

LATE

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

HB0046, HD2, RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

**March 20, 2012
1:45PM, Rm. 016**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of HB 46, HD2 to protect
2 residents in public housing from exposure to secondhand smoke although this bill offers no greater
3 protections than are guaranteed under the current smoke-free workplace and public places law, chapter
4 328J, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
- 5 **Fiscal Implications:** No appropriations requested.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure amends chapter 356D, HRS to include portions of chapter
7 328J, HRS relating to smoking in common or public areas in public housing properties that are either
8 enclosed or partially enclosed. DOH supports the scientific findings and recommendations of the U.S.
9 Surgeon General regarding the involuntary exposure of tobacco smoke to nonsmokers. Those findings
10 disclosed that: 1) There is no safe level or amount of secondhand smoke (SHS) and that breathing even
11 a little SHS can be dangerous; 2) Breathing SHS is a known cause of sudden infant death syndrome
12 (SIDS) and that children are more likely to have lung problems, ear infections, and severe asthma from
13 being around tobacco smoke; SHS causes heart disease and lung cancer; separate "no smoke" sections
14 do not provide protection from SHS, and neither does are filtration.

1 Hawaii's current smokefree workplace and public places law, enacted in 2006, does not cover,
2 and excludes private residences. The federal Housing and Urban Development authority, (HUD) now
3 actively supports the creation of smoke free residential public housing properties governed under that
4 authority.

5 DOH continues to encourage HPHA to adopt and implement a smoke-free policy to protect
6 residents living in public housing, as indicated in their testimony of February 1, 2012 on HB 2629. The
7 DOH looks forward to collaborating with the HPHA on their recommendation to implement smoke free
8 housing as an issue that will become a priority item and can successfully be accomplished through
9 internal policy. Further, DOH is willing to work closely with HPHA on the policy development,
10 implementation and on smoking cessation efforts to help current smokers link up with the many
11 available cessation services to help smokers to quit.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Attn: Senator Chun Oakland
Senate Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol – Room 266
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 20, 2012

Dear Senator Chun Oakland,

I am writing to the Committee in support of House Bill 46 Draft 2, which proposes to ban smoking in public housing common areas. As the manager of a residential facility for economically disadvantaged women and children, I support this ban on smoking.

Currently, a significant number of economically disadvantaged persons or families living in Hawaii's public housing are exposed to second-hand smoke from other residents. Our facility has housed several individuals and families for short-term stays, as they seek alternative housing options. This is a financial, physical and mental burden to the resident.

As you are aware, current housing demands make it difficult to gain entry into most of our low-income housing programs and facilities. For these applicants, it is the difference between having a permanent housing solution, and being homeless. It is important that we maintain these facilities with modern laws, supported by research and public interest.

It is unfair to force someone to seek alternative housing, because their health is comprised by the effects of second-hand smoke. Research demonstrates that second-hand smoke can be just as caustic as first-hand smoke.

I understand and acknowledge the right of an individual to choose whether or not to smoke. However, doesn't modern society demonstrate a common understanding that smoking is a public health concern, and the right to smoke doesn't mean we should subject others to its effects? A standard for most business' and public places within Hawaii is to smoke 25 feet from the property. In this instance, we are imposing the effects of second-hand smoke on people within their domicile. Does that seem fair?

Please pass House Bill 46 and impose a law that will ban smoking in public housing common areas.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Jones