

**SB1 168, SD1**



To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
From: Deborah Zysman, MPH, Executive Director  
Hrg: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor; February 24, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. in Rm 016  
Re: **Support the intent of SB 1168, SD1, Relating to Tobacco Products**

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the intent of SB 1168, SD1 which makes youth use of tobacco products unlawful and allows law enforcement to confiscate any tobacco product being used by a minor. The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is the only independent organization in Hawaii whose sole mission is to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy.

The Coalition supports the intent of SB 1168, SD1 which would not criminalize youth for use or possession of tobacco. SB 1168, SD1 would allow law enforcement to confiscate the tobacco product in use by a minor.

Although the Coalition supports the intent of SB 1168, SD1, we continue to urge further consideration of other measures that have proven to decrease youth tobacco use including:

- continued strong funding for tobacco prevention programs and counter-marketing campaigns;
- increasing the taxes on tobacco products, and creating parity between the taxes on other tobacco products and cigarettes;
- restricting the ways tobacco is sold and advertised to young people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah M. Zysman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "Z".

Deborah Zysman, MPH  
Executive Director