



COALITION FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

LATE TESTIMONY

To: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Finance
From: Trisha Y. Nakamura, Esq. Policy and Advocacy Director
Date: February 24, 2011
Hrg: FIN Cmte; February 24, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.; Rm 308
Re: **Support the intent of HB 605, HD 1 Relating to Public Safety**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the intent of HB 605, HD 1 which creates the "Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette Program Special Fund" to aid the State Fire Council in administering the requirements of the reduced ignition propensity cigarettes law (Act 218 of the 2008 Session Laws of Hawaii).

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is the only independent organization in Hawaii whose sole mission is to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. The Coalition provides leadership for the tobacco control community, develops networks, helps coordinate tobacco control programs and builds community awareness.

In 2008, the Coalition testified in support of the measure that became the reduced ignition cigarettes law. Reduced ignition propensity cigarettes will reduce harms caused by cigarette-smoking. Here, a reduction in the number of cigarette fires which are the leading causes of fire deaths and property damage in the United States.

The Coalition appreciates the Legislature's current effort to ensure thorough and appropriate implementation of the reduced ignition propensity cigarettes law by the State Fire Council. This measure provides the State Fire Council the ability and staff resources to conduct activities pursuant to existing requirements regarding reduced-ignition cigarettes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.