

233  
LATE

February 2, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Alex Halley. I'm a senior at Baldwin High School on Maui and a leader with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry.

I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

The tobacco companies know that if OTPs are taxed, then the public won't buy as much. This is especially true of youth.

Please pass this law to tax OTPs and keep these products out of the hands of Hawaii's youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of an increase in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs)

Thank you,  
Alex Halley

LATE

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Ashley Hudson and high school student in the state of Hawaii on the island of Maui. I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

This law will help keep tobacco products out of the hands of young kids.

Mahalo,

Ashley Hudson  
REAL Youth Leader

LATE

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Eric Burgemeister and I am a REAL member. REAL is an anti-tobacco youth group. I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

This law will help protect youth from getting access to cheap OTPs. Please consider passing it to save kids from life long addiction.

Mahalo,

Eric Burgmeister

Maui REAL Member

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**

HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

Hi my name is Kiana Cordeiro. I am currently a junior at H.P. Baldwin High. I am strongly for SB 233. I feel that you should raise the taxes on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs). Tobacco is the number one killer of people it is still one of the deadliest legal drugs.

I am a member of REAL and we are very aware of what the dangers of tobacco. We need to have strong laws that make getting a hold of these products more difficult for everyone. In the meantime, tobacco companies continue to make and market their products to catch the eyes of young children. I am not impressed by their attempts.

Studies show that approximately 4,800 adolescents and 5,500 youth try a tobacco product every day and that out of the 10,300 young adults about 3,000 of them become consistent users of tobacco.

I am strongly for this bill because you will be making it harder for youth to get this product. Youth don't go for things that are expensive, so if you up the tax then less of them will want to get it. Making it harder to get will protect youth from destroying their lives and it will save Hawaii millions of dollars for the health costs. You will be protecting the youth and community of Hawaii if you raise the taxes on this product.

Thank you for allowing me to provide this testimony and hearing my ideas about increasing taxes on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs).

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kiana Cordeiro

LATE

February 2, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Makeda Morris and I am 15 years old and attend McKinley High on Oahu. I am in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

By making these products more expensive you will help keep these products out of the hands of the youth in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to give my testimony in support of an increase in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs)

Thank you,

Makeda Morris  
REAL Leader

LATE

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Stephanie Franklin, and I am a registered voter in Hawaii. I work on Maui as an Island Coordinator for REAL: Hawaii's youth-led movement against the tobacco industry. I'm in strong support of SB 233, which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as Snus, Skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

OTPs are extremely youth friendly. They come in a wide variety of candy and fruit flavors and are often times placed close to candies, chips, and other products enjoyed by youth. The big tobacco companies are using these deceptive marketing techniques to specifically target youth as new tobacco users. These brightly colored and candy flavored products come across being less dangerous than cigarette smoking, but smokeless tobacco still leads to serious health issues including esophageal cancer and gum disease.

These smokeless and spitless products are sold at substantially cheaper prices than cigarettes, which make them more accessible to youth. Research shows that when it comes to tobacco young people are price sensitive. Increasing the taxes will make these products unaffordable to youth, who live on a tight budget. Essentially less youth will be able to purchase these products and less people will become addicted to nicotine. This will save Hawaii millions of dollars each year in health related costs. Most importantly, increasing this tax will protect kids from becoming life-long "customers" of the tobacco industry, and will therefore, save lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of an increase in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs).

Sincerely,

Stephanie Franklin

LATE

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Brandon Antonius and I am a registered voter in Maui, Hawaii. I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

While smokeless tobacco use leads to serious health issues including esophageal cancer and gum disease, I'm most concerned about how attractive these products are to youth. Not only are these products cheaper than cigarettes, but they are colorful and fruit-flavored and come across as being less dangerous and addictive than cigarette smoking.

I began smoking at age 11, and though I have dedicated years to the prevention of youth using tobacco, I still have not been able to fully stop smoking cigarettes. Nicotine is the most addictive substance in the world, and these youth friendly OTP's are what begin to addict our youth and cause them to become lifetime users of this deadly product. I wasn't addicted when I was 11, but because they made it cool, available and youth friendly, I still am addicted today.

Research shows that when it comes to tobacco young people are price sensitive. Increasing the taxes will increase the price and may help to keep youth from purchasing them. This will ultimately lead to less people who become addicted to nicotine and save Hawaii millions of dollars each year in health related costs. Most importantly, increasing this tax will protect kids from becoming life-long "customers" of the tobacco industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of an increase in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs)

Mahalo for your consideration,

Brandon Paul Antonius

LATE

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Monica Medrano and I am a high school student from Maui. I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

My work with REAL-Hawaii's youth led movement exposing the tobacco industry, has opened my eyes to the issue of tobacco company's target of youth. I myself am a young female and know the effect of their advertising and use of flavorings and how they greatly attract the eyes of those in my generation. This law will help make products more expensive and help to keep them out of the hands of youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of an increase in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs)

Mahalo for your consideration,

Monica Medrano

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**

HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229



My name is Stephanie Franklin, and I am a registered voter in Hawaii. I work on Maui as an Island Coordinator for REAL: Hawaii's youth-led movement against the tobacco industry. I'm in strong support of SB 233, which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as Snus, Skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

OTPs are extremely youth friendly. They come in a wide variety of candy and fruit flavors and are often times placed close to candies, chips, and other products enjoyed by youth. The big tobacco companies are using these deceptive marketing techniques to specifically target youth as new tobacco users. These brightly colored and candy flavored products come across being less dangerous than cigarette smoking, but smokeless tobacco still leads to serious health issues including esophageal cancer and gum disease.

These smokeless and spitless products are sold at substantially cheaper prices than cigarettes, which make them more accessible to youth. Research shows that when it comes to tobacco young people are price sensitive. Increasing the taxes will make these products unaffordable to youth, who live on a tight budget. Essentially less youth will be able to purchase these products and less people will become addicted to nicotine. This will save Hawaii millions of dollars each year in health related costs. Most importantly, increasing this tax will protect kids from becoming life-long "customers" of the tobacco industry, and will therefore, save lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of an increase in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs).

Sincerely,

Stephanie Franklin

February 1, 2011

To:

Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re:

Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Donalyn Naihe and I am an authentic state representative for REAL. Being a part of this state representative board allows me to evoke my findings on Other Tobacco Products (OTP's) to my community. As I gather subjective information from the youth in my area, of Hana, Maui, I am able to conclude that we all support SB 233. SB 233 would raise taxes on OTP's such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

These 'Other Tobacco Products' are very pervasive and appealing to youth that it makes me wonder if there will come a day when youth will stop being targeted by adult products. These OTP's come in a verity of flavors and are animated with different colors and designs. OTP's also are known to be more addictive and cheaper than cigarette smoking.

As a well educated youth on OTP's I say that we, the youth, are not cursory human beings and that we understand what these companies are trying to do. I am one of many strong voices that see adults distort our ideas and do nothing to help us complete our challenge.

By increasing these taxes it will help lessen the pressure that is put among our youths. This movement can have an authentic outcome that will be a result of less usage of nicotine throughout this state. The youth of Hawaii are too smart and amiable to be 'life-long' consumers of Other Tobacco Products.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide you with my testimony in support of an increasing in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OPT).

Mahalo for you time and consideration,

Donalyn Naihe

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Brandon Johnston, and I'm a high school student at Maui High. I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

While smokeless tobacco use leads to serious health issues including esophageal cancer and gum disease, I'm most concerned about how attractive these products are to youth. Not only are these products cheaper than cigarettes, but they are colorful and fruit-flavored and come across as being less dangerous and addictive than cigarette smoking.

The REAL movement has helped me so much in knowing how the tobacco company targets teens/consumers. It has opened my eyes to really see how they operate their company and how they advertise their product in an organized fashion. They have their buyers buy tobacco products that have more nicotine causing them to stay hooked on it rather than being able to quit. The REAL movement is not against smokers. The REAL movement is just against tobacco industry. Raising the taxes on other tobacco products on Hawaii is important. It will make it harder for young people across the state to be able to buy the product. I think raising the taxes is a good thing and an action that should be taken to have that percentage of Hawaii's teens off their product increase.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of an increase in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs). Please help to save the lives of future tobacco users by continuing to do everything in your power to prevent tobacco use.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Brandon Johnston

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH COMMITEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Lei Gaspar, a resident of Maui. I'm in strong support of SB 233, which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as Snus, Skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

Being a young independent woman in Hawaii, I have noticed the high demand of tobacco products. It is to your advantage of the older generation to not pass on the diseased habit of smoking and relieve our youth of the daily doses of stress, depression, and aggravation. Tobacco hinders our health; however, we are constantly bombarded with advertising and newer and better products. New products are becoming more and more youth friendly.

Research shows that when it comes to tobacco young people are price sensitive. Increasing the taxes will increase the price and may help to keep youth from purchasing them. This will ultimately lead to less people who become addicted to nicotine and save Hawaii millions of dollars each year in health related costs. Most importantly, increasing this tax will protect kids from becoming life-long "customers" of the tobacco industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of an increase in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs)

Mahalo for your consideration,

Lei Gaspar

LATE

February 2, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Sarafina Huck and I am youth member of REAL on Maui. I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos). As a REAL member I have learned of the manipulations of the tobacco industry and have become part of the fight towards making Hawaii tobacco-free.

While smokeless tobacco use leads to serious health issues including esophageal cancer and gum disease, I'm most concerned about how attractive these products are to youth. Not only are these products cheaper than cigarettes, but they are colorful and fruit-flavored and come across as being less dangerous and addictive than cigarette smoking.

Research shows that when it comes to tobacco young people are price sensitive. Increasing the taxes will increase the price and may help to keep youth from purchasing them. This will ultimately lead to less people who become addicted to nicotine and save Hawaii millions of dollars each year in health related costs. Most importantly, increasing this tax will protect kids from becoming life-long "customers" of the tobacco industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of an increase in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs)

Sarafina Huck  
Maui

LATE

February 2, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Michelle Magdirila and I am a registered voter in Hawaii. I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

While smokeless tobacco use leads to serious health issues including esophageal cancer and gum disease, I'm most concerned about how attractive these products are to youth. Not only are these products cheaper than cigarettes, but they are colorful and fruit-flavored and come across as being less dangerous and addictive than cigarette smoking.

From being a part of doing the Tobacco & Alcohol Advertising Survey (TAAS) with REAL, I have learned a lot which I have not known before. OTPS are being marketed to be something that is "OK" but it's not. It's still tobacco...it's still addictive...and it still kills! OPTS are targeted more towards children than they are adults. Tobacco companies use these tactics to hook new users who will replace customers that die every year. You can't even tell the difference between some OTPS and candy. You put an OTP and a candy side by side and it looks exactly the same, making children think that it is candy. This is wrong.

Research shows that when it comes to tobacco young people are price sensitive. Increasing the taxes will increase the price and may help to keep youth from purchasing them. This will ultimately lead to less people who become addicted to nicotine and save Hawaii millions of dollars each year in health related costs. Most importantly, increasing this tax will protect kids from becoming life-long "customers" of the tobacco industry.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michelle Magdirila  
Molokai REAL

LATE

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**

HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

Hi, my name is Silver Hunt; I am 18 years old, a registered voter in Hawaii, and from the island of Kauai. I am currently a special projects board member with REAL. I'm in strong support of the SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

Many people I have talked to personally do not think smokeless tobacco is all that harmful, but it really is. It leads to serious health problems such as mouth, throat, cheek, and esophageal cancer, along with gum disease. For the most part, I'm concerned about how attractive these products are to the youth. Not only are these products cheaper than cigarettes, but there are several different flavors, colors, and appear to be neither as dangerous nor addictive than cigarette smoking.

Based on what research shows when it comes to tobacco, young people are cheapskates. Increasing the taxes will increase the price and may help to keep youth from purchasing them. This will most definitely lead to less people who become addicted to nicotine and save Hawaii millions of dollars each year in health related costs. Most importantly, increasing this tax will protect kids and generations to come, from becoming life-long "customers" of the tobacco industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of an increase in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs)

Silver Hunt

Kauai REAL

LATE

February 2, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
Health Committee; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Becky Marini and I am from Ewa Beach and leader with REAL. I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

I think that it's important to raise taxes on OTPs because it'll prevent youth from buying the products. Right now OTPs are a lot cheaper than regular cigarettes that have high tax rates. This makes OTPs very attractive to youth because they are so cheap and pretty easy to get. I'm asking that you please pass this measure.

Thank you,  
Becky Marini  
REAL Oahu Leader



LATE

February 2, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
Health Committee Hearing; February 2nd, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

Aloha,

My name is Melissa Chong. I'm 21 years old from Hilo on the Big Island and a young adult advocate with REAL: Hawaii's Youth Movement Exposing Big Tobacco. I'm writing to you because I am in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) are made to target youth because not only are they much cheaper so that young people can afford them, but they're made with flavors that young people are attracted to like cherry, strawberry, vanilla, grape, and so on. This can easily mislead young people into thinking these products are less harmful and less addictive than cigarettes which isn't true. Currently the cost of OTPs are a lot cheaper when compared to cigarettes which further makes these products youth-friendly.

Ultimately I feel if taxes are raised on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs), less people will use them and become addicted to nicotine. In the long run this will save thousands of lives and save millions of dollars in healthcare costs for Hawaii. Most importantly, we would reduce the amount of young people who start using tobacco and become addicted.

Again please support SB 233.

Mahalo,

LATE

February 2, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Shay Revuelto. I am from Mililani and a youth member of REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing The Tobacco Industry.

I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

I want the taxes to be raised because it's another reason for people to stop using tobacco products. If prices go up on OTP's people will start to realize how unimportant tobacco products are in their lives and may go without them while instead purchasing other necessities that they need to lead a healthy life.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of an increase in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs)

Shay Revuelto

LATE

February 2, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
Health Committee Hearing; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 pm; Room 229

My name is Nicole Sutton and I am a registered voter in Hawaii. I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

Raising the tax on OTPs is a step in the right direction for Hawaii's future. I think it's safe to say that many of know the serious health effects associated with the use of tobacco products, but what is most alarming to me is how these OTP products are so youth-friendly. They are also extremely cheap when compared to cigarettes and therefore are most accessible for youth to experiment with, possibly opening the door to a life-time addiction to nicotine.

We know from research that young people are price sensitive. Increasing the tax will increase the price of these products and may help to keep youth from purchasing them. This will ultimately lead to less people who become addicted to nicotine and save Hawaii millions of dollars each year in health related costs. Most importantly, increasing this tax will protect kids from becoming potential life-long "customers" of the tobacco industry.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Nicole Sutton  
Pearl City, Hawaii

LATE

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH Committee; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Jennifer Pescador and I am a registered voter in Hawaii. I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

Other Tobacco Products are a means that tobacco companies use to get around our state laws that restrict smoking in public places. Tobacco companies know that the less places where people can smoke, the less people will actually smoke. But OTPs are typically smokeless and keep our citizens of Hawaii using nicotine. These products are also extremely attractive to youth and can serve as a gateway to nicotine addiction.

If this law is passed we will lessen the chance that our young people in Hawaii will get hooked on tobacco (nicotine) and even help current tobacco users to quit since the high cost of products is a good motivation to quit altogether. Our state will become not only a healthier place for our people but for the generations of the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of an increase in tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs)

Jennifer Pescador  
The REAL Movement  
Registered Voter

LATE

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH COMMITTEE; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

My name is Melissa Rapoza and I'm part of REAL on the island of Hawaii.

I'm in strong support of SB 233 which would raise the tax on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) such as snus, skoal, and mini-cigars (cigarillos).

While smokeless tobacco use leads to serious health issues including esophageal cancer and gum disease, I'm most concerned about how attractive these products are to youth. Not only are these products cheaper than cigarettes, but they are colorful and fruit-flavored and come across as being less dangerous and addictive than cigarette smoking.

These products are also marketed to youth involved within the rodeo circuit and is of great concern to us here on our own island.

Increasing the cost will lead to higher purchasing price which will affect youths ability to purchase.

Mahalo,

Melissa Rapoza  
REAL Big Island

---

## Tobacco Education & Assistance Program

---



[www.kickthenic.net](http://www.kickthenic.net)

---

*Providing Free "Quit Smoking" Groups and Intervention Training to Health Care Providers on Hawaii Island  
A Program of Rising Up, Inc.*

---

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH Cmte; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in strong support of SB 233. My name is Cara Sadira. I am a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist. I work for Tobacco Education & Assistance Program, which provides Tobacco Treatment Services for patients in the hospital as well as for the general Windward community. I support SB 233 because it is a win-win for our State.

This bill is particularly important to me because our clients state that the increase in cigarette tax is a primary motivator for their decision to quit smoking. Although many do quit, a percentage are turning to other forms of tobacco and nicotine. We could soon be seeing a trend in which smokers turn to smokeless tobacco in greater numbers. Smokeless tobacco use leads to serious health issues including esophageal cancer, gum disease; and it increases the risk for cardiovascular disease.

An increase in the cost on tobacco products will result in less people using smokeless tobacco. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. We must do as much as we can to prevent youth from using tobacco. Children, especially boys and young men, who use smokeless tobacco are at an increased risk to become future smokers.

As cigarette tax increases rise, smokers will look at quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting means less costs to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of an increase in the tax on other tobacco products.

Cara M. Sadira

---

Contact: Cara Sadira, Project Director, Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist \* Phone: (808) 557-4838 \* Fax: 1-866-825-7496  
E-mail [cara@kickthenic.net](mailto:cara@kickthenic.net) \* Address: P.O. Box 2087, Keaau, HI 96749

---



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

**LATE  
TESTIMONY**

Written Testimony Presented Before  
the Senate Committee on Health  
February 2, 2011 2:45 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Michele Carbone, M.D., PhD.

Director, University of Hawaii Cancer Center  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

### SB 233 RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our support for the significance of increasing the state excise tax on tobacco products.

The University of Hawaii Cancer Center is recognized as one of only 65 National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated Cancer Centers in the country. The Center studies cancer in relation to the unique physical, cultural, and environmental characteristics of Hawaii. Our mission is to reduce the burden of cancer and ensure a healthier future for the people of our state. We are a research enterprise affiliated with the University of Hawaii at Mānoa.

The UH Cancer Center is a recipient of significant funding generated through cigarette tax legislation passed in 2006. This funding enabled the Center to begin construction in October on a state-of-the-art cancer center that will greatly enhance and expand our research capacity. Two of our faculty members are among the nation's leading experts in tobacco use and cessation: Thomas Wills, PhD., interim director of the Prevention and Control program and his colleague, Thaddeus Herzog, PhD.

The perils of smoking tobacco have long been known. Smoking is one of the most preventable causes of death in our society. But national research also tells us there is no safe form of tobacco use. At least 28 chemicals in smokeless tobacco have been found to cause oral, esophageal, and pancreatic cancer. Smokeless tobacco has also been linked to increased rates of heart disease, gum disease and oral lesions. All tobacco products contain nicotine which is addictive.

Unfortunately the direct marketing of tobacco products to our children and young adults is having a negative impact in Hawaii as the use rates for smokeless tobacco products

is trending upwards, indicated by the increase in tax revenues on these products. Data tell us that the younger the age at which tobacco use habits are formed, the more likely the user is to face serious health consequences as they age.

Raising tobacco-tax rates will reduce youth use. After reviewing a number of research studies on the relationship between tobacco product prices and use rates, the independent U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Task Force on Community Preventive Services similarly concluded that increases in tobacco prices decrease both adult and youth prevalence and reduce the quantity used by adolescents and young adults who do not quit. The Task Force also concluded that adolescents and young adults are two to three times more sensitive to tobacco price changes than adults. Accordingly, the Task Force strongly recommends excise tax increases to raise the unit prices of tobacco products in order to: 1) reduce consumption of tobacco products; 2) reduce tobacco-use initiation; and 3) increase tobacco-use cessation.

Those users hardest hit by an increased tax on tobacco products will be youth. Therefore, the opportunity to discourage youth and adults from using tobacco products by increasing the tax on these products is an initiative we strongly support.

Mahalo for your partnership in improving the health and well being of the people of Hawai'i.





**STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 233**  
Relating to Tax on Tobacco  
Products Other Than Cigarettes

Senate Committee on Health  
Feb. 2, 2011, 2:45 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Capital Conference Rm. 229

**LATE TESTIMONY**

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH  
Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training  
A National Cancer Institute Community Network Program  
University of Hawai'i SEED, Graduate Professional Access  
2600 Campus Rd. QLCSS Rm. 413  
Honolulu, HI 96822

To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair & Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Senate Health Committee Members

Report Title: Tobacco Products; Tax

Description: Imposes an excise tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes, little cigars, and large cigars that is equivalent to the tax imposed on a standard package of twenty cigarettes or little cigars.

Dear Senator Green, Senator Nishihara, and Senate Committee on Health:

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, Community Director of Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training (AANCART), and I submit strong support of this measure. AANCART is a Community Network Program of the National Cancer Institute. AANCART was established to address the uneven and unnecessary cancer burden among Asian Americans through research, education, training, advocacy and service. University of Hawai'i Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity is part of a national consortium of AANCART sites, with Filipino cancer disparities as the focus of research here.

Policy strategies such as these have shown to be effective deterrents to reduce dependence on tobacco products, especially among youth and low income individuals, who are targeted by highly financed tobacco industry marketing campaigns. However, while statewide smoking rates have declined, highest smoking rates persisted among those with lower education attainment and lower income across all ethnic groups. Of these vulnerable groups, Native Hawaiians and Filipino men had the highest current smoker rates, with a doubling of lung cancer cases for Filipino men (1995-2000), even as lung cancer cases decreased in all other major groups.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for considering the merits of this proposed policy to reduce suffering and high costs of health care due to use of tobacco products and tobacco-related diseases.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, AANCART Hawai'i Community Director

# **Filipinos for Affirmative Action**

3432 B-1 Kalihi Street- Honolulu, HI 96819

## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 233**

Senate Committee on Health  
February 2, 2011, 2:45 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Legislature, Rm. 229

**LATE  
TESTIMONY**

To:

Honorable Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Honorable Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Honorable Senate Health Committee Members

From:

Amy Agbayani, Co-Chair, Filipinos For Affirmative Action

Report Title:

Tobacco Products; Tax

Measure Title:

RELATING TO TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS OTHER THAN CIGARETTES.

Description:

Imposes an excise tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes, little cigars, and large cigars that is equivalent to the tax imposed on a standard package of twenty cigarettes or little cigars.

My name is Amy Agbayani. As Co-Chair of Filipinos for Affirmative Action, a proponent of civil rights, I submit strong support for this bill.

We believe that the provisions of this bill will protect the younger generation from a harmful and costly addiction to tobacco products. We are concerned that Filipino men and Native Hawaiians have the highest tobacco use in the state.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to provide our support.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair  
Filipinos For Affirmative Action

# Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President  
P. O. Box 270126 \* Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 233

Relating to Tax on Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes

Senate Committee on Health

Feb. 2, 2011, 2:45 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 229

**LATE  
TESTIMONY**

To: Honorable Sen. Josh Green, Chair  
Honorable Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Honorable Senate Health Committee Members

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Report Title: Tobacco Products; Tax

Description: Imposes an excise tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes, little cigars, and large cigars that is equivalent to the tax imposed on a standard package of twenty cigarettes or little cigars.

My name is Jake Manegdeg. I am the president of the Filipino American Citizens League. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- Increase revenue to State.
- Reduce youth use of smokeless tobacco. (Youth are 2 to 3 times more sensitive to price changes than adults).
- Youth use of smokeless tobacco has risen from 2.8% in 2003 to 3.7% in 2007 among high school students, and 1.7% in 2003 to 2.8% in 2007 among middle school students.
- Rates must be based on PURCHASE PRICE not weight. This accounts for inflation as it automatically adjusts when prices increase. New and emerging products like Snus weight 1/10<sup>th</sup> per dose compared to standard moist snuff that comes in a can.
- Rates must be comparable to cigarettes. If one type of tobacco product is cheaper, we will not see the same reductions in tobacco use.

As a former smoker, I believe it is important to protect the health of our youth, those who are less educated, and poor. The tobacco industry is going after them with aggressive advertising gimmicks. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League



# OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 · Honolulu · Hawaii 96817

**LATE  
TESTIMONY**

## Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential  
 Carehome Administrators  
 Aloha Saguibsib Cultural  
 Foundation, Inc.  
 Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii  
 Annac ti Batac  
 Annac ti Caoayan 2002  
 Annak ti Kailokuan iti  
 America  
 Annak ti Sinait iti Hawaii  
 Asingan Organization of  
 Hawaii  
 Badoc-Pinili Aid  
 Association of Hawaii  
 Banna Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Bannatiran Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Batangas Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Bulacan Circle of Hawaii  
 Caballeros de Dimasalang  
 Cabugao Sons & Daughters  
 of Hawaii  
 Candonians of Hawaii  
 Caoayan ISAH  
 Cavitenians of Hawaii  
 Dingras Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Divine Word College  
 Alumni Association  
 FilAm Sports USA  
 Fil American Citizens  
 League  
 Filipino Business Women's  
 Club  
 Filipino Nurses Organization  
 of Hawaii  
 Filipino Women's Civic  
 Club  
 GUMIL Hawaii  
 GUMIL Oahu  
 Hawaii Filipino Women's  
 Club  
 Hawaii Council of Bilingual  
 Educators  
 ILAH  
 Ilocos Norteniens of  
 America  
 INCAT Alumni Association  
 of Hawaii  
 International Filipino  
 Society of Hawaii  
 Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.  
 La Union Circle of  
 Hawaii  
 Lingayen Gulf Club of  
 Hawaii

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 233

Senate Committee on Health

Feb. 2, 2011, 2:45 p.m., Hawai'i State Legislature, Rm. 229

To: Honorable Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
 Honorable Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice-Chair  
 Honorable Senate Health Committee Members

From:  
 Maria Etrata, RN, President, Oahu Filipino Community Council

Report Title: Tobacco Products; Tax  
 Measure Title: RELATING TO TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS  
 OTHER THAN CIGARETTES.

Description: Imposes an excise tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes, little cigars, and large cigars that is equivalent to the tax imposed on a standard package of twenty cigarettes or little cigars.

My name is Maria Etrata, president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council. OFCC is an umbrella organization that represents a network of non-profit civic groups with a unified vision to improve the lives of our Filipino communities. I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill.

During these dire economic times, taxpayers cannot afford the high cost of catastrophic chronic diseases related to tobacco use. A comparable tax on tobacco products, other than cigarettes, is needed to discourage tobacco use. We are also concerned that youth, lower educated, and lower income segments of our Filipino community are most at risk for developing an addiction to tobacco use and consequently, poor health outcomes. Thank you for hearing this bill and for the chance to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Maria Etrata, RN  
 President  
 Oahu Filipino Community Council

## Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Narvacan/San Antonio Club of  
 Hawaii  
 Nueva Vizcaya Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Pasuquinios Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Philippine Cultural Foundation  
 Philippine Nurses  
 Association of Hawaii  
 Piddig Association of Hawaii  
 Sanchez Mira Association of  
 Hawaii  
 San Manuel Pangasinan  
 Association of Hawaii  
 San Nicolaneos USA  
 San Nicolas Goodwill  
 Foundation  
 San Nicolas Teachers of  
 Hawaii  
 Santa Lucia Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Sarrat Association of Hawaii  
 Sarrat International Inc.  
 Sinait Nt. High School Alumni  
 of Hawaii  
 Solsona of Hawaii  
 Tarlac Mutual Club of Hawaii  
 TPCP  
 Kalihi Ballroom, Inc.  
 Sadiri ti San Nicolas iti Hawaii  
 Samar Leyte Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Sampaguaita/Sunflower Club of  
 Hawaii  
 San Juan Association of  
 Hawaii  
 San Nicolas Nat. High  
 Santa Marians of Hawaii  
 School Alumni  
 Santa Nicolas Nat. High  
 School Bingao Annex  
 Tagalog Association of Oahu  
 United Bacarreneos of Hawaii  
 United Group of Home  
 Operators  
 United Pangasinan of Hawaii  
 United Urdaneta Club of  
 Hawaii  
 United Vintarinians of Hawaii  
 Vigan Association of Hawaii



American Heart Association | American Stroke Association

*Learn and Live.*

Serving Hawaii

## Testimony for SB 233 "Relating To Tobacco"

The American Heart Association supports the intent of SB 233, but recommends an amendment to the bill.

A portion of new funds realized from any tobacco tax increase should be directed toward further tobacco prevention and education. Hawaii current investment remains well below the Centers for Disease Control's recommended spending in tobacco and prevention. The CDC recommends that Hawaii invest \$15.4 million per year on tobacco prevention, education and cessation programs to fully achieve success in reducing tobacco dependence. Last year the state invested only approximately \$8 million toward that end.

The state should attempt to set the tax on "other tobacco" products at a level comparable to its cigarette tax. In the future, any cigarette tax increases should be accompanied by a comparable increase in the tax on other tobacco products to insure that hikes in cost for one type of tobacco product don't drive potential young customers toward the cheaper type of tobacco. The goal of any tobacco tax increase should be primarily to achieve a reduction in use of tobacco products, especially by price-sensitive young people. The costs to the state for medical care alone related to tobacco use far outweigh the benefits in taxes collected on tobacco sales.

### What do nicotine and tobacco smoke do to the body?

Nicotine causes a short-term increase in blood pressure, heart rate and the flow of blood from the heart. It also causes the arteries to narrow. Users of smokeless tobacco are exposed to levels of nicotine that are comparable to cigarette smokers. In addition, smoke from other tobacco products like "little cigars" or roll-your-own tobacco include carbon monoxide, which reduces the amount of oxygen the blood can carry. This, combined with the nicotine effects, creates an imbalance between the demand for oxygen by the cells and the amount of oxygen the blood can supply. Tobacco smoke also increases the risk of developing hardening of the arteries and heart attacks in several ways. First, carbon monoxide damages the inner walls of the arteries, encouraging fatty buildups in them. Over time, this causes the vessels to narrow and harden. Nicotine may also contribute to this process. Smoking also causes several changes in the blood that make clots—and heart attack—more likely. Cigar and pipe smoking increases the risk of abdominal aortic aneurysm by as much as six times compared to never-smokers. Smoking cigars or pipes doubles the risk of fatal stroke compared to never-smokers. Smoking cigars or pipes and cigarettes increases the risk for fatal stroke by six times compared to never-smokers. Pipe smoking has been found to increase coronary heart disease risk by almost as much as cigarette smoking.

It is important to both maintain a balance between the taxes on cigarettes and the tax on "other tobacco" products in order to continue to drive down Hawaii's youth smoking rates. It is just as important to maintain the level of investment in tobacco prevention, education and cessation programs at or near the CDC's minimum recommended amounts. The AHA strongly recommends that a portion of any new tobacco tax revenue be earmarked to support those life-saving programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald B. Weisman  
Hawaii Advocacy Director

#### Serving Hawaii since 1948

For information on the AHA's educational or research programs, contact your nearest AHA office, or visit our web site at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org) or e-mail us at [hawaii@heart.org](mailto:hawaii@heart.org)

**Oahu:**  
677 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 600  
Honolulu, HI 96813-5485  
Phone: 808-538-7021  
Fax: 808-538-3443

**Maui County:**  
J. Walter Cameron Center  
95 Mahalani Street, No. 13  
Wailuku, HI 96793-2598  
Phone: 808-224-7185  
Fax: 808-224-7220

**Hawaii:**  
400 Hualani Street, Ste. 11  
Hilo, HI 96720-4333  
Phone: 808-961-2825  
Fax: 808-961-2827

**Kauai:**  
(Served by Oahu office)  
Phone: 808-538-7021  
Fax: 808-538-3443

*"Building healthier lives,  
free of cardiovascular  
diseases and stroke."*



Dear Honorable Senate Health and Ways & Means Committees:

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT on SB 233 (Relating to Tobacco Products)**

My name is Valerie Chang. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition. Our organization provides services and support and improves treatment for Hawaii's people affected by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), more commonly known as emphysema, chronic bronchitis and similar conditions. COPD and other respiratory conditions are the third leading cause of death in the US. Our 2007 and 2008 survey data reveal that slightly under 4% or about 20,000 to 30,000 of Hawaii adults have been told they have COPD, emphysema and/or chronic bronchitis. It is estimated that at least another 20,000 to 30,000 Hawaii adults remain undiagnosed while suffering from COPD. Tobacco smoking is the major cause of these health conditions. For more information and Hawaii Department of Health's Burden of COPD in Hawaii 2010 Report to go <http://hawaiicopd.org>.

The Hawaii COPD Coalition strongly *supports* SB233 raising taxes on other tobacco products. The tax increase will bring in greatly needed revenue and reduce tobacco use, particularly in our youth who are especially sensitive to price. These funds can help increase tobacco prevention and cessation efforts, since so many want to quit and need services to help them. Youth use of smokeless products is rising in both high and middle school students. Many dangerous health conditions are caused by smokeless tobacco, including cancers, gum disease and increased cardiovascular conditions. Rates must be increased to keep prices comparable to cigarettes and ensure declines in use.

Tobacco causes so many health, social and financial problems in addition to COPD. Please vote in favor of SB233. Thank you for carefully considering this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Aloha,  
Valerie Chang, JD  
Executive Director  
Hawaii COPD Coalition  
Website: <http://hawaiicopd.org>,  
e-mail: [copd.hawaii@yahoo.com](mailto:copd.hawaii@yahoo.com)  
(808)699-9839  
733 Bishop Street, Suite 1550  
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE

February 1, 2011

To: Senator Josh Booth Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**  
HTH Cmte; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in strong support of SB 233. My name is Megan Inada. I work for Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services, which provides comprehensive community health services including tobacco cessation.

This bill will not only increase the amount of tax revenue for our State, but it will also save lives. In this tough economic climate people have less disposable income to spend on tobacco and higher tobacco prices help motivate more people to quit and prevent others from starting. Many of my patients cite price rather than health risks as the reason they want to quit using tobacco.

It is also important that this price increase includes smokeless tobacco products. We are continually trying to help educate our community on the dangers of smokeless tobacco. Many do not know that it can lead to serious health issues including esophageal cancer, gum disease; and it increases the risk for cardiovascular disease. Often times the lower prices of smokeless tobacco compared to cigarettes, lead people to chewing.

More smokers quitting means less costs to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses. It means less children and adults exposed to deadly second and third hand smoke. It means less children copying their elders' tobacco using habits. It means healthier communities.

I believe that tax increases are an important way of protecting people from the dangers of tobacco. However I also believe with this we must offer easily accessible and affordable tobacco cessation services. Many of my patients tell me they can't afford to smoke anymore but they can't afford the medications they need to help them quit. We must make sure that people have the support they need to quit so they don't have to make the decision whether to buy food or cigarettes, because often times, sadly their addictions force them to choose the latter.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION  
P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1530  
FAX NO: (808) 587-1584

FREDERICK D. PABLO  
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF TAXATION  
RANDOLF L. M. BALDEMOR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

LATE

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

### TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION REGARDING SB 233 RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

TESTIFIER:               FREDERICK D. PABLO, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF  
                                  TAXATION (OR DESIGNEE)  
COMMITTEE:             HTH  
DATE:                     FEBRUARY 2, 2011  
TIME:                     2:45PM  
  
POSITION:                CONCERNED WITH REVENUE IMPACT

---

This measure amends the calculation of tobacco tax on "other tobacco products" (*i.e.*, chew, pipe tobacco), from a percentage of the wholesale price per item, to a flat \$3.20 per item (*i.e.*, equal to a pack of cigarettes).

The Department of Taxation (Department) has concerns that this bill will negatively impact tax collections.

**THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY UNSURE OF THE POTENTIAL TO NEGATIVELY IMPACT TAX COLLECTIONS**—The Department does not support this bill because it is unsure to what extent this measure could negatively impact tax collections. Under current law, other tobacco products are taxed based upon their wholesale cost. This measure shifts to a flat tax that could reduce tax collections to the extent 70% of wholesale price exceeds \$3.20.

**THIS BILL COULD RESULT IN A REVENUE LOSS IF SALES ARE MORE THAN \$4.57 PER ITEM**—Extrapolating the \$3.20 per item tax to the equivalent wholesale price at the tax rate of 70% of cost results in a wholesale transaction at \$4.57 per article. To the extent transactions cost less than \$4.57, this measure will result in revenue gains. To the extent transactions



**Feleai Tau**

**From:** Cara Sadira [cara@risingupinc.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:20 PM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Subject:** revised testimony  
**Attachments:** img004.jpg

Please accept this REVISED testimony for the following bill. Please use this to replace the original testimony.

Please accept my testimony for  
**Strong Support for SB 233, Relating to Tobacco Products**

HTH Cmte; February 2, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.; Rm 229

The testimony is attached.

Thank you,

Cara Sadira

*Rising Up, Inc.* \*

Strengthening Community Potential through Fiscal Sponsorship Services



CARA SADIRA, MNM  
*Master of Nonprofit Management*  
CEO  
[www.risingupinc.org](http://www.risingupinc.org)  
Mobile (808) 557-4838

\* Offering On-line Instant Project Accounting

\* Payroll and HR Management