17% in 2007). By 2008, the smoking prevalence for adults went down to
8 15.2%. In the same time period Hawaii saw a 28% decrease in heart disease deaths and 36% decrease in
9 deaths due to strokes.

10 From calendar years 2000 to 2009 \$40,000,000 of the TPCTF has been used to develop a
11 comprehensive program to address tobacco prevention and control that follows the Centers for Disease
12 Control and Prevention recommendations. The Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board in
13 January 21, 2010 voted to support the comprehensive framework that includes the components of: 1)
14 state and community interventions, 2) health communications interventions, 3) cessation interventions,
15 4) surveillance and evaluation, and 5) administration and management. The reduction of yearly revenue
16 while spending and diminishing the principal of the TPCTF will severely undermine the ability to
17 continue the public health efforts of reducing the burden of tobacco in our state.

18 House Bill 2887 HD1 also proposes to transfer any interest earnings from the TSSF to the
19 General Fund and to reduce the portion that goes to the Tobacco Enforcement Fund from \$350,000 to

1 \$250,000. Transfer of the interest earnings from special funds is already in place through Act 79 that
2 passed in the 2009 Session. While the Department cannot speak to the expenditures of the fund that is
3 statutorily designated to the Office of the Attorney General, we are concerned about any reduction in
4 efforts to diminish the capacity needed to remain vigilant to keep the settling parties in compliance with
5 the master tobacco settlement agreement. We respectfully request this measure be held.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Bob Speck [bobspeck@attglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 11:59 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: HB 2887

This my testimony for HB 2887 to be heard Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 3:00PM in Room 016.

I strongly support HB 2887. With the financial crisis we are currently experiencing, we should not be using state funds to support lobbying groups.

Bob Speck
652 Kumukahi Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96825
395-4292

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Paul C. Ho [hoart@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 11:31 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Paul.C.Ho@kp.org
Subject: re: STRONG OPPOSITION to HB2887, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys before Senate HTH/HMS on 3/16/10 at 3pm

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

From:
Paul C. Ho, MD, Chief, Cardiology Services, Hawaii Region Kaiser Permanente
and Clinical Professor, University of Hawaii School of Medicine

Please **DO NOT PASS HB2887** out of committee.

Please keep the funds invested in our communities, in tobacco prevention and control and in public health. We need to continue to build the tobacco resistance of the underemployed, less educated and minority groups who are targeted by the tobacco industry.

We have seen such investments work toward lowering the smoking rates amongst various groups. Aside from the public health standpoint, I am personally a victim of secondhand smoke resulting in a heart attack and coronary bypass surgery several years ago.

As a cardiologist, I see the terrible affects of smoking in the cardiovascular system on a daily basis. Smoking is one of the worst but most preventable risk factors in the biggest disease we face! We must continue our best effort in its prevention and control.

Thank you for the oppportunity to offer comment IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2887.

Sincerely,
Paul C. Ho, MD, FACC, FSCAI

Chief, Cardiology Services
Hawaii Region Kaiser Permanente

Clinical Professor in Medicine
University of Hawaii, School of Medicine

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: HTHTestimony
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 11:22 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: FW: Testimony for HB2887 on 3/16/2010 3:00:00 PM

P Please consider the environment before printing this message.

-----Original Message-----

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 10:56 AM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: aloha1lisa@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2887 on 3/16/2010 3:00:00 PM

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: Lisa Lute
Organization: Individual
Address: 385 Wanaao Road Kaiula, HI
Phone: 520-250-4827
E-mail: aloha1lisa@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/16/2010

Comments:

According to the STATE OF HAWAII, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT TO THE 2007 LEGISLATURE PURSUANT TO ACT 178, SECTION 25, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2005, REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PREPARE A YEARLY DETAILED PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE HEALTHY HAWAII INITIATIVE AND TO IDENTIFY THE IMPACT ON ANY ASPECT OF THE HEALTHY HAWAII INITIATIVE SUCCESS DUE TO THE REALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM THE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND TO THE HEALTHY START PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS funds were allocated as follows:

“Act 304, SLH 1999 created the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund (TSSF) to receive and hold Hawaii’s tobacco settlement revenue payments. In addition, Act 304, SLH 1999 placed the special fund under the purview of the Department of Health (DOH) and outlined how the tobacco settlement money was to be directed. Codified as Chapter 328L, HRS, the statute has been amended four times since its inception and now specifies that the TSSF be allocated as follows:

- ☑ 24.5% to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund;
- ☑ 35.0% to the Department of Health for chronic disease prevention-oriented public health programs, with up to 10% of total revenue for children’s health insurance programs;
- ☑ 12.5% to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund;
- ☑ 28.0% to the University of Hawaii to pay debt service on revenue bonds to support the construction of the Kakaako campus medical school and bioresearch center.”

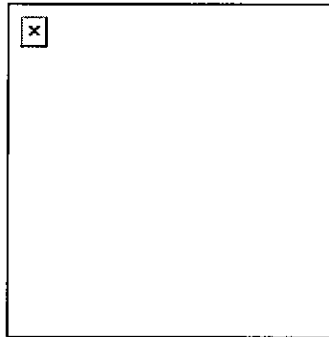
I do not believe that the best interest of the people is served by reducing the the distribution from the Hawaii tobacco settlement special fund to the tobacco enforcement special fund; or suspending the distribution of moneys from the Hawaii tobacco settlement special fund to the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund. This is available as a direct result of the negative impact of ciagarette smoking. I believe that suspending these funds for any period of time would be detrimental to the program and the communities well being. Additionally, based on the above informaion 24.5% of the funds from this settlement

have already been marked as "Emergency and Budget Reserve Funds". If the amount required exceeds this allocation then perhaps the problem requires more than the bandaid solutions that HB 2887 is offering. I suggest that for a change we look at the root cause of the States current budget crisis working from within to fix those deficits; thereby reducing associated spending and improving efficiency. Robbing Peter to pay Paul isn't the solution.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: pualanienos@gmail.com on behalf of Pualani Enos [pualani.enos@mauihui.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 10:25 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: 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.
Attachments: V Pualani Enos Testimony for Opposition of HB 2887 - tobacco (Mar 16 2010).doc

Please accept my attached testimony attached and pasted into this email.



March 16, 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, and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2887 HD

My name is V. Pualani Enos, and I am the Executive Director of Hui Malama Learning Center on Maui.

Hui Malama provides middle school, high school, and GED programs as well as tutoring and other supplemental educational programs to students K-12 who are enrolled in public or private school. Our programs are designed to inspire, nurture, and empower students to pursue career opportunities that bolster our islands' economy. To do this, we address the whole person, not just academics and work. This includes guiding students to making healthy choices. Tobacco prevention and cessation has been a key component to this work.

Over the past seven years, funding from the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Funds has enabled us to integrate tobacco-free policies, practices and programming, which in turn encourages and supports our youth, their friends, and families to be tobacco-free. We offer media and communications programs that create messaging with tobacco-free norms and policies. We also offered cessation classes for our students and those closest to them to address their tobacco use. We have consistently and rigorously evaluated and monitored our programs to realize successful outcomes. We have seen significant positive results in our students – and their friends and families – due to the resources made available through the Tobacco Trust Fund.

But, there is still much work to be done. Hui Malama is concerned that lawmakers are looking to cut funding. Nationally, cuts to tobacco control have resulted in reversal in progress made against tobacco use. We must continue to guide and support the health of our youth in order to save millions of dollars in health care in the future. Community programs including Hui Malama are dependent on the type of Tobacco funding that existed when the Trust was initially disseminated to the states.

How will we offer the types of tobacco prevention programs we currently provide without funding from the Tobacco Trust Fund? We have sought other funding for our successful tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. Other funders and private donors have not devoted monies to tobacco prevention and treatment because they are under the impression that all Tobacco Trust Money is dedicated to these efforts. Without this funding, all of us in tobacco control and the programs and relationships built over time would be gone. Consistent funding has also allowed us to learn from and coordinate our efforts with other likeminded organizations across the state to leverage resources and innovate our services to ensure that experiences for our youth are shaped by current research findings and technological developments—so that we can best help our youth become and stay tobacco-free.

We've taken the knowledge gained and lessons learned from work in Tobacco Prevention and Cessation to develop and expand our services in other areas and other topics. Thus, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund has had a long-lasting and broader impact on helping our youth to develop protective factors and develop healthy living habits far beyond what was ever expected. To take away funding for critical programs in tobacco prevention at a time when health and human services, education and other resources are being cut

would significantly harm youth who are already especially vulnerable. If we fail to prepare our youth for the future, who can we expect to lead us in the future – especially when we ourselves already struggle to find solutions to the economic, health and environmental problems that plague us today.

Economists in Hawaii have warned that budget cuts which result in the elimination of critical health and human services and education programs will have a long-standing negative impacts on our future economic health. In conversations with many community members in Maui, many of us prefer the idea of slight increase in taxes and even furloughs so that the economic crisis can be shared among all of us without eliminating what we have all recognized as critical services for community members most in need. While neither option are appealing on their own, they are preferred to the dire consequences that will result from desecrating programs that the entire community has come to rely upon to ensure safety and basic needs for all.

Please hold HB 2887 HD 1 in Committee. Our youth need the kind of and their families' physical and financial health are at stake.

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

Sincerely,

V. Pualani Enos, J.D.

Executive Director

Mahalo.

--

V. Pualani Enos, J.D.
Executive Director
Hui Malama Learning Center
375 Mahalani Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
(808) 244-5911
pualani.enos@mauihui.org

March 14, 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

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.

I am a respiratory therapist. I have seen patients suffer due to smoking. It is always sad to see patients unable to do everyday task because they cannot breathe. You have to come to the hospital to see what actually is happening to the smokers.

The funding will decrease the number of smokers in Hawaii. It will also decrease the cost of health care for patients who were harmed by smoking related illness.

Sincerely,
Joan Loke

5090 Likini St. #1103E
Honolulu HI 96818
Cell: 226-1904
catnap@hawaii.rr.com

March 16, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Ige:

In recent days, the Hawaii House voted to eliminate the funding for Hawaii's tobacco prevention program which can be credited for dramatically reducing our state's smoking rates, reducing health costs passed-on to taxpayers and saving lives.

I am asking you to reject this proposal and save funding for tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs. We need to continue funding these programs that protect our children and families' health.

Our efforts have worked to reduce smoking rates and save lives. But we still have work to do with an estimated 1400 Hawaii youth becoming daily smokers every year.

If you vote to eliminate funding for tobacco prevention, you are essentially making it that much easier for the Tobacco Industry to addict their next generation of customers. The Industry already spends over \$42 million each year in Hawaii marketing its deadly product. We must protect our kids and give them a fighting chance against these powerful and deceptive tactics.

Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Sincerely,
Chris McLachlin
2026 Hunnewell St
Honolulu, HI 96822-2149

March 16, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

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Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Sincerely,
Marcus Murphy
15-1927 31st (Hpp)
Keaau, HI 96749

March 15, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

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Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Sincerely,
Susan Pasion
95-1047 Kaapeha St
Apt 166
Mililani, HI 96789-4886

March 15, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

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Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Sincerely,
Reid Morrison
941 Prospect St
Honolulu, HI 96822-3468

March 15, 2010

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Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

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Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Sincerely,
Michele Kapahua
677 Ala Moana Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96813-5419

March 15, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

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MY BROTHER AND UNCLES DIED OF LUNG, PROBLEMS FROM SMOKING, I KNOW INTIMATELY THE HEART ADHE OF WHAT SMOKING CAN DO. IN ADDITION MY SISTER WAS SMOKER, SHE HAD STROKES, AS DID MY MOM, ALSO A SMOKER. CONSEQUENT I ASK YOU PLEASE stop the use of CIGARETTES. MY PARENTS AND RELATIVES, ADDICTED PLEASE STOP THE ADDICTION. ITS A FIFTHY HABIT THAT KILLED AT LEAST 8 PEOPLE I LOVED . IT IS STILL KILLING EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY. NOW IT AFTER OURS KIDS. THERE'S NOTHING GLAMEROUS ABOU LUNG CANCER, STROKE, OR HEART ATTACK. THANK YO KATHLEEN BALL

Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Sincerely,
kathy ball
95-2043 Waikalani Pl
A405
Mililani, HI 96789-3446

March 15, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

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I lost a 35 yr old girl friend & my 60 yr old mother to oat cell carcinoma of the lung, directly attributable to their cigarette smoking. I also lost my two grandfathers to lung cancer - both were smokers. Please help to prevent this legacy from recurring in our younger generations. Mahalo! Wendy Akita

Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Sincerely,
Wendy Akita
PO Box 3985
Lihue, HI 96766-6985

March 15, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Ige:

In recent days, the Hawaii House voted to eliminate the funding for Hawaii's tobacco prevention program which can be credited for dramatically reducing our state's smoking rates, reducing health costs passed-on to taxpayers and saving lives.

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Smoking and tobacco product use prevention messages need to continue to reduce the health problems they create. Please do not follow the House's poor example and use the funding for the purpose that it was meant for, to reduce tobacco use. I have never smoked, and consider second-hand smoke to be a true hazard, especially for Hawaii residents with compromised immune systems (I had a heart transplant in 2001.) Thank you very much for considering my request.

Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

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

March 15, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

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Since I first became involved with the Hawaii Affiliate of the Heart Association in the early 80's, I have volunteered in several capacities - including testifying on behalf of the Heart Association on tobacco-related issues. I welcomed the tobacco prevention program and have been very happy to see the effectiveness of that program in Hawaii. I sincerely hope that the funding for this important public health program can be restored by the Senate. All uses of these important funds are significant for the better health of the residents of this state.

Please recognize the importance of this funding to us all - but specifically in stopping teens from smoking before they become addicted. It is clear from my observations that nicotine is a powerfully addictive and damaging drug. These funds are vital to help our kids understand...

Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Sincerely,
Martin Rayner
3253 Uilani Pl
Honolulu, HI 96816-2559

March 15, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

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As a mother of two, I want my children protected from tobacco. Please do not vote to eliminate funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Sincerely,
Karen Seth
44-361 Nilu St Apt 3
Kaneohe, HI 96744-2620

March 15, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Ige:

In recent days, the Hawaii House voted to eliminate the funding for Hawaii's tobacco prevention program which can be credited for dramatically reducing our state's smoking rates, reducing health costs passed-on to taxpayers and saving lives.

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Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Sincerely,
Andy Ancheta
99-840 Iwaiwa Street
Aiea, HI 96701-3280

March 15, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

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I am asking you to reject this proposal and save funding for tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs. We need to continue funding these programs that protect our children and families' health.

Our efforts have worked to reduce smoking rates and save lives. But we still have work to do with an estimated 1400 Hawaii youth becoming daily smokers every year.

If you vote to eliminate funding for tobacco prevention, you are essentially making it that much easier for the Tobacco Industry to addict their next generation of customers. The Industry already spends over \$42 million each year in Hawaii marketing its deadly product. We must protect our kids and give them a fighting chance against these powerful and deceptive tactics.

Please help to protect our 'ohana and keep them healthy and smoke free. Please help to make Hawai'i a more beautiful place to live, and a safer place to live.

Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Sincerely,
Christina Cook
45-812 Keneke St
Kaneohe, HI 96744-3430

March 15, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-2407

Dear Senator Ige:

In recent days, the Hawaii House voted to eliminate the funding for Hawaii's tobacco prevention program which can be credited for dramatically reducing our state's smoking rates, reducing health costs passed-on to taxpayers and saving lives.

I am asking you to reject this proposal and save funding for tobacco prevention and quit-smoking programs. We need to continue funding these programs that protect our children and families' health.

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If you vote to eliminate funding for tobacco prevention, you are essentially making it that much easier for the Tobacco Industry to addict their next generation of customers. The Industry already spends over \$42 million each year in Hawaii marketing its deadly product. We must protect our kids and give them a fighting chance against these powerful and deceptive tactics.

my brother died last april from cancer a little over a year after being diagnosed. he had been a smoker most of his life having started in his early teens. he tried many times to quit smoking but the addiction was too great. prevention is the key to saving lives. and if you add up the monetary cost in terms of medical care and lost productivity at work, it far outweighs the money we should be spending to help smokers quit and prevent others from starting.

Please vote against cutting funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

Sincerely,
Shirley Zukeran
667 Safeguard St Ste 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-5033

Mark T. Grattan, M.D.
Honolulu, HI 96816

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. Protect the funding stream invested in tobacco prevention and control and the public health.

As a cardiothoracic surgeon, I care for many patients who have suffered the consequences of tobacco smoke. I support and applaud the careful deployment of monies from the Tobacco Settlement Fund to further public health through tobacco prevention and control. Our State must be firm in protecting the funds for this purpose, because every dollar spent on prevention saves many more dollars in health care costs. Every dollar spent on prevention and education saves lives.

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

Sincerely,



Mark T. Grattan, M.D.

Keola Saunter
Koloa, HI 96790-8525

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

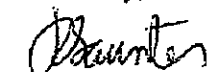
Re: Strong Opposition to HB 2887, Relating to Tobacco Settlement Moneys before Senate HTH/HMS on March 16, 2010 at 3 p.m.

Please do not pass HB 2887 out of committee. Protect the funding stream invested in tobacco prevention and control and the public health.

I support and applaud the vision to use a significant portion of the Tobacco Settlement Funds to further public health through tobacco prevention and control. Our State must be firm in protecting the funds for this purpose, because every dollar spent on prevention saves many more dollars in health care costs. I serve as a pharmacist for one of the largest drug store chains. Tobacco clearly causes and complicates many of the most common medical conditions. Curbing its use among our young people is a huge advance made possible by these settlement dollars. This continued investment will have many, many health and financial returns in the future. Please preserve the funds for this important and long-lasting mission.

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

Sincerely,



Keola Saunter

Goldenmoon@hawaii.rr.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.

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



Cancer Research Center of Hawai'i
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

March 16, 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 Alana Steffen. I work as a faculty of the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii with a focus on cancer prevention.

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. In recent years our statewide rates for smoking prevalence have decreased significantly in both adults and youth suggesting our programs have been effective. However, tobacco prevention efforts are still needed to maintain our progress and further improve the health of our residents. When other states such as California and Massachusetts cut funding for tobacco prevention and control, there was a reversal in progress against smoking.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer 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,

Alana D. Steffen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Prevention and Control Program
Cancer Research Center of Hawaii
(808) 441 8197

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 Money's 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

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

March 16, 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.

To whom it may concern:

My name is Hillary Wilson-Yue and it is with deep concern and urgency that I must oppose HB 2887 which would cut the Tobacco Settlement monies.

I believe that the Tobacco Trust Fund should be preserved because it will allow Hawaii to continue its fight to break the social norm of tobacco products being acceptable for anyone to use. By reallocating these funds, you are sending a statement that, in times of desperation, it is acceptable for us to maintain unhealthy lifestyles. It is in these highly stressful times that the state needs to remain steadfast in its decisions to promote wellness among all its citizens, especially our youth, not send them message reaffirming one of the main reasons why people use tobacco products in the first place.

These are hard times, times that require us to make some difficult decisions with a mind on what will help promote the greater good in our state; while it may not seem like the most tangible solution as a whole to push our state through these troubled times at the moment, the concept of sticking to the principle and setting an example of pure integrity that will help Hawai'i the most in the long run.

I ask you to protect the best interests of the citizens who YOU serve and OPPOSE HB 2887.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Hillary Wilson-Yue
Kailua, 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 Legislatures:

I am writing today to share with you my opposition to HB 2887 which would divert the Tobacco Trust Fund away from prevention programs and instead be used as general funds to help balance the state budget.

Tobacco Prevention programs have been proven effective in reducing tobacco use in Hawai'i. Over the last seven years tobacco prevention programs have reduced smoking amongst youth from 25% to less than 10%. Adult smoking rates have also declined, from 22.4% to 15.4%.

**Please remember that these numbers are more than a statistics. These percentages represent lives saved. Lives which may be your mother, father, brother, sister, or child. 1,100 Hawaiians die each year of smoking related illnesses.*

Although smoking rates have declined due to prevention programs, 1,400 children in Hawai'i begin smoking each year. Tobacco companies continue to heavily market to our youth. If HB 2887 is passed and prevention funds are no longer available, these rates will climb even higher.

Tobacco Prevention efforts are our children's only defense to protect them against the millions of dollars big tobacco companies spend each year trying to lure them into this deadly addiction. Not only does prevention saves lives, it also saves money. Smoking related illnesses cost millions of dollars each year due to chronic disease and loss of productivity.

By voting "No" for HB2887 you have the unique opportunity to save lives and do the right thing. I ask you to protect the best's interests of the citizens who YOU serve and OPPOSE HB 2887.

Thank you consideration,

Megan Taddonio
Teenline Hawaii
Prevention Specialist

March 15, 2010

LATE

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.

To whom it may concern:

It is with deep concern and urgency that I must oppose HB 2887 which would cut the Tobacco Trust Fund monies. My name is Amanda Youth and I am a youth leader for TeenLine Hawaii.

HB 2887 proposes to eliminate the Tobacco Trust Fund money from what it was originally intended for: tobacco prevention efforts.

Prevention has proven over and over that it is one of the smartest investments any government could purchase. Not only does it save the state of Hawaii health care costs but it also provides our state with jobs – something that is needed more than ever in Hawaii. HB 2887 will undo over a decade of work and leave many jobless.

I ask you to protect the best interests of the citizens who YOU serve and OPPOSE HB 2887.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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

Dear Legislators,

My name is Joe Russum and I am opposed to HB 2887 which would cut the Tobacco Trust Fund monies.

HB 2887 proposes to rob the Tobacco Trust Fund from its intended purposes and is a rash and haste bill that I cannot support. During a PHOCUS briefing held at the State Capitol that each of you were invited to, four economists explained that spending cuts are the worse option available to helping our ailing economy. Our best option: temporary tax increases.

Cutting the tobacco trust fund monies will not only hurt our economy but also our health, which I might add is a very expensive burden. Smoking costs Hawaii hundreds of millions of dollars in health care costs and lost productivity. The tobacco prevention efforts that are funded through the money that HB 2887 proposes to cut have lowered youth smoking rates from 25% to less than 10% in just 7 years and adult smoking rates from 22% to 15%.

I ask you to protect the best interests of the citizens who YOU serve and OPPOSE HB 2887.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Joe Russum
Kailua, 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 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 16, 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 Crissy Terawaki Kawamoto, and I am a registered voter.

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

Tobacco prevention programs literally **save lives**. Every child we can convince to say no to tobacco, every child we can empower with tools to counter tobacco industry manipulation, is a child who (a) will not put him/herself at higher risk for cardiovascular disease and cancer, and (b) will not put others at higher risk for diseases that result from secondhand or thirdhand smoke.

As someone working in the field of tobacco research, I know it is difficult to help people stop smoking once they've started, but it can be done. Many smokers I've spoken with actually want to quit smoking, but they need resources and programs to give them that extra edge to overcome their nicotine addiction.

We have made progress in the fight against tobacco, but clearly, the fight is not over. We cannot afford to spend this money somewhere else.

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,

Crissy Terawaki Kawamoto

CTerawak@crch.hawaii.edu

2022 10th Ave.

Honolulu, HI 96816