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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SB2569, RELATING TO SMOKING

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

February 13, 2012
1:15PM, Rm 229

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this measure to create protections from the
2 involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke at all public bus stops.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** There would be no fiscal impacts to the general fund.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure proposes to prohibit smoking within a presumptively
5 reasonable minimum distance of 20 feet from all public bus stops.

6 The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report on "The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure
7 to Tobacco Smoke" concluded that: there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke;
8 exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and
9 causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer; and children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an
10 increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome, acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more
11 severe asthma.

12 Presently Kauai, Maui, and the Island of Hawaii all have some form of public bus service. The
13 proposed measure would have immediate statewide impact. The City and County of Honolulu currently
14 has a policy requesting that people refrain from smoking around bus stops. The Maui County
15 Department of Transportation is in the process of developing a similar policy. This measure would

1 establish a statewide standard which has the same provision of a presumptively reasonable distance of
2 20 feet as in section 328J, HRS (the Hawaii Smoke free Workplace and Public Places law) for all bus
3 stops no matter whether they are a metal sign on a pole or a 3 sided shelter.

4 The positive impact of such a measure would be significant with ridership on Oahu estimated at
5 265,000 each day and growing ridership numbers on Neighbor Islands. Further, youth and the elderly
6 make up a large portion of the daily ridership of public transportation that as the Surgeon General's
7 Report points out are at greater risk from exposure to secondhand smoke.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Committee on Health
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Health
From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Date: February 10, 2012
Hrg: Senate Committee on Health at 1:15pm in room 229
Re: **Support for SB 2569 Relating to Smoking**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support SB 2569 which prohibits smoking from a presumptively reasonable minimum distance of 20 feet from public bus stops. We urge you to pass this measure out of committee.

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawai'i (Coalition) is the only independent organization in Hawai'i whose sole mission is to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our organization is a small nonprofit organization of over 100 member organizations and 2,000 advocates that works to create a healthy Hawai'i through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts.

The Legislature enacted the Smoke-Free Workplaces Law in 2006—a law that is overwhelmingly favored by Hawai'i residents. The Big Island, now has tobacco-free beaches, parks and recreation areas as well as smoke-free cars when children are present. These smart policies have helped to change social norms. Our young people are growing up in a Hawai'i that promotes health by ensuring children and families are protected from second-hand smoke.

SB 2569 is an opportunity to create smoke-free areas at bus stops, so our children and families can use public transportation free of dangerous second-hand smoke. This bill will allow many individuals who suffer from lung disease or other respiratory issues the ability to take the bus without fear about asthma or an emphysema attack because of someone smoking nearby.

The Coalition does suggest that the language in this bill be changed from “public bus stops” to “public transportation stops and stations” in anticipation of rail.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Deborah Zysman, MPH
Executive Director