



TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, 2011

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 120, S.D. 1, RELATING TO STATE FUNDS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

LATE TESTIMONY

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2011 TIME: 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

TESTIFIER(S): David M. Louie, Attorney General, or
Diane K. Taira, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

We supplement our earlier submitted testimony to address the legal concerns presented by section 38 of this measure.

Section 38 provides for the "transfer from the Hawaiian home administration account fund to the general fund the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011."

If passed, this provision would violate article XII, section 1, Constitution of the State of Hawaii ("State Constitution"), which provides that "[t]he proceeds and income from Hawaiian home lands shall be used only in accordance with the terms and spirit of [the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act]." Inasmuch as the Hawaiian home administration account is comprised of proceeds and income from Hawaiian home lands, the proposed transfer of funds would be a constitutional violation.

Section 38 would also violate article XII, section 3, of the State Constitution, for two reasons. First, it provides that the Hawaiian home-loan fund "shall not be reduced or impaired by any ... amendment, whether made in the constitution or in the manner required for state legislation." Section 213(f)(3), Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, provides that any

amount in the Hawaiian home administration account (the account from which this measure would seek to transfer funds) "which is in excess of the amount approved by the legislature or made available for the fiscal period may be transferred to the Hawaiian home operating fund." This measure, if passed, would impair the Hawaiian Home-loan fund, violating article XIII, section 3.

Further, this measure would violate the provision of article XII, section 3, which states that "all proceeds and income from the 'available lands,' as defined by [the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act], shall be used only in carrying out the provisions of such Act." The moneys in the Hawaiian home administration account are proceeds from available lands. The proposed transfer of moneys from this fund would therefore violate our State Constitution for this additional reason.

For the foregoing reasons, we recommend that section 38 of this measure be deleted.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:40 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mispadaro@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB120 on 4/5/2011 4:30:00 PM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for FIN 4/5/2011 4:30:00 PM SB120

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary Spadaro
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mispadaro@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

It has taken a very long time to get Legacy Land funds committed and working. We are just getting off the ground with them and I believe we cannot afford a financial hiccup in the program at this time. When money is tight, there is a tendency to become more permissive to developers as well. Please do not suspend funds to the Legacy Lands Fund as is called for in section VIII of this bill.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ninaebhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB120 on 4/5/2011 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/5/2011 4:30:00 PM SB120

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nina
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ninaebhawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

The long term effects of neglecting the environment and energy crisis are too great! If you choose to starve special environmental and energy programs of funding, the damage could be devastating and long lasting.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:31 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lkhirano@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB120 on 4/5/2011 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/5/2011 4:30:00 PM SB120

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Hirano
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lkhirano@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:
Regarding SB120, SD1, HD1 Proposed
Testimony in Opposition

Dear Representative Oshiro:

As a volunteer with the American Cancer Society, I am asking that you remove Part IX of SB120, HD1 Proposed which would suspend for two years the annual deposit from the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund into the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund which is estimated to be \$3 million this year and next.

The Trust Fund is the only major funding source for dozens of Hawaii's tobacco cessation and prevention programs. This loss would be devastating to many community-based organizations. Other states have also cut or reduced funding for tobacco control programs which resulted in higher smoking rates and ultimately in increased health care cost.

Although these are very difficult financial times we cannot abandon the promise we made to our citizens when the tobacco trust fund was created a decade ago. The two year suspension of moneys into the fund will be a huge step backwards.
Please remove Part IX from SB120, HD1 Proposed.
Mahalo.

LATE TESTIMONY

I oppose SB120 SD1

The Legacy Land Conservation Fund (LLCF) was passed in 2005 with broad support of the conservation and affordable housing communities, and the vast majorities of the House and Senate. The LLCF has resulted in signature Legacy project in all the areas in which the fund was established to protect. For example, MA'O Farm for agriculture, Lapakahi State Historical Park for Hawaiian culture and coastal access, Honouliuli Forest Reserve for watershed and habitat protection. The LLCF leverages significant sources of federal, county, and private dollars, and results in significant ecosystem services. Studies in other areas of the U.S. suggest that land conservation returns \$6 in ecosystem services for every \$1 spent (e.g., avoiding treatment of drinking water, erosion and flood control, scenic resources that draw tourism). The program has already been cut by 60% as real estate conveyances taxes have dropped during the poor economy. The down economy is also a strategic time to invest in once-in-a lifetime land conservation opportunities that will never happen again -- land values are down, and land conservation of scenic coastlines, agricultural land, and other important resources to Hawai'i - - are more possible than ever. If we do not have a small core program, we will lose these opportunities forever. The program should not be zeroed out -- staff would lose their jobs, the volunteer Legacy Land Conservation Commission would be disbanded, ongoing efforts to pass administrative rules would be halted, institutional knowledge would be lost. Start up of the program from zero would difficult and costly.

Thank you

Justine Espiritu

SB 120

We received over 50
similar/form testimony
in OPPOSITION.

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha,

My name is Dayne Sakai and I'm from Hilo. I'm a part of REAL that educates youth about the tobacco industry and allows youth to express themselves through their personal talents to take a stand against tobacco.

I'm not in favor of SB 120 because it will cut funds from the MSA Trust Fund and programs like REAL will loose our funds to help protect our generation from addiction. There is still a lot of work to do in prevention. We need more funds for this, not less.

Thank you for opposing SB 120.

Dayne Saiki
Hilo, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

I am a Hawaii resident and currently attending the University of Hawaii Maui College. I am also a dental assistant at a private practice who has seen the negative effects smoking has on our people here on Maui.

I strongly oppose the SB 120. Cutting funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund will hurt the Hawaii community severely by costing the government more money due to more hospital visits due to sickness and disease smoking has caused.

Smoking kills more people each year than murder, accidents, or suicides. Our youth are our future, they will run this world soon and we need to teach them why smoking is bad. We need the Tobacco Trust Fund and all that it can do for us and our future.

Sincerely,
Esmeralda Silva

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Grady Sullivan and I am a young adult on the Big Island. I'm am with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry in strong opposition to SB 120 which would cut funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

I'm asking you to please **save the MSA Trust Fund for what it was meant for: tobacco prevention and cessation programs.** Without prevention money programs would not have the funds needed to create amazing events. These events are the activities that entice people to want to get involved and potentially prevent them from smoking. Prevention programs bring awareness to others to do positive activities instead of negative ones.

Tobacco prevention works! But so does tobacco advertising. Without **adequate funds to do tobacco prevention work our hands are tied to actually successfully counter the \$42 million dollars a year that tobacco companies are spending to advertise in Hawaii.**

We need more funds NOT LESS to be able to do prevention work. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,

Grady Sullivan
Big Island
REAL

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

I'm Hannah Fuqua from Maui. 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 SB 120.

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 SB 120.

Thank you,
Hannah J. Fuqua
Maui

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Legislators:

I am in strong opposition to Senate Bill 120.

Tobacco is the number one cause of death in America. Tobacco companies add other carcinogenic matter beside the ones naturally occurring in tobacco. In our age of technology and communication capabilities, advertising these preventative methods is as easy as an event and many would agree more important than ever.

Tobacco companies aggressively and subliminally advertise to our youth. They strategically place posters, pictures and "Kool" phrases where 8-12 year old children will most likely observe it. We all know how influence-able children of that age are.

This Tobacco Trust Fund is of utmost importance, if only just to "Keep up" with Big Tobacco's propaganda. The fact that this bill is even being heard and voted upon is, in my strong opinion, ludicrous and very unsettling. Please vote "no" on this SB 120, to protect the future for smokers and non-smokers alike. Tobacco Trust Fund money should be spent on productive and healthy changes as was intended.

Sincerely,
Joel VanDenburg
University of Hawaii Maui College
Kihei, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is John Pimentel and I am a young adult 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 and control. So I am in strong opposition to SB 120 that would eliminate from Tobacco Trust Fund.

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. They also spend millions of dollars in Hawaii each year on storefront tobacco ads to promote their addictive products in our local communities.

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 are supported by the Tobacco Trust Fund, lose 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.

Community groups like REAL offer teens a chance to join the movement, stand up for what we believe in, and change our lives. We can't afford to lose this.

Please, I do not want to see Tobacco Trust Fund monies used for anything other than tobacco prevention in Hawaii. We are making a difference. Please let us continue to do just that. Please oppose SB 120.

Thank you very much,
John Pimentel
REAL Young Adult Leader

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Justin Ragasa and I am a registered voter and constituent in Hawaii's 30th House District. I'm in strong opposition of SB 120 that would eliminate funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund.

By reallocating the funds, there will be less money available to fund prevention programs. Without prevention programs, people will not know of the dangers they will bring to themselves if they participate in certain activities such as smoking. Sure, with the advancements in technology and the scientific breakthroughs in health, we can mask almost any of the health issues brought on by smoking. However, this will come at a cost which the patient will have to front. If they have medical insurance, that's great! But what about the thousands of Hawaii's residents without insurance? We, fellow tax-payers, will need to help cover the costs. These costs can be over thousands of dollars per-person, and there will probably be several thousands of people going in for the same thing.

The hundreds of thousands of dollars that would be used to treat patients could actually be saved with Prevention Programs. Prevention programs such as the University of Hawaii's BEAT-IT, a tobacco cessation program, expose the dangers of tobacco use and help current smokers quit. In the long-run they will not have higher medical costs.

Please oppose SB 120. It is important that the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund to be used for Tobacco prevention programs.

Thank you,

Justin Ragasa

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

To Senate Committee on Health:

As a child who was born in the Island of Maui and raised in Kihei, I was also a child raised around grandparents who smoked around me. I am horrified to hear of SB 120, which will eliminate Tobacco Trust Fund resulting in reduced funding to programs that aid in preventing this disease called smoking that has been caused by the moral-less cigarette companies.

As a voter, I feel that we should have a say in preventing the children of tomorrow from these money hungry tobacco companies. They only think of the mighty dollar than the lives that they are killing slowing. I also want to mention the money that we save from the prevention of health problems related to smoking.

My name is Keanu Nakamura and I strongly oppose SB 120 for the simple fact that the money we spend now in preventing smoking saves lives.

Sincerely,
Keanu Nakamura

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to oppose SB 120. As you are all aware, smoking causes all sorts of health problems and the health care cost to provide medical for smokers continues to rise. I believe that cutting funds that provide tobacco prevention, education, and control will be detrimental to everyone especially youths. As adults we make the decision as to whether we want to smoke or not. However, children are more susceptible to peer pressure and without the proper education, children will not know the consequences of smoking.

I have an 11 year old son that's in sixth grade. I can educate him on the consequences of smoking and strongly advise him not to smoke, but I believe through tobacco prevention and education he will have more insight as to why smoking is not good at all. Let's not cut the funds and let's not let our children think smoking is okay because no one has educated them on health effects.

Sincerely,
L. Paranada, student
University of Hawaii Maui College
Kahului, HI

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

To Senate Committee on Health:

My name is Lalaineya Esperanza. I am from Wailuku and currently attending UH Maui College. I am testifying in strong opposition to SB 120, which would eliminate funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund. Tobacco is the number one killer in the world today. Tobacco kills more than alcohol, suicides, homicides, and AIDS combined.

Cuts to the funding won't allow programming to tobacco prevention programs and cessation hotlines. School programs won't be able to get much funds or material to influence the teenagers to not take up tobacco.

Tobacco companies spend \$42 million per year in Hawaii to advertise their deadly products. This is no time to cut back on the amount of money spent for tobacco prevention issues including: health programs, cessation hotlines, or school programs.

I am asking you to oppose SB 120. Please preserve the funds for the intended purpose.

Thank you,
Lalaineya Esperanza

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Lauren Rillanos I attend the University of Hawaii at Hilo on the Big Island. I'm am with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry in strong opposition to SB 120 which would eliminate funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

I'm asking you to please **save the MSA Trust Fund for what it was meant for: tobacco prevention and cessation programs.** Prevention programs like REAL spread a great message to educate others about the tobacco companies which in turn assist people in making choices to avoid this deadly product. Prevention programs like REAL are breaking the image of being "cool" if you smoke. By breaking this image people get involved with positive things.

Big tobacco companies are trying to get a hold of our generation to make money off our lives and prevention programs like REAL work to stop that. Prevention programs also get people to become involved and engaged in a positive message which is a huge benefit to the entire state of Hawaii. Tobacco companies spend a lot of money on targeting us we have to be able to counter there negative attacks with financial support to keep positive programs alive. The more effort is put into prevention the less money we will have to spend on health care and other back end support.

Tobacco prevention works! But so does tobacco advertising. Without **adequate funds to do tobacco prevention work our hands are tied to actually successfully counter the \$42 million dollars a year that tobacco companies are spending to advertise in Hawaii.**

We need more funds NOT LESS to be able to do prevention work. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahaio,

Lauren Rillanos
Big Island

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

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 writing because I do not want Hawaii's Tobacco Trust Fund to be used for anything other than what is was originally intended to be used for which is tobacco prevention and cessation. That is why I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to SB 120.

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 SB 120.

Thank you,
Lea Meliza Pigao
Honolulu, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators:

My name is Loren Amaral from Volcano, Hawaii. I'm a young adult leader with
The REAL Movement.

I'm opposed to SB 120 that would result in the cut of funds for tobacco
prevention programs that are currently funded by The Tobacco Trust Fund.

There is still a lot of work to do for tobacco prevention and without these funds
we are not going to be able to do this work.

I'm asking that you please take action by opposing SB 120.

Mahalo,

Loren Amaral

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Lovelynn Stamp and I am a youth on the Big Island. I'm with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry in strong opposition to SB 120 which would cut funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

I'm asking you to please **save the MSA Trust Fund for what it was meant for: tobacco prevention and cessation programs.** Prevention programs like REAL help youth to get active, become involved in community change, and use our voices to fight for what we believe in. Also tobacco prevention programs help us to join together for positive things and steer us away from negative things to help us lead productive lives. The prevention programs supported by the Tobacco Trust Fund not only assist in preventing negative involvement with tobacco but they also teach us valuable life skills such as public speaking and allow us to become productive members of society.

Tobacco prevention works! But so does tobacco advertising. Without **adequate funds to do tobacco prevention work our hands are tied to actually successfully counter the \$42 million dollars a year that tobacco companies are spending to advertise in Hawaii.**

We need more funds NOT LESS to be able to do prevention work. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,

Lovelynn Stamp
**Big Island
REAL**

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Candace Akahi and I'm a student at University of Hawaii Maui College. I live in Makawao, Maui...born and raised.

I'm writing this letter because I do not agree with cuts to the Tobacco Trust Fund which will take away from tobacco prevention. I think that tobacco prevention programs work and if you take any funds away from the Tobacco Trust Fund there will be more smokers, especially in teens. We need these programs to help keep the smoking rate down. Eliminating these funds would take away so many programs that are helping to prevent and stop people from smoking. I strongly oppose Senate Bill 120. We need to continue to keep Hawaii smoke-free and keep our air clean. Taking away funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund would be a horrible decision.

Thanks,
Candace Akahi

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Committee:

My name is Cami Iwata and I'm a registered voter from Ewa Beach. I'm writing in STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB120, SD1, HD1 Relating to State Funds.

I believe it is critical to preserve the Tobacco Trust Fund for what it was originally designated for: tobacco prevention and cessation.

Most of Hawaii's tobacco prevention programs receive support from the Trust Fund. If funds are cut we are sure to lose many of them. These programs are a vital part in the choices youth make about their current and future tobacco use.

Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,
Cami Iwata
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Stephen Duadua. I'm a REAL Member and live on the Big Island of Hawaii.

I'm asking you to strongly oppose SB 120 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 one of the lowest smoking rate in the nation among youth. If we cut the Tobacco Trust Fund that supports tobacco prevention and cessation programs, smoking rates will increase as well as healthcare costs. And eventually we will also see more people dying from tobacco related disease.

Groups like REAL have made great strides in tobacco prevention and if you cut the Tobacco Trust Fund now, all the money and time spent on youth prevention will be reversed. And Hawaii will end up paying more for tobacco prevention and cessation efforts later down the line.

I hope you will take all these things into consideration when you make your decision. Please oppose SB 120 to protect my generation and those to come from nicotine addiction.

Mahalo,

Stephen Duadua
Pahoa, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Suelem Rocha. I am a student of University of Hawaii Maui College and a resident of Haiku. I am testifying in opposition to the SB 120, which would reduce the funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund and impact the funding of tobacco prevention and control programs.

The MSA Trust Fund helps Hawaii fight youth smoking early. It also promotes campaigns on the radio and television, as well as maintaining a Quitline. All these great campaigns do help and is saving our next generation from this deadly habit.

I am strongly asking you today to oppose SB 120. Our state needs your help.

Sincerely,
Suelem Rocha
Student, UHMC
Haiku, Maui

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Hello,

I'm Moshammed (Sunny) Islam from McKinley High School. I'm involved with tobacco prevention through REAL and Teenline and am opposed to cuts to the Tobacco Trust Fund through SB 120.

With REAL we are working everyday to eliminate the control that tobacco companies have in Hawaii through ads in our stores and targeting of youth. There is no doubt our work is not done in this area. We cannot take a cut in the funds that support programs like REAL. This will endanger our generation and those to come because then smoking rates are going to go back up.

Please oppose cuts to the Tobacco Trust Fund by opposing SB 120. You have the power to truly protect my generation with your decision.

Thank you,

Sunny Islam
Honolulu, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Taryn L. Gurgol. I am currently a biology student at UH Maui as well as a healthcare professional. I care deeply about the health of our society, and I feel deeply compelled to write you this letter.

I am writing in regards to SB 120, as I am extremely concerned about the implications of this kind of cut in the tobacco trust fund. If we allow this kind of bill to be passed, then I greatly fear that the cases of tobacco related cardiovascular problems, cancer, and ultimately death will rise dramatically.

A healthy society is a society with lower health care costs, versus a sick society that keeps healthcare costs at a high. It makes sense to me that if we use our money wisely, that is to say put our funds towards prevention programs like education, that we will actually save money in the long run. We not only save money, we end up saving lives. Smoking kills more people than AIDS, cancer, car crashes, alcohol, illegal drugs, and suicide combined. What is more precious than a life saved?

Finally, I ask that you consider the origin of interest that tobacco companies hold. It revolves around how much money these companies can net in. If the funding toward tobacco prevention is cut, then the companies have an advantage. Please consider not feeding the companies' pockets at the expense of our health. Please oppose SB 120.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taryn L. Gurgol

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Senators:

My name is Volter Cabias and I am a student at UHMC currently taking Biology 100. I also have a family member who is losing his fight with lung cancer. My point is the opposition of House Bill #120. The results of losing funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund that support tobacco prevention will be greatly felt especially in small communities such as the ones found on Maui.

My uncle who is dying from lung cancer never smoked his whole life and yet he still got the disease. He did work at a bar in one of the hotels on Maui and the cause of the disease is undoubtedly from the secondhand smoke he has received all the years working there. I slowly but surely saw him get weaker and weaker to the point he cannot even speak anymore. My aunty and cousins grow emotionally weaker with him. The effects of smoking can crush families physically and emotionally very easily.

Please oppose SB 120 to make sure that our tobacco prevention and cessation programs are supported.

Mahalo,
Volter Cabias

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Alec J. Bode. I am a second year Liberal Arts student at the University of Hawaii, Maui. I reside in the harbor town of Lahaina. After graduation my goal is to become involved in the medical field as a radiologist.

I am writing to you as a concerned voter who is strongly opposed to Senate Bill 120, which would result in the elimination of the Tobacco Settlement Fund that is essential to support tobacco prevention and control programs.

Eliminating the Tobacco Settlement Funds will greatly affect making sure we have future non-smokers. I have been a smoker for 35 years and have recently taken advantage of a cessation program and am using the patch. I have struggled with the addiction of tobacco with many attempts at abstinence. Thanks to the Tobacco Settlement Fund there are programs available today for me. I fear these programs will suffer tremendously with the passing of SB 120.

Mahalo,
Alec J. Bode

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators:

My name is Alexander Halley. I attend Baldwin High School on Maui. I am involved in a youth-led movement against the tobacco industry called REAL. I am writing to ask you to **STRONGLY oppose SB 120** that would eliminate funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement (MSA) Trust Fund.

These funds currently provide the majority of funding for Hawaii's tobacco prevention and cessation programs on all islands. Continuing to fund tobacco prevention and cessation programs can make a difference at the state and community level when it comes to keeping tobacco use rates low among my generation.

REAL is one of the best programs that I've ever been in and has helped me in so many ways. Without good programs like this youth tobacco use rates WILL go back up and tobacco companies would be unstoppable.

Please oppose SB 120 to keep youth tobacco prevention alive in Hawaii.

Thank you so much,
Alex Halley
Wailuku, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Amanda Victorino. I am 18 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 SB 120.

Thank you very much,

Amanda Victorino
REAL Member
Kapolei, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lec, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION** to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

I am Ashley Hudson from Maui, Hawaii. I am 17 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 SB 120.

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. Cuts to the Fund will result in less tobacco prevention programs like REAL.

Please help us by opposing SB 120. 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

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

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 SB 120 with Section IX.

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 tobacco prevention programs will also take a cut not allowing us to adequately fight the battle against a tobacco industry that preys on my generation. Hawaii now has one of the 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 SB 120 that would eliminate funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund.

Mahalo,

Brandon Antonius
Wailuku, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Legislators,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in **STRONG
OPPOSITION TO SB 120.**

My name is Brittany Marini. I'm a graduate of Campbell High School and a current student at Hawaii Pacific University. I am an active member of The REAL Movement which educates the youth generation about the tactics used by the tobacco industry to recruit new tobacco users replace the thousands of smokes that die each year in Hawaii from tobacco related illnesses.

If funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund are cut, campaigns like The REAL Movement as well as many others that focus on tobacco prevention will be lost. The work we are doing to counter the efforts of tobacco companies is **EXTREMELY** important and will impact future costs in health care costs to the State, as well as improve the lives of people in Hawaii.

I'm asking you to **OPPOSE SB 120** and use the funds for what they were intended to be used for: tobacco prevention and control.

Mahalo,

Brittany Marini

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB120.

My name is Abrahm Arkin, I am a graduate of Konawaena High School on the Big Island. I am a part of REAL, Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry.

I strongly believe the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund should be preserved for tobacco prevention efforts such as REAL. That is what the funds were intended for.

Please oppose SB120. 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

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators:

My name is Shay Revuelto. I am from Mililani, a Senior at Kamehameha Schools, and a State Leader with The REAL Movement.

I'm in strong opposition to SB 120 which would remove funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund.

This legislation would greatly impact the work of those in tobacco prevention and control, such as REAL, who receive funding from Tobacco Trust Fund to do important work to reduce the amount of youth who become tobacco users by telling the truth about tobacco industry marketing tactics.

While we have made progress in reducing the amount of tobacco use among young people in Hawaii, tobacco companies continue to target our generation through tobacco advertising in convenience stores and supermarkets that portray tobacco use as a social norm in Hawaii. Research shows that youth who are exposed to tobacco marketing, even just for a short time, are more likely to become tobacco users.

Funding for tobacco control from the Tobacco Trust Fund is already stretched. Additional cuts to the funds will result in a loss of tobacco prevention efforts. These are programs not only affect my generation but also the future generations because we are working to change the social norms about tobacco.

We need you do the right thing to protect Hawaii's keiki. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Shay Revuelto
Mililani

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

My name is Silver Hunt. I'm from the island of Kauai where I am a member REAL and Smoke-Free Kauai Coalition. I am opposed to SB120 that would remove funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund.

Saving the Tobacco Trust Fund of the Master Settlement Agreement is going to affect tobacco prevention programs that are already not funded enough.

It's important that Hawaii's Tobacco Trust Fund be used toward what it was originally meant for which is tobacco prevention efforts like REAL.

Please oppose SB120.

Thank you,

Silver Hunt
Anahola, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION** to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Committee:

My name is Makeda Morris from Honolulu. I'm a student at McKinley HS and Leader with REAL. I'm in opposition to SB 120 that would cut Tobacco Trust Fund dollars.

It's my opinion that the Tobacco Trust Fund dollars need to be used for projects that relate to tobacco control and prevention which was the original intention. Without prevention programs and tobacco control efforts we lose our voices to stand up to tobacco companies.

We have to regard Tobacco Trust Fund as something special that without it we risk sacrificing our chances of a better future for Hawaii's people and economy. Please oppose SB 120.

Thank you,
Makeda Morris
Honolulu, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Legislators:

My name is Malia Klask, and I am a University of Hawaii: Maui College student residing on the island of Maui. I am testifying in strong opposition of SB 120, which results in cutting of funds that support tobacco prevention.

As a mother, I would like to have the peace of mind that my daughter will be able to have the education and prevention resources available to her. I also strongly appreciate the fact that we are starting to definitely have a smoke-free Hawaii, where we can go to the park and not have to worry about being affected by second-hand smoke. Hawaii is improving, however, I feel we are not there yet and should not be cut short.

Please listen.

Malia Klask

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Committee:

My name is Donalyn "Leimamo" Naihe. I'm from Hana, Hawaii and I'm part of REAL. Today I'm writing in **strong OPPOSITION of SB 120** which would eliminate funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund.

I'm asking that you do not touch these funds because there is already so little of it being used for tobacco prevention. A cut to this fund means we are going to lose more of our programs that help protect Hawaii's young people from ever starting to use tobacco and support people who want to quit.

I joined REAL because I want to make a difference in Hawaii by fighting against the tobacco industry. This is a very important issue since tobacco companies are not backing down at trying to get youth in Hawaii as customers.

We can't afford to lose our programs that are helping to protect all of Hawaii's people. Please **OPPOSE SB 120**.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Donalyn Naihe
REAL
Hana, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha from Maui,

My name is Marie Quindica-Cuomo. I am a registered voter and reside in Kihei on the island of Maui.

As a mother of 2 young adult males, I strongly oppose SB 120. Teaching children from an early age to maintain healthy lifestyles really works! My sons are 21 and 19 and neither smoke or are tempted to try.

I am a former smoker who smoked for 20 years and quit smoking 22 years ago so I could have healthy babies! My sons come from a long line of smokers. Their paternal grandfather who underwent a triple cardiac bypass and now has emphysema at 25% lung capacity, may also have lung cancer at age 80. He smoked for more than 40 years. We have also lost my older brother to lung cancer at age 54. My husband still smokes and cannot beat the addiction.

Please oppose SB 120 and keep funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund for what they're meant for: to support smoking cessation and prevention.

Mahalo,
Marie Quindica-Cuomo
Kihei, HI

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

My name is Rebecca Marini. I'm a student at Aiea High School on Oahu and a Statewide Leader with REAL. I am strongly opposed to SB120 that would remove funds from Hawaii's Tobacco Trust Fund.

The money in the Trust Fund is designated for tobacco prevention related programs that will help save state funds needed to pay for health problems caused by tobacco use. Using the Tobacco Trust Fund for anything other than its intended purpose will cut down on the funds currently fund tobacco prevention like REAL which means we won't be properly educating our communities and teens about tobacco. For sure that will lead to increases in tobacco use and cost the state of Hawaii even more money in prevention and health care costs.

Please think this through and oppose SB120.

Thank you,

Rebecca Marini
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Matilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION** to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators:

My name is Rose Anne Navalta from Laupahoehoe, Hawaii. I'm a current student at UH Hilo and a Statewide Leader with REAL. I'm in STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB 120 that would move funds out of The Tobacco Trust Fund.

These funds are currently being used to fund important programs like the one I belong to which is REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry. Our work is very important because tobacco companies have not stopped targeting my generation as potential replacement customers. This is such a major issue in Hawaii because we have made really good progress to lower tobacco rates. But if we don't continue with successful prevention programs like REAL tobacco companies will just take over and tobacco use rates will go back up.

It's important to me that REAL continues because as a member I have gained life-long skills, self-confidence in myself, found my voice to stand up about things that I believe are wrong, and felt empowered to do things and make a difference in Hawaii that I didn't imagine was possible. By finding my voice I've been able to speak for other people who can't speak up for themselves like small children.

If you allow funds to be taken away from the Tobacco Trust Fund we will not be able to continue the fight against Big Tobacco companies who are in our local communities with their storefront advertising.

Please make the right decision to protect good prevention programs like REAL and help us accomplish our mission to protect Hawaii's people from addiction and death. Vote to oppose SB 120.

Thank you,

Rose Anne Navalta
Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators:

My name is Shay Revuelto. I am from Mililani, a Senior at Kamehameha Schools, and a State Leader with The REAL Movement.

I'm in strong opposition to SB 120 which would remove funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund.

This legislation would greatly impact the work of those in tobacco prevention and control, such as REAL, who receive funding from Tobacco Trust Fund to do important work to reduce the amount of youth who become tobacco users by telling the truth about tobacco industry marketing tactics.

While we have made progress in reducing the amount of tobacco use among young people in Hawaii, tobacco companies continue to target our generation through tobacco advertising in convenience stores and supermarkets that portray tobacco use as a social norm in Hawaii. Research shows that youth who are exposed to tobacco marketing, even just for a short time, are more likely to become tobacco users.

Funding for tobacco control from the Tobacco Trust Fund is already stretched. Additional cuts to the funds will result in a loss of tobacco prevention efforts. These are programs not only affect my generation but also the future generations because we are working to change the social norms about tobacco.

We need you do the right thing to protect Hawaii's keiki. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Shay Revuelto
Mililani

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators:

My name is Sheryll Yotsuda. I 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 SB 120 and want to see the Tobacco Trust Fund be used for the purpose of tobacco control.

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. Less Tobacco Trust Fund dollars means that groups that work in tobacco prevention will 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 SB 120. REAL and other groups are making a difference in tobacco control. Please let us continue to do just that.

Mahaio nui loa,

Sheryll Yotsuda
REAL! Alumni Network
Honolulu, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators:

My name is Stephanie Franklin, and I work as Maui's Island Coordinator for REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry. I am writing in strong opposition of SB 120, which would reduce funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund that currently funds tobacco prevention and control programs throughout Hawaii.

It is proven that tobacco prevention and control programs do work. They have successfully reduced youth smoking rates, helped people quit their addiction, and ultimately saved lives.

Unfortunately, tobacco companies spend \$42 billion annually in Hawaii alone to promote their deadly, addictive product. Big tobacco companies are directly targeting youth as replacement smokers. Tobacco products are often placed near youth friendly products, such as candy and ice cream, and are found in bright colors and candy flavors also attractive to youth. These extremely manipulative and deceptive techniques are used to recruit youth as the next tobacco customer.

Funding is required to continue fighting the Big Tobacco industry. Reduction in funding will likely cause smoking rates to rise, especially within the youth generation, which is reversing all hard work and positive results accomplished by tobacco prevention and control programs.

Please continue to support a healthier and smoke-free Hawaii. Please oppose SB 120 and continue to use this funding for what it was set aside and intended for, tobacco prevention and control.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Franklin
REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry
Wailuku, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Cassie Olaitiman from the Island of Maui. I strongly oppose SB 120, which results in cutting funding from the Tobacco Trust Fund which will ultimately cut funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

By continuing these very helpful and important programs, we will be able to help save many lives that tobacco use has destroyed. These programs may help smokers to discontinue tobacco use by using other methods to break this bad habit and support young people in making the decision never to start.

My grandparents were smokers a few years ago, and by having prevention programs out there, they have been able to quit smoking. My grandfather has complicated health problems due to the excessive tobacco use over many years. Because of tobacco prevention funding, my grandfather has been able to prevent serious health issues that could have escalated had he decided to continue his tobacco use.

Please continue to fund these programs through the Tobacco Trust Fund so that they may help others in the future to kick this bad habit. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,
Cassie Olaitiman

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Cedric Cabero from Maui, Hawaii. I am a student at the University of Hawaii: Maui College, and currently studying Human Biology. I strongly oppose SB 120, which is the reduction of funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund and tobacco prevention and control programs.

It is important to save this funding so the death toll of tobacco use drops. The youth can be saved from addiction to these deadly products and they can live a healthier and longer life.

The information I learned from college made me realize how tobacco kills people. Please oppose SB 120.

Thank you,

Cedric Cabero
Maui

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Charae Tongg. I'm a Senior at Seabury Hall and a statewide 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 (HSTTF). I am in strong opposition to SB 120 which would cut funds from HSTTF.

REAL is a great tobacco prevention program that works to empower youth to know the truth about tobacco marketing, 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 HSTTF makes our work possible. And without programs like REAL and the many other supported by HSTTF there will be no one standing up to the tobacco industry.

Please OPPOSE SB 120 in order to preserve great tobacco prevention program like REAL and preserve the use of The Tobacco Trust Fund for its intended purpose of tobacco prevention and control efforts.

Thank you,

Charae Tongg
REAL Maui Leader

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators:

My name is Che Sabol. I am a Registered Voter residing in the Manoa District of Honolulu, Hawaii.

I'm in strong opposition to SB 120 which would eliminate funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund.

This legislation would greatly impact tobacco prevention and control efforts which are currently funded through the Tobacco Trust Fund. Great progress has been made in reducing tobacco use among young people in Hawaii but still there is more work to be done. Tobacco companies continue to recruit customers to replace those that die each year as a result of tobacco use.

The Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund is a trust specifically allotted for the use of prevention and intervention programs aimed to decrease health risks and tobacco use among youth and adults. These prevention and intervention programs are a critical investment, which the State of Hawaii must consider to protect the health and social wellbeing of Hawaii's children, youth, and adults.

As a father of a little girl, I am most concerned for her health, safety, and wellbeing. As a committee, please think about the health, safety, and wellbeing of the children in your family and the type of life that you wish for them as you make this decision. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,

Che Sabol, MSCP

Manoa

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to SB 120.

My name is Courtney Viernes-Silva. I have been a REAL youth board member for over six years now. REAL is a youth-led anti-tobacco company movement. SB 120 would eliminate funds from the tobacco trust fund leading to significant cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and control in Hawaii.

If Hawaii cuts these funds tobacco companies will have even more of a chance to continue to target, addict, and kill more of our people. I believe Hawaii should keep the Tobacco Trust Fund for the purpose it was meant for which is tobacco prevention and control.

I ask you to protect my generation by OPPOSING SB 120.

Much Mahalo,

Courtney Viernes-Silva
Statewide Youth Leader
REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

Prevention control works. It helps save lives. This we know for sure. WE have brought down youth smoking that was 1 in 4 and is now 1 in 10 in just 7 years. When people don't smoke it brings down health costs and medical costs in a large way.

It is important that we keep the Tobacco Trust Fund monies because we have just reached such a wonderful place regarding smoking in Hawaii. You can sit in a restaurant or bar and enjoy yourself and not have to be bombarded by smoke. If prevention programs had not been in place, all of these things wouldn't have succeeded.

Also, with all this money that comes from taxing cigarettes, I would hope you would understand the importance of preserving the Tobacco Trust Fund for prevention.

Please, please, please strongly oppose SB 120.

Mary Seavy
U of H (Maui) Student
Pukalani, Maui resident

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Committee:

I am a biology student attending University of Hawaii Maui Campus and I strongly urge you to vote against SB 120.

It is very apparent the impact that these tobacco prevention programs have on our community. Kindergarten students come home and ask their parents to give up smoking all because of a tobacco prevention program made a presentation at their school. I live in Wailuku, Maui and have seen relatives and friends pass away due to smoking cigarettes and the harmful effects it has on their health. Not only does smoking cause direct damage to the one smoking but it is also proven that secondhand smoke can have long term and even fatal effects on anyone who may be near enough to breathe it in.

Here in Hawaii there is a large population of large families living in a single house. This may include grandparents, in-laws, and other extended family. If even a single person in that household is a smoker, the effects of second-hand smoke may be double just because of the close proximity to so many family members. This includes the elderly and infant children alike, and no one likes affecting a child with such a damaging substance. But still very few people know this.

We need to have more tobacco education and prevention programs. These require funding from the Tobacco Trust Fund. Please oppose SB 120.

Thank you,
Matthew Naeole

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Melissa Chong. I'm 21 years old. I'm representing REAL: Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing Big Tobacco. I'm in strong opposition to SB120, HD1 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.

Tobacco control and prevention in the state of Hawaii has definitely worked! Tobacco use rates have dropped but the fight isn't over! The Tobacco Industry continues to target youth through the development of new types of products that get around our smoke-free workplaces law and placing tons of tobacco ads and special displays in the stores we shop at! As long as the tobacco companies are focusing in on our communities we need to continue to stand up against them and do our best to counter-market their efforts!

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 millions of dollars in health care costs in the near future. So I'm asking you to please protect Hawaii's future by opposing SB120 HD 1. Saving the trust fund for tobacco control and prevention will ultimately save the state money in the long run by cutting health care costs plus it will save lives. So let's continue to stay strong against the tobacco industry in Hawaii.

Thank you very much,
Melissa Chong
Hilo, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Michelle Magdirila from the island of Molokai. I'm a statewide leader and registered voter with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry in strong opposition to SB 120 which would cut funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

I'm asking you to please **save the MSA Trust Fund for what it was meant for: tobacco prevention and cessation programs.** This will save Hawaii millions of dollars in future health care costs and protects young people right now from becoming addicted "customers" of Big Tobacco companies that don't care about anything but profits.

Tobacco prevention works! But so does tobacco advertising. Without **adequate funds to do tobacco prevention work our hands are tied to actually successfully counter the \$42 million dollars a year that tobacco companies are spending to advertise in Hawaii.**

We need you to hear our voices. We need more funds NOT LESS to be able to do prevention work. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,

Michelle Magdirila
Molokai
REAL

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Monica Medrano and I'm a Senior 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 SB 120** that would eliminate funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund.

By moving these funds the Tobacco Trust Fund prevention efforts will be greatly reduced, if not lost completely. Ultimately that means that smoking and tobacco use rates will increase. Also tobacco prevention efforts such as REAL will not be able to continue our work to stand up to tobacco companies who are aggressively targeting our generation.

As a teenager in Hawaii, I believe that the funding is greatly needed for tobacco prevention to continue to protect my generation. Please take action to **OPPOSE SB 120**.

Sincerely,

Monica Medrano
REAL Statewide Leader
Maui

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislator,

My name is Nancy Guzman from the island of Maui. I am currently attending the University of Hawaii Maui College. I am writing you this letter because I strongly oppose SB 120.

I believe that you should NOT pass this law because we need that money to build more tobacco prevention and control programs. Tobacco is the number one killer and everyday people die of lung cancer.

Sincerely,
Nancy Guzman

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators.

My name is Nicole Perea I am a Keaau High school Senior on the Big Island. I'm with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry in strong opposition to SB 120 which would cut funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

I'm asking you to please **save the MSA Trust Fund for what it was meant for: tobacco prevention and cessation programs.** Prevention programs like REAL are funded with the Tobacco Trust Fund. We expose the truth about the tobacco companies and bring awareness to others which discourages people from buying their deadly products. I am also a very active dancer and prevention programs like this help support living healthy lifestyles and encourage others to live active healthy lifestyles as well.

Tobacco prevention works! But so does tobacco advertising. Without **adequate funds to do tobacco prevention work our hands are tied to actually successfully counter the \$42 million dollars a year that tobacco companies are spending to advertise in Hawaii.**

We need more funds NOT LESS to be able to do tobacco prevention work. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,

Nicole Perea
Big Island
REAL

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

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 Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 which would result in the elimination of funding for tobacco prevention and cessation efforts from the Tobacco Settlement Special 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, tobacco use rates have dropped significantly across Hawaii. But still much work remains as there is considerable disparity in those affected by tobacco and continued aggressive targeting of youth as customers by the tobacco industry.

Cuts to the Tobacco Trust Fund would lead to less programming on the frontlines of prevention to counter the influence of this industry resulting in 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 eliminate Section IX from this measure. Our state needs to take a strong stance to preserve the Tobacco Trust Fund for its intended purpose of tobacco prevention and cessation.

Mahalo,

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

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislator,

My name is Parker Luce. I'm a student at University of Hawaii at Maui. I'm writing to strongly oppose SB 120.

If passed, this bill will take money away from educational programs on preventing tobacco use. In schools I believe that these educational programs teach kids and adults the dangers of using tobacco products and the health complications. As a kid growing up we had these programs, and I'm glad we did. That's why I don't smoke. Without tobacco quit hotlines, hundreds would have nowhere to turn to for free and confidential help.

I oppose SB 120, having personally seen the health effects of losing a loved one. I enjoy knowing that kids can be taught not to smoke.

Thank you,
Parker Luce
Kahului, Maui

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Rachel Patrick and I am a student at UH Maui College. I am writing to oppose SB 120, which would cause a decrease in the Tobacco Trust Fund and ultimately affect funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am currently in a Human Biology course and have learned even more about the horrible effects tobacco use has on the human body. Fortunately, while growing up in Hawaii I have learned about the consequences of tobacco use through elementary, middle and high school. Cutting funds for youth education would definitely cause an increase in tobacco use among our youth.

Being a mom, I do not want to see my own child fall to the pressures of tobacco use because of a lack of education and prevention effort due to a bad decision about funding.

Currently my husband is trying to quit smoking and without the help of the tobacco quit line and other programs it would only further his delay in becoming completely smoke-free

Hawaii is known for other drug and addiction problems, and we do not want tobacco use to be another one. Please oppose SB 120. Our youth and state need the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention and control.

Mahalo,
Rachel Patrick
Wailuku, Maui

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha,

My name is Dayne Sakai and I'm from Hilo. I'm a part of REAL that educates youth about the tobacco industry and allows youth to express themselves through their personal talents to take a stand against tobacco.

I'm not in favor of SB 120 because it will cut funds from the MSA Trust Fund and programs like REAL will lose our funds to help protect our generation from addiction. There is still a lot of work to do in prevention. We need more funds for this, not less.

Thank you for opposing SB 120.

Dayne Saiki
Hilo, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

I am a Hawaii resident and currently attending the University of Hawaii Maui College. I am also a dental assistant at a private practice who has seen the negative effects smoking has on our people here on Maui.

I strongly oppose the SB 120. Cutting funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund will hurt the Hawaii community severely by costing the government more money due to more hospital visits due to sickness and disease smoking has caused.

Smoking kills more people each year than murder, accidents, or suicides. Our youth are our future, they will run this world soon and we need to teach them why smoking is bad. We need the Tobacco Trust Fund and all that it can do for us and our future.

Sincerely,
Esmeralda Silva

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION** to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Grady Sullivan and I am a young adult on the Big Island. I'm am with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry in strong opposition to SB 120 which would cut funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

I'm asking you to please **save the MSA Trust Fund for what it was meant for: tobacco prevention and cessation programs.** Without prevention money programs would not have the funds needed to create amazing events. These events are the activities that entice people to want to get involved and potentially prevent them from smoking. Prevention programs bring awareness to others to do positive activities instead of negative ones.

Tobacco prevention works! But so does tobacco advertising. Without **adequate funds to do tobacco prevention work our hands are tied to actually successfully counter the \$42 million dollars a year that tobacco companies are spending to advertise in Hawaii.**

We need more funds NOT LESS to be able to do prevention work. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,

Grady Sullivan
Big Island
REAL

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

I'm Hannah Fuqua from Maui. 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 SB 120.

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 SB 120.

Thank you,
Hannah J. Fuqua
Maui

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Legislators:

I am in strong opposition to Senate Bill 120.

Tobacco is the number one cause of death in America. Tobacco companies add other carcinogenic matter beside the ones naturally occurring in tobacco. In our age of technology and communication capabilities, advertising these preventative methods is as easy as an event and many would agree more important than ever.

Tobacco companies aggressively and subliminally advertise to our youth. They strategically place posters, pictures and "Kool" phrases where 8-12 year old children will most likely observe it. We all know how influence-able children of that age are.

This Tobacco Trust Fund is of utmost importance, if only just to "Keep up" with Big Tobacco's propaganda. The fact that this bill is even being heard and voted upon is, in my strong opinion, ludicrous and very unsettling. Please vote "no" on this SB 120, to protect the future for smokers and non-smokers alike. Tobacco Trust Fund money should be spent on productive and healthy changes as was intended.

Sincerely,
Joel VanDenburg
University of Hawaii Maui College
Kihei, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is John Pimentel and I am a young adult 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 and control. So I am in strong opposition to SB 120 that would eliminate from Tobacco Trust Fund.

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. They also spend millions of dollars in Hawaii each year on storefront tobacco ads to promote their addictive products in our local communities.

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 are supported by the Tobacco Trust Fund, lose 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.

Community groups like REAL offer teens a chance to join the movement, stand up for what we believe in, and change our lives. We can't afford to lose this.

Please, I do not want to see Tobacco Trust Fund monies used for anything other than tobacco prevention in Hawaii. We are making a difference. Please let us continue to do just that. Please oppose SB 120.

Thank you very much,
John Pimentel
REAL Young Adult Leader

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Justin Ragasa and I am a registered voter and constituent in Hawaii's 30th House District. I'm in strong opposition of SB 120 that would eliminate funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund.

By reallocating the funds, there will be less money available to fund prevention programs. Without prevention programs, people will not know of the dangers they will bring to themselves if they participate in certain activities such as smoking. Sure, with the advancements in technology and the scientific breakthroughs in health, we can mask almost any of the health issues brought on by smoking. However, this will come at a cost which the patient will have to front. If they have medical insurance, that's great! But what about the thousands of Hawaii's residents without insurance? We, fellow tax-payers, will need to help cover the costs. These costs can be over thousands of dollars per-person, and there will probably be several thousands of people going in for the same thing.

The hundreds of thousands of dollars that would be used to treat patients could actually be saved with Prevention Programs. Prevention programs such as the University of Hawaii's BEAT-IT, a tobacco cessation program, expose the dangers of tobacco use and help current smokers quit. In the long-run they will not have higher medical costs.

Please oppose SB 120. It is important that the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund to be used for Tobacco prevention programs.

Thank you,

Justin Ragasa

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

To Senate Committee on Health:

As a child who was born in the Island of Maui and raised in Kihei, I was also a child raised around grandparents who smoked around me. I am horrified to hear of SB 120, which will eliminate Tobacco Trust Fund resulting in reduced funding to programs that aid in preventing this disease called smoking that has been caused by the moral-less cigarette companies.

As a voter, I feel that we should have a say in preventing the children of tomorrow from these money hungry tobacco companies. They only think of the mighty dollar than the lives that they are killing slowly. I also want to mention the money that we save from the prevention of health problems related to smoking.

My name is Keanu Nakamura and I strongly oppose SB 120 for the simple fact that the money we spend now in preventing smoking saves lives.

Sincerely,
Keanu Nakamura

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to oppose SB 120. As you are all aware, smoking causes all sorts of health problems and the health care cost to provide medical for smokers continues to rise. I believe that cutting funds that provide tobacco prevention, education, and control will be detrimental to everyone especially youths. As adults we make the decision as to whether we want to smoke or not. However, children are more susceptible to peer pressure and without the proper education, children will not know the consequences of smoking.

I have an 11 year old son that's in sixth grade. I can educate him on the consequences of smoking and strongly advise him not to smoke, but I believe through tobacco prevention and education he will have more insight as to why smoking is not good at all. Let's not cut the funds and let's not let our children think smoking is okay because no one has educated them on health effects.

Sincerely,
L. Paranada, student
University of Hawaii Maui College
Kahului, HI

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

To Senate Committee on Health:

My name is Lalaineya Esperanza. I am from Wailuku and currently attending UH Maui College. I am testifying in strong opposition to SB 120, which would eliminate funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund. Tobacco is the number one killer in the world today. Tobacco kills more than alcohol, suicides, homicides, and AIDS combined.

Cuts to the funding won't allow programming to tobacco prevention programs and cessation hotlines. School programs won't be able to get much funds or material to influence the teenagers to not take up tobacco.

Tobacco companies spend \$42 million per year in Hawaii to advertise their deadly products. This is no time to cut back on the amount of money spent for tobacco prevention issues including: health programs, cessation hotlines, or school programs.

I am asking you to oppose SB 120. Please preserve the funds for the intended purpose.

Thank you,
Lalaineya Esperanza

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Lauren Rillanos I attend the University of Hawaii at Hilo on the Big Island. I'm am with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry in strong opposition to SB 120 which would eliminate funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

I'm asking you to please **save the MSA Trust Fund for what it was meant for: tobacco prevention and cessation programs.** Prevention programs like REAL spread a great message to educate others about the tobacco companies which in turn assist people in making choices to avoid this deadly product. Prevention programs like REAL are breaking the image of being "cool" if you smoke. By breaking this image people get involved with positive things.

Big tobacco companies are trying to get a hold of our generation to make money off our lives and prevention programs like REAL work to stop that. Prevention programs also get people to become involved and engaged in a positive message which is a huge benefit to the entire state of Hawaii. Tobacco companies spend a lot of money on targeting us we have to be able to counter there negative attacks with financial support to keep positive programs alive. The more effort is put into prevention the less money we will have to spend on health care and other back end support.

Tobacco prevention works! But so does tobacco advertising. Without **adequate funds to do tobacco prevention work our hands are tied to actually successfully counter the \$42 million dollars a year that tobacco companies are spending to advertise in Hawaii.**

We need more funds NOT LESS to be able to do prevention work. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,

Lauren Rillanos
Big Island

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

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 writing because I do not want Hawaii's Tobacco Trust Fund to be used for anything other than what is was originally intended to be used for which is tobacco prevention and cessation. That is why I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to SB 120.

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 SB 120.

Thank you,
Lea Meliza Pigao
Honolulu, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators:

My name is Loren Amaral from Volcano, Hawaii. I'm a young adult leader with The REAL Movement.

I'm opposed to SB 120 that would result in the cut of funds for tobacco prevention programs that are currently funded by The Tobacco Trust Fund.

There is still a lot of work to do for tobacco prevention and without these funds we are not going to be able to do this work.

I'm asking that you please take action by opposing SB 120.

Mahalo,

Loren Amaral

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Lovelynn Stamp and I am a youth on the Big Island. I'm with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry in strong opposition to SB 120 which would cut funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

I'm asking you to please **save the MSA Trust Fund for what it was meant for: tobacco prevention and cessation programs.** Prevention programs like REAL help youth to get active, become involved in community change, and use our voices to fight for what we believe in. Also tobacco prevention programs help us to join together for positive things and steer us away from negative things to help us lead productive lives. The prevention programs supported by the Tobacco Trust Fund not only assist in preventing negative involvement with tobacco but they also teach us valuable life skills such as public speaking and allow us to become productive members of society.

Tobacco prevention works! But so does tobacco advertising. Without **adequate funds to do tobacco prevention work our hands are tied to actually successfully counter the \$42 million dollars a year that tobacco companies are spending to advertise in Hawaii.**

We need more funds NOT LESS to be able to do prevention work. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,

Lovelynn Stamp
Big Island
REAL

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Candace Akahi and I'm a student at University of Hawaii Maui College. I live in Makawao, Maui...born and raised.

I'm writing this letter because I do not agree with cuts to the Tobacco Trust Fund which will take away from tobacco prevention. I think that tobacco prevention programs work and if you take any funds away from the Tobacco Trust Fund there will be more smokers, especially in teens. We need these programs to help keep the smoking rate down. Eliminating these funds would take away so many programs that are helping to prevent and stop people from smoking. I strongly oppose Senate Bill 120. We need to continue to keep Hawaii smoke-free and keep our air clean. Taking away funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund would be a horrible decision.

Thanks,
Candace Akahi

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Committee:

My name is Cami Iwata and I'm a registered voter from Ewa Beach. I'm writing in STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB120, SD1, HD1 Relating to State Funds.

I believe it is critical to preserve the Tobacco Trust Fund for what it was originally designated for: tobacco prevention and cessation.

Most of Hawaii's tobacco prevention programs receive support from the Trust Fund. If funds are cut we are sure to lose many of them. These programs are a vital part in the choices youth make about their current and future tobacco use.

Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,
Cami Iwata
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Stephen Duadua. I'm a REAL Member and live on the Big Island of Hawaii.

I'm asking you to strongly oppose SB 120 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 one of the lowest smoking rate in the nation among youth. If we cut the Tobacco Trust Fund that supports tobacco prevention and cessation programs, smoking rates will increase as well as healthcare costs. And eventually we will also see more people dying from tobacco related disease.

Groups like REAL have made great strides in tobacco prevention and if you cut the Tobacco Trust Fund now, all the money and time spent on youth prevention will be reversed. And Hawaii will end up paying more for tobacco prevention and cessation efforts later down the line.

I hope you will take all these things into consideration when you make your decision. Please oppose SB 120 to protect my generation and those to come from nicotine addiction.

Mahalo,

Stephen Duadua
Pahoa, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Suelem Rocha. I am a student of University of Hawaii Maui College and a resident of Haiku. I am testifying in opposition to the SB 120, which would reduce the funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund and impact the funding of tobacco prevention and control programs.

The MSA Trust Fund helps Hawaii fight youth smoking early. It also promotes campaigns on the radio and television, as well as maintaining a Quitline. All these great campaigns do help and is saving our next generation from this deadly habit.

I am strongly asking you today to oppose SB 120. Our state needs your help.

Sincerely,
Suelem Rocha
Student, UHMC
Haiku, Maui

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Hello,

I'm Moshammed (Sunny) Islam from McKinley High School. I'm involved with tobacco prevention through REAL and Teenline and am opposed to cuts to the Tobacco Trust Fund through SB 120.

With REAL we are working everyday to eliminate the control that tobacco companies have in Hawaii through ads in our stores and targeting of youth. There is no doubt our work is not done in this area. We cannot take a cut in the funds that support programs like REAL. This will endanger our generation and those to come because then smoking rates are going to go back up.

Please oppose cuts to the Tobacco Trust Fund by opposing SB 120. You have the power to truly protect my generation with your decision.

Thank you,

Sunny Islam
Honolulu, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Taryn L. Gurgol. I am currently a biology student at UH Maui as well as a healthcare professional. I care deeply about the health of our society, and I feel deeply compelled to write you this letter.

I am writing in regards to SB 120, as I am extremely concerned about the implications of this kind of cut in the tobacco trust fund. If we allow this kind of bill to be passed, then I greatly fear that the cases of tobacco related cardiovascular problems, cancer, and ultimately death will rise dramatically.

A healthy society is a society with lower health care costs, versus a sick society that keeps healthcare costs at a high. It makes sense to me that if we use our money wisely, that is to say put our funds towards prevention programs like education, that we will actually save money in the long run. We not only save money, we end up saving lives. Smoking kills more people than AIDS, cancer, car crashes, alcohol, illegal drugs, and suicide combined. What is more precious than a life saved?

Finally, I ask that you consider the origin of interest that tobacco companies hold. It revolves around how much money these companies can net in. If the funding toward tobacco prevention is cut, then the companies have an advantage. Please consider not feeding the companies' pockets at the expense of our health. Please oppose SB 120.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taryn L. Gurgol

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Senators:

My name is Volter Cabias and I am a student at UHMC currently taking Biology 100. I also have a family member who is losing his fight with lung cancer. My point is the opposition of House Bill #120. The results of losing funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund that support tobacco prevention will be greatly felt especially in small communities such as the ones found on Maui.

My uncle who is dying from lung cancer never smoked his whole life and yet he still got the disease. He did work at a bar in one of the hotels on Maui and the cause of the disease is undoubtedly from the secondhand smoke he has received all the years working there. I slowly but surely saw him get weaker and weaker to the point he cannot even speak anymore. My aunty and cousins grow emotionally weaker with him. The effects of smoking can crush families physically and emotionally very easily.

Please oppose SB 120 to make sure that our tobacco prevention and cessation programs are supported.

Mahalo,
Volter Cabias

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Alec J. Bode. I am a second year Liberal Arts student at the University of Hawaii, Maui. I reside in the harbor town of Lahaina. After graduation my goal is to become involved in the medical field as a radiologist.

I am writing to you as a concerned voter who is strongly opposed to Senate Bill 120, which would result in the elimination of the Tobacco Settlement Fund that is essential to support tobacco prevention and control programs.

Eliminating the Tobacco Settlement Funds will greatly affect making sure we have future non-smokers. I have been a smoker for 35 years and have recently taken advantage of a cessation program and am using the patch. I have struggled with the addiction of tobacco with many attempts at abstinence. Thanks to the Tobacco Settlement Fund there are programs available today for me. I fear these programs will suffer tremendously with the passing of SB 120.

Mahalo,
Alec J. Bode

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators:

My name is Alexander Halley. I attend Baldwin High School on Maui. I am involved in a youth-led movement against the tobacco industry called REAL. I am writing to ask you to **STRONGLY oppose SB 120** that would eliminate funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement (MSA) Trust Fund.

These funds currently provide the majority of funding for Hawaii's tobacco prevention and cessation programs on all islands. Continuing to fund tobacco prevention and cessation programs can make a difference at the state and community level when it comes to keeping tobacco use rates low among my generation.

REAL is one of the best programs that I've ever been in and has helped me in so many ways. Without good programs like this youth tobacco use rates WILL go back up and tobacco companies would be unstoppable.

Please oppose SB 120 to keep youth tobacco prevention alive in Hawaii.

Thank you so much,
Alex Halley
Wailuku, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Amanda Victorino. I am 18 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 SB 120.

Thank you very much,

Amanda Victorino
REAL Member
Kapolei, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lec, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

I am Ashley Hudson from Maui, Hawaii. I am 17 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 SB 120.

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. Cuts to the Fund will result in less tobacco prevention programs like REAL.

Please help us by opposing SB 120. 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

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

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 SB 120 with Section IX.

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 tobacco prevention programs will also take a cut not allowing us to adequately fight the battle against a tobacco industry that preys on my generation. Hawaii now has one of the 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 SB 120 that would eliminate funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund.

Mahalo,

Brandon Antonius
Wailuku, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Legislators,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in **STRONG
OPPOSITION TO SB 120.**

My name is Brittany Marini. I'm a graduate of Campbell High School and a current student at Hawaii Pacific University. I am an active member of The REAL Movement which educates the youth generation about the tactics used by the tobacco industry to recruit new tobacco users replace the thousands of smokes that die each year in Hawaii from tobacco related illnesses.

If funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund are cut, campaigns like The REAL Movement as well as many others that focus on tobacco prevention will be lost. The work we are doing to counter the efforts of tobacco companies is **EXTREMELY** important and will impact future costs in health care costs to the State, as well as improve the lives of people in Hawaii.

I'm asking you to **OPPOSE SB 120** and use the funds for what they were intended to be used for: tobacco prevention and control.

Mahalo,

Brittany Marini

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB120.

My name is Abrahm Arkin, I am a graduate of Konawaena High School on the Big Island. I am a part of REAL, Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry.

I strongly believe the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund should be preserved for tobacco prevention efforts such as REAL. That is what the funds were intended for.

Please oppose SB120. 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

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators:

My name is Shay Revuelto. I am from Mililani, a Senior at Kamehameha Schools, and a State Leader with The REAL Movement.

I'm in strong opposition to SB 120 which would remove funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund.

This legislation would greatly impact the work of those in tobacco prevention and control, such as REAL, who receive funding from Tobacco Trust Fund to do important work to reduce the amount of youth who become tobacco users by telling the truth about tobacco industry marketing tactics.

While we have made progress in reducing the amount of tobacco use among young people in Hawaii, tobacco companies continue to target our generation through tobacco advertising in convenience stores and supermarkets that portray tobacco use as a social norm in Hawaii. Research shows that youth who are exposed to tobacco marketing, even just for a short time, are more likely to become tobacco users.

Funding for tobacco control from the Tobacco Trust Fund is already stretched. Additional cuts to the funds will result in a loss of tobacco prevention efforts. These are programs not only affect my generation but also the future generations because we are working to change the social norms about tobacco.

We need you do the right thing to protect Hawaii's keiki. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Shay Revuelto
Mililani

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

My name is Silver Hunt. I'm from the island of Kauai where I am a member REAL and Smoke-Free Kauai Coalition. I am opposed to SB120 that would remove funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund.

Saving the Tobacco Trust Fund of the Master Settlement Agreement is going to affect tobacco prevention programs that are already not funded enough.

It's important that Hawaii's Tobacco Trust Fund be used toward what it was originally meant for which is tobacco prevention efforts like REAL.

Please oppose SB120.

Thank you,

Silver Hunt
Anahola, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Committee:

My name is Makeda Morris from Honolulu. I'm a student at McKinley HS and Leader with REAL. I'm in opposition to SB 120 that would cut Tobacco Trust Fund dollars.

It's my opinion that the Tobacco Trust Fund dollars need to be used for projects that relate to tobacco control and prevention which was the original intention. Without prevention programs and tobacco control efforts we lose our voices to stand up to tobacco companies.

We have to regard Tobacco Trust Fund as something special that without it we risk sacrificing our chances of a better future for Hawaii's people and economy. Please oppose SB 120.

Thank you,
Makeda Morris
Honolulu, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Legislators:

My name is Malia Klask, and I am a University of Hawaii: Maui College student residing on the island of Maui. I am testifying in strong opposition of SB 120, which results in cutting of funds that support tobacco prevention.

As a mother, I would like to have the peace of mind that my daughter will be able to have the education and prevention resources available to her. I also strongly appreciate the fact that we are starting to definitely have a smoke-free Hawaii, where we can go to the park and not have to worry about being affected by second-hand smoke. Hawaii is improving, however, I feel we are not there yet and should not be cut short.

Please listen.

Malia Klask

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Committee:

My name is Donalyn "Leimamo" Naihe. I'm from Hana, Hawaii and I'm part of REAL. Today I'm writing in **strong OPPOSITION of SB 120** which would eliminate funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund.

I'm asking that you do not touch these funds because there is already so little of it being used for tobacco prevention. A cut to this fund means we are going to lose more of our programs that help protect Hawaii's young people from ever starting to use tobacco and support people who want to quit.

I joined REAL because I want to make a difference in Hawaii by fighting against the tobacco industry. This is a very important issue since tobacco companies are not backing down at trying to get youth in Hawaii as customers.

We can't afford to lose our programs that are helping to protect all of Hawaii's people. Please OPPOSE SB 120.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Donalyn Naihe
REAL
Hana, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha from Maui,

My name is Marie Quindica-Cuomo. I am a registered voter and reside in Kihei on the island of Maui.

As a mother of 2 young adult males, I strongly oppose SB 120. Teaching children from an early age to maintain healthy lifestyles really works! My sons are 21 and 19 and neither smoke or are tempted to try.

I am a former smoker who smoked for 20 years and quit smoking 22 years ago so I could have healthy babies! My sons come from a long line of smokers. Their paternal grandfather who underwent a triple cardiac bypass and now has emphysema at 25% lung capacity, may also have lung cancer at age 80. He smoked for more than 40 years. We have also lost my older brother to lung cancer at age 54. My husband still smokes and cannot beat the addiction.

Please oppose SB 120 and keep funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund for what they're meant for: to support smoking cessation and prevention.

Mahalo,
Marie Quindica-Cuomo
Kihei, HI

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

My name is Rebecca Marini. I'm a student at Aiea High School on Oahu and a Statewide Leader with REAL. I am strongly opposed to SB120 that would remove funds from Hawaii's Tobacco Trust Fund.

The money in the Trust Fund is designated for tobacco prevention related programs that will help save state funds needed to pay for health problems caused by tobacco use. Using the Tobacco Trust Fund for anything other than its intended purpose will cut down on the funds currently fund tobacco prevention like REAL which means we won't be properly educating our communities and teens about tobacco. For sure that will lead to increases in tobacco use and cost the state of Hawaii even more money in prevention and health care costs.

Please think this through and oppose SB120.

Thank you,

Rebecca Marini
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators:

My name is Rose Anne Navalta from Laupahoehoe, Hawaii. I'm a current student at UH Hilo and a Statewide Leader with REAL. I'm in STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB 120 that would move funds out of The Tobacco Trust Fund.

These funds are currently being used to fund important programs like the one I belong to which is REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry. Our work is very important because tobacco companies have not stopped targeting my generation as potential replacement customers. This is such a major issues in Hawaii because we have made really good progress to lower tobacco rates. But if we don't continue with successful prevention programs like REAL tobacco companies will just take over and tobacco use rates will go back up.

It's important to me that REAL continues because as a member I have gained life-long skills, self-confidence in myself, found me voice to stand up about things that I believe are wrong, and felt empowered to do things and make a difference in Hawaii that I didn't imagine was possible. By finding my voice I've been able to speak for other people who can't speak up for themselves like small children.

If you allow funds to be taken away from the Tobacco Trust Fund we will not be able to continue the fight against Big Tobacco companies who are in our local communities with their storefront advertising.

Please make the right decision to protect good prevention programs like REAL and help us accomplish our mission to protect Hawaii's people from addiction and death. Vote to oppose SB 120.

Thank you,

Rose Anne Navalta
Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators:

My name is Shay Revuelto. I am from Mililani, a Senior at Kamehameha Schools, and a State Leader with The REAL Movement.

I'm in strong opposition to SB 120 which would remove funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund.

This legislation would greatly impact the work of those in tobacco prevention and control, such as REAL, who receive funding from Tobacco Trust Fund to do important work to reduce the amount of youth who become tobacco users by telling the truth about tobacco industry marketing tactics.

While we have made progress in reducing the amount of tobacco use among young people in Hawaii, tobacco companies continue to target our generation through tobacco advertising in convenience stores and supermarkets that portray tobacco use as a social norm in Hawaii. Research shows that youth who are exposed to tobacco marketing, even just for a short time, are more likely to become tobacco users.

Funding for tobacco control from the Tobacco Trust Fund is already stretched. Additional cuts to the funds will result in a loss of tobacco prevention efforts. These are programs not only affect my generation but also the future generations because we are working to change the social norms about tobacco.

We need you do the right thing to protect Hawaii's keiki. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Shay Revuelto
Mililani

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators:

My name is Sheryll Yotsuda. I 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 SB 120 and want to see the Tobacco Trust Fund be used for the purpose of tobacco control.

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. Less Tobacco Trust Fund dollars means that groups that work in tobacco prevention will 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 SB 120. REAL and other groups are making a difference in tobacco control. Please let us continue to do just that.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sheryll Yotsuda
REAL! Alumni Network
Honolulu, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators:

My name is Stephanie Franklin, and I work as Maui's Island Coordinator for REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry. I am writing in strong opposition of SB 120, which would reduce funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund that currently funds tobacco prevention and control programs throughout Hawaii.

It is proven that tobacco prevention and control programs do work. They have successfully reduced youth smoking rates, helped people quit their addiction, and ultimately saved lives.

Unfortunately, tobacco companies spend \$42 billion annually in Hawaii alone to promote their deadly, addictive product. Big tobacco companies are directly targeting youth as replacement smokers. Tobacco products are often placed near youth friendly products, such as candy and ice cream, and are found in bright colors and candy flavors also attractive to youth. These extremely manipulative and deceptive techniques are used to recruit youth as the next tobacco customer.

Funding is required to continue fighting the Big Tobacco industry. Reduction in funding will likely cause smoking rates to rise, especially within the youth generation, which is reversing all hard work and positive results accomplished by tobacco prevention and control programs.

Please continue to support a healthier and smoke-free Hawaii. Please oppose SB 120 and continue to use this funding for what it was set aside and intended for, tobacco prevention and control.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Franklin
REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry
Wailuku, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Cassie Olaitiman from the Island of Maui. I strongly oppose SB 120, which results in cutting funding from the Tobacco Trust Fund which will ultimately cut funds for tobacco prevention and control programs.

By continuing these very helpful and important programs, we will be able to help save many lives that tobacco use has destroyed. These programs may help smokers to discontinue tobacco use by using other methods to break this bad habit and support young people in making the decision never to start.

My grandparents were smokers a few years ago, and by having prevention programs out there, they have been able to quit smoking. My grandfather has complicated health problems due to the excessive tobacco use over many years. Because of tobacco prevention funding, my grandfather has been able to prevent serious health issues that could have escalated had he decided to continue his tobacco use.

Please continue to fund these programs through the Tobacco Trust Fund so that they may help others in the future to kick this bad habit. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,
Cassie Olaitiman

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Cedric Cabero from Maui, Hawaii. I am a student at the University of Hawaii: Maui College, and currently studying Human Biology. I strongly oppose SB 120, which is the reduction of funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund and tobacco prevention and control programs.

It is important to save this funding so the death toll of tobacco use drops. The youth can be saved from addiction to these deadly products and they can live a healthier and longer life.

The information I learned from college made me realize how tobacco kills people. Please oppose SB 120.

Thank you,

Cedric Cabero
Maui

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Charae Tongg. I'm a Senior at Seabury Hall and a statewide 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 (HSTTF). I am in strong opposition to SB 120 which would cut funds from HSTTF.

REAL is a great tobacco prevention program that works to empower youth to know the truth about tobacco marketing, 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 HSTTF makes our work possible. And without programs like REAL and the many other supported by HSTTF there will be no one standing up to the tobacco industry.

Please OPPOSE SB 120 in order to preserve great tobacco prevention program like REAL and preserve the use of The Tobacco Trust Fund for its intended purpose of tobacco prevention and control efforts.

Thank you,

Charae Tongg
REAL Maui Leader

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators:

My name is Che Sabol. I am a Registered Voter residing in the Manoa District of Honolulu, Hawaii.

I'm in strong opposition to SB 120 which would eliminate funds from the Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund.

This legislation would greatly impact tobacco prevention and control efforts which are currently funded through the Tobacco Trust Fund. Great progress has been made in reducing tobacco use among young people in Hawaii but still there is more work to be done. Tobacco companies continue to recruit customers to replace those that die each year as a result of tobacco use.

The Hawaii Tobacco Trust Fund is a trust specifically allotted for the use of prevention and intervention programs aimed to decrease health risks and tobacco use among youth and adults. These prevention and intervention programs are a critical investment, which the State of Hawaii must consider to protect the health and social wellbeing of Hawaii's children, youth, and adults.

As a father of a little girl, I am most concerned for her health, safety, and wellbeing. As a committee, please think about the health, safety, and wellbeing of the children in your family and the type of life that you wish for them as you make this decision. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,

Che Sabol, MSCP

Manoa

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

Please accept my testimony in strong opposition to SB 120.

My name is Courtney Viernes-Silva. I have been a REAL youth board member for over six years now. REAL is a youth-led anti-tobacco company movement. SB 120 would eliminate funds from the tobacco trust fund leading to significant cuts to funding for tobacco prevention and control in Hawaii.

If Hawaii cuts these funds tobacco companies will have even more of a chance to continue to target, addict, and kill more of our people. I believe Hawaii should keep the Tobacco Trust Fund for the purpose it was meant for which is tobacco prevention and control.

I ask you to protect my generation by OPPOSING SB 120.

Much Mahalo,

Courtney Viernes-Silva
Statewide Youth Leader
REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

Prevention control works. It helps save lives. This we know for sure. WE have brought down youth smoking that was 1 in 4 and is now 1 in 10 in just 7 years. When people don't smoke it brings down health costs and medical costs in a large way.

It is important that we keep the Tobacco Trust Fund monies because we have just reached such a wonderful place regarding smoking in Hawaii. You can sit in a restaurant or bar and enjoy yourself and not have to be bombarded by smoke. If prevention programs had not been in place, all of these things wouldn't have succeeded.

Also, with all this money that comes from taxing cigarettes, I would hope you would understand the importance of preserving the Tobacco Trust Fund for prevention.

Please, please, please strongly oppose SB 120.

Mary Seavy
U of H (Maui) Student
Pukalani, Maui resident

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Committee:

I am a biology student attending University of Hawaii Maui Campus and I strongly urge you to vote against SB 120.

It is very apparent the impact that these tobacco prevention program have on our community. Kindergarten students come home and ask their parents to give up smoking all because of a tobacco prevention program made a presentation at their school. I live in Wailuku, Maui and have seen relatives and friends pass away due to smoking cigarettes and the harmful affects it has on their health. Not only does smoking cause direct damage to the one smoking but it is also proven that secondhand smoke can have long term and even fatal effects on anyone who may be near enough to breathe it in.

Here in Hawaii there is a large population of large families living in a single house. This may include grandparents, in-laws, and other extended family. If even a single person in that household is a smoker, the effects of second-hand smoke maybe double just because of the close proximity to so many family members. This includes the elderly and infant children alike, and no one likes affecting a child with such a damaging substance. But still very few people know this.

We need to have more tobacco education and prevention programs. These require funding from the Tobacco Trust Fund. Please oppose SB 120.

Thank you,
Matthew Naeole

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Melissa Chong. I'm 21 years old. I'm representing REAL: Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing Big Tobacco. I'm in strong opposition to SB120, HD1 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.

Tobacco control and prevention in the state of Hawaii has definitely worked! Tobacco use rates have dropped but the fight isn't over! The Tobacco Industry continues to target youth through the development of new types of products that get around our smoke-free workplaces law and placing tons of tobacco ads and special displays in the stores we shop at! As long as the tobacco companies are focusing in on our communities we need to continue to stand up against them and do our best to counter-market their efforts!

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 millions of dollars in health care costs in the near future. So I'm asking you to please protect Hawaii's future by opposing SB120 HD 1. Saving the trust fund for tobacco control and prevention will ultimately save the state money in the long run by cutting health care costs plus it will save lives. So let's continue to stay strong against the tobacco industry in Hawaii.

Thank you very much,
Melissa Chong
Hilo, Hawaii

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Michelle Magdirila from the island of Molokai. I'm a statewide leader and registered voter with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry in strong opposition to SB 120 which would cut funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

I'm asking you to please **save the MSA Trust Fund for what it was meant for: tobacco prevention and cessation programs.** This will save Hawaii millions of dollars in future health care costs and protects young people right now from becoming addicted "customers" of Big Tobacco companies that don't care about anything but profits.

Tobacco prevention works! But so does tobacco advertising. Without **adequate funds to do tobacco prevention work our hands are tied to actually successfully counter the \$42 million dollars a year that tobacco companies are spending to advertise in Hawaii.**

We need you to hear our voices. We need more funds NOT LESS to be able to do prevention work. Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,

Michelle Magdirila
Molokai
REAL

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislators,

My name is Monica Medrano and I'm a Senior 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 SB 120** that would eliminate funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund.

By moving these funds the Tobacco Trust Fund prevention efforts will be greatly reduced, if not lost completely. Ultimately that means that smoking and tobacco use rates will increase. Also tobacco prevention efforts such as REAL will not be able to continue our work to stand up to tobacco companies who are aggressively targeting our generation.

As a teenager in Hawaii, I believe that the funding is greatly needed for tobacco prevention to continue to protect my generation. Please take action to **OPPOSE SB 120**.

Sincerely,

Monica Medrano
REAL Statewide Leader
Maui

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislator,

My name is Nancy Guzman from the island of Maui. I am currently attending the University of Hawaii Maui College. I am writing you this letter because I strongly oppose SB 120.

I believe that you should NOT pass this law because we need that money to build more tobacco prevention and control programs. Tobacco is the number one killer and everyday people die of lung cancer.

Sincerely,
Nancy Guzman

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Nicole Perea I am a Keaau High school Senior on the Big Island. I'm with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry in strong opposition to SB 120 which would cut funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund.

I'm asking you to please **save the MSA Trust Fund for what it was meant for: tobacco prevention and cessation programs.** Prevention programs like REAL are funded with the Tobacco Trust Fund. We expose the truth about the tobacco companies and bring awareness to others which discourages people from buying their deadly products. I am also a very active dancer and prevention programs like this help support living healthy lifestyles and encourage others to live active healthy lifestyles as well.

Tobacco prevention works! But so does tobacco advertising. Without **adequate funds to do tobacco prevention work our hands are tied to actually successfully counter the \$42 million dollars a year that tobacco companies are spending to advertise in Hawaii.**

We need more funds NOT LESS to be able to do tobacco prevention work.
Please oppose SB 120.

Mahalo,

Nicole Perea
Big Island
REAL

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

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 Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 which would result in the elimination of funding for tobacco prevention and cessation efforts from the Tobacco Settlement Special 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, tobacco use rates have dropped significantly across Hawaii. But still much work remains as there is considerable disparity in those affected by tobacco and continued aggressive targeting of youth as customers by the tobacco industry.

Cuts to the Tobacco Trust Fund would lead to less programming on the frontlines of prevention to counter the influence of this industry resulting in 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 eliminate Section IX from this measure. Our state needs to take a strong stance to preserve the Tobacco Trust Fund for its intended purpose of tobacco prevention and cessation.

Mahalo,

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

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Dear Legislator,

My name is Parker Luce. I'm a student at University of Hawaii at Maui. I'm writing to strongly oppose SB 120.

If passed, this bill will take money away from educational programs on preventing tobacco use. In schools I believe that these educational programs teach kids and adults the dangers of using tobacco products and the health complications. As a kid growing up we had these programs, and I'm glad we did. That's why I don't smoke. Without tobacco quit hotlines, hundreds would have nowhere to turn to for free and confidential help.

I oppose SB 120, having personally seen the health effects of losing a loved one. I enjoy knowing that kids can be taught not to smoke.

Thank you,
Parker Luce
Kahului, Maui

April 4th, 2011

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: **STRONG OPPOSITION to Section IX of SB 120 SD 1 Proposed HD 1,
Relating to State Funds**
Hearing on April 5, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 308 (Agenda #3)

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Rachel Patrick and I am a student at UH Maui College. I am writing to oppose SB 120, which would cause a decrease in the Tobacco Trust Fund and ultimately affect funding for tobacco prevention and control programs.

I am currently in a Human Biology course and have learned even more about the horrible effects tobacco use has on the human body. Fortunately, while growing up in Hawaii I have learned about the consequences of tobacco use through elementary, middle and high school. Cutting funds for youth education would definitely cause an increase in tobacco use among our youth.

Being a mom, I do not want to see my own child fall to the pressures of tobacco use because of a lack of education and prevention effort due to a bad decision about funding.

Currently my husband is trying to quit smoking and without the help of the tobacco quit line and other programs it would only further his delay in becoming completely smoke-free

Hawaii is known for other drug and addiction problems, and we do not want tobacco use to be another one. Please oppose SB 120. Our youth and state need the Tobacco Trust Fund for tobacco prevention and control.

Mahalo,
Rachel Patrick
Wailuku, Maui