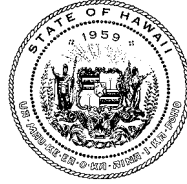


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

FREDERICK D. PABLO
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

RANDOLF L. M. BALDEMOR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Frederick D. Pablo, Director
Department of Taxation

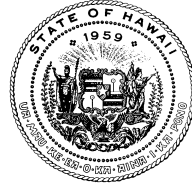
Re: S.B. No. 2819 Relating to Sales of Electronic Cigarettes

The Department of Taxation (Department) supports S.B. 2819.

S.B. 2819 adds sales of electronic cigarettes to the definition of "tobacco products" under HRS § 245-1. This has the effect of taxing sales of electronic cigarettes the same as sales of other tobacco products such as smokeless tobacco or pipe tobacco, which are taxed at 70% of the wholesale price.

This measure would ensure that electronic cigarettes, a nicotine-containing product, are treated the same as tobacco products for tobacco tax purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SB 2819, RELATING TO SALES OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

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

**February 8, 2012
9:00AM, Room 211**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None to DOH. The DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) would be
3 responsible for including e-cigarettes to minors in their monitoring and enforcement contract with the
4 Honolulu Police Department at no additional cost. A small but undetermined amount of new revenue
5 from the proposed tax is anticipated to the general fund.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure proposes to define electronic or e-cigarettes, classify them as
7 an Other Tobacco Product, including e-cigarettes under section 709-908, HRS as an item that is
8 prohibited to be sold to minors, and include e-cigarettes under section 245, HRS, to be taxed as an Other
9 Tobacco Product.

10 Each year approximately 3,000 Hawaii youth begin experimenting with cigarettes and other
11 tobacco products. E-cigarette manufacturers specifically target youth by marketing in flavors that appeal
12 to kids (bubblegum, chocolate, mint). Unrestricted marketing makes them available for easy purchase at
13 mall kiosks, where youth congregate, and on the internet. The use of e-cigarettes in public places can
14 also confuse and complicate the enforcement of Hawaii's smoke-free workplace and public places.

1 There is very little known about the long term health effects of the use of e-cigarettes or the
2 vapors given off. Recent studies have shown that within one liquid nicotine cartridge there is enough
3 nicotine to cause serious illness or even death. A primary ingredient of e-cigarettes is propylene glycol, a
4 propellant, which has been linked to acute respiratory system irritation. E-cigarettes also contain known
5 carcinogens, such as nitrosamine, ethanol and glycerin.

6 There is no current federal regulation relating to the content or production of the e-cigarette or its
7 cartridges. The Food and Drug Administration has, since April 25, 2011, regulated e-cigarettes as
8 tobacco products and not as smoking cessation devices as these manufacturers previously claimed. The
9 FDA has expressed concern regarding the lack of scientific evidence and clinical studies on potential
10 health risks posed by e-cigarettes, especially since they are marketed without health warnings or legal
11 age restrictions.

12 E-cigarettes have been banned in parks and public places in various states (Minnesota, New
13 Hampshire, New Jersey, and Utah) and locales (Suffolk County, New York, and Hannover, Germany)
14 due to the deleterious effects of nicotine and disputes to the claim that e-cigarettes can help smokers
15 quit. Banning the use of e-cigarettes has also been incorporated into smoke-free workplace policies
16 (UCSF Medical Center). The US Department of Transportation has recently proposed the ban of e-
17 cigarettes on commercial aircraft. The United States Air Force and Marine Corps have drafted policies
18 regulating the use of e-cigarettes as tobacco products.

19 The legislation would recognize that e-cigarettes are yet another form of nicotine delivery that
20 can lead to use of other tobacco products in youth. The department feels strongly that regulating the sale
21 of e-cigarettes is a realistic action to prevent their sale to minors and to reduce their deleterious effects
22 on the health and safety of Hawaii youth. DOH defers to the Department of Taxation on those matters
23 relating to taxation and projected revenue generation from this bill.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulupd.org



PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE KH-JNB

February 8, 2012

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
and Members
Committee on Ways and Means
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2819, Relating to Sales of Electronic Cigarettes

I am Kent Harada, Acting Major of the Community Affairs Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2819. This bill would place electronic cigarettes with other tobacco products as items prohibited to be sold to a minor and amends the definition of "tobacco products" for the purpose of taxation.

The health and welfare of our youths are of utmost concern to the HPD. We will continue to promote a healthy lifestyle by conducting compliance checks on tobacco to minors in the community and educating our youths about the harmful effects of tobacco.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoha", written over a horizontal line.

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Harada", written over a horizontal line.

KENT HARADA, Acting Major
Community Affairs Division

S.B. 2819

TESTIMONY OF CORY N. SMITH

PRESIDENT, OWNER

VOLCANO FINE ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

I am President and Owner of Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes (hereafter "Volcano"). Volcano is a locally owned and operated Electronic Cigarette and Accessories retailer/supplier with 5 current retail locations and one warehouse/shipping center in Honolulu. We have been in business for nearly three years and currently employ over 40 full-time employees locally.

SB 2819, as presently proposed, would do two things: (1) subject electronic cigarettes (hereafter "e-cigarettes") to the tobacco tax; and (2) ban the sale of e-cigarettes to minors.

Volcano agrees that e-cigarettes should not be sold to minors. From the beginning of our operation here locally, we have stuck to a stringent policy of requesting identification from any customer under the age of 30, as it is not our intent to sell e-cigarettes to minors.

Volcano opposes Part I of the Bill, which would subject e-cigarettes to the 70% tobacco tax. Volcano respectfully asks the Committee not to put forth this part of the bill for Senate approval.

As stated in the bill's "Justification Sheet," "traditional cigarettes are linked to over 1,100 premature and avoidable deaths in Hawaii annually (430,000 nationally)." While this is a sound justification for the tobacco tax, it has no application whatsoever to e-cigarettes.

An e-cigarette is a device used to vaporize liquid that contains varying

levels of nicotine. At Volcano, we sell liquid in four dosages: (1) 24 mg of nicotine; (2) 16 mg of nicotine; (3) 8 mg of nicotine; and (4) 0 mg of nicotine, i.e. -- no nicotine at all. E-cigarettes contain no tobacco and produce no smoke. The lack of combustion results in reduced or eliminated carcinogens, zero first-hand/second-hand/third-hand smoke, zero tar, and greatly reduced harm to the user. Unlike traditional tobacco cigarettes which contain thousands of chemicals and carcinogens, the vaporizing fluid used with an e-cigarette only contains 4 ingredients: Nicotine (optional), Flavoring (optional), USP Grade Propylene Glycol and USP Grade Glycerol. Propylene Glycol and Glycerol are substances that are contained in thousands of consumer products including nicotine and asthma inhalers and are recognized by the FDA as generally safe for consumption.

We recognize that e-cigarette research is in its early stages. Nonetheless, the research thus far is very promising. Researchers have concluded that: (1) "e-cigarette users are not exposed to the thousands of toxic agents formed when tobacco is burned;"¹ (2) "electronic cigarettes . . . are undoubtedly safer than tobacco cigarettes;"² (3) "electronic cigarettes show tremendous promise in the fight against tobacco-related morbidity and mortality;"³ (4) preliminary "findings suggest potential to help people stop smoking in the same way as a nicotine inhalator;"⁴ and (5) "the e-Cigarette can help smokers to remain abstinent or reduce their cigarette consumption[, and b]y replacing tobacco cigarettes, the e-

¹Rodu: "The scientific foundation for tobacco harm reduction, 2006-2011" Harm Reduction Journal 2011 8:19, p.18, attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

²Zachary Cahn (corresponding author) and Boston University, School of Public Health, Department of Community Health Sciences Professor Michael Siegel, MD: "Electronic cigarettes as a harm reduction strategy for tobacco control: A step forward or a repeat of past mistakes?" 2010 Macmillan Publishers Ltd. 0197-5897 Journal of Public Health Policy 1-16, p.11, attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

³*Ibid.*, p.1, Abstract.

⁴C Bullen, H McRobbie, S Thornley, et al.: "Effect of an electronic nicotine delivery device (e cigarette) on desire to smoke and withdrawal, user preferences and nicotine delivery: randomised cross-over trial" Tobacco Control 2010;19:98-103; doi:10.1136/tc.2009.031567, p.102, attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

cigarette can only save lives.³⁵

The tobacco tax is aimed at deterring tobacco use and generating revenue to pay for health care costs associated with tobacco related harms. Since the research thus far indicates that e-cigarettes show promise as a means to deter tobacco use and thereby reduce the cost of tobacco related harms, it makes no sense to subject e-cigarettes to the tobacco tax.

Moreover, subjecting e-cigarettes to the tobacco tax would be unlikely to increase tax revenues. Rather, if e-cigarettes are subject to the tobacco tax, State of Hawaii e-cigarette sales could be expected to drop dramatically. E-cigarettes are readily available over the internet. It would be far less expensive to purchase e-cigarettes over the internet from a retailer in another state or country which is not subject to the tobacco tax, rather than to buy them in-State and pay the tobacco tax. This is particularly true because the bill as presently proposed would not only subject the liquid containing nicotine to the tobacco tax, but every other component and accessory of the e-cigarette as well, including batteries, buttons, metal tips, charging components, plastic bottles, etc. The bill as currently proposed would even subject the liquid containing no nicotine at all, as well as all components of the e-cigarette used to vaporize the non-nicotine liquid, to the tobacco tax. This is perhaps the most dramatic illustration of the disconnect between e-cigarettes and the tobacco tax. The general cost of a fully functioning electronic cigarette kit is upwards of \$70.00. Levying a 70% tax on all of these items would virtually guarantee that purchasers will go out of State, or, worse yet, return to tobacco cigarettes. Thus, rather than generating increased revenues, the e-cigarette tobacco tax would undoubtedly have an adverse economic impact on the State, and could have an adverse impact on public health as well.

Since the proposed tax would undoubtedly curtail e-cigarette sales in Hawaii, it would also put Volcano out of business in Hawaii. This would have an adverse impact on Hawaii's economy in a number of ways. Last year, Volcano generated approximately \$782,300 in revenues from Hawaii based e-cigarette sales, on which it paid taxes. Volcano currently employs, withholds and pays over

³⁵Polosa et al.: "Effect of an electronic nicotine delivery device (e-Cigarette) on smoking reduction and cessation: a prospective 6-month pilot study." BMC Public Health 2011 11:786, p.11, attached hereto as Exhibit 4.

taxes, and provides medical benefits, for 40 full time local employees, all of whom would lose their jobs. Last year, Volcano's shipping costs paid to local Federal Express and UPS offices totaled approximately \$512,126; advertising expenses paid to local firms totaled approximately \$103,800; and rent paid for its six locations totaled approximately \$136,820. Therefore, a tax which would put Volcano out of business in Hawaii would have an adverse impact on Hawaii's economy.

In sum, Volcano urges the Committee to pull Part I from SB 2819 before introducing the bill to the Senate. Subjecting e-cigarettes to the tobacco tax would have an adverse economic impact on the State of Hawaii. Moreover, there is no justification for subjecting e-cigarettes to the tobacco tax. To the contrary, current research suggests that the justifications for the tobacco tax, i.e. – deterring tobacco use and generating revenues to pay for health care costs associated with tobacco related harms, would be undermined by imposing the tobacco tax on e-cigarettes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Cory N. Smith
President, Owner
Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes
Honolulu, Hawaii

EXHIBIT /



REVIEW

Open Access

The scientific foundation for tobacco harm reduction, 2006-2011

Brad Rodu

Abstract

Over the past five years there has been exponential expansion of interest in tobacco harm reduction (THR), with a concomitant increase in the number of published studies. The purpose of this manuscript is to review and analyze influential contributions to the scientific and medical literature relating to THR, and to discuss issues that continue to stimulate debate. Numerous epidemiologic studies and subsequent meta-analyses confirm that smokeless tobacco (ST) use is associated with minimal risks for cancer and for myocardial infarction; a small increased risk for stroke cannot be excluded. Studies from Sweden document that ST use is not associated with benign gastrointestinal disorders and chronic inflammatory diseases. Although any form of nicotine should be avoided during pregnancy, the highest risks for the developing baby are associated with smoking. It is documented that ST use has been a key factor in the declining rates of smoking and of smoking-related diseases in Sweden and Norway. For other countries, the potential population health benefits of ST are far greater than the potential risks. In tobacco studies, dual users of cigarettes and ST are less likely than exclusive smokers to achieve complete tobacco abstinence, but they are also less likely to be smoking. The health risks from dual use are probably lower than those from exclusive smoking. E-cigarette users are not exposed to the many toxicants, carcinogens and abundant free radicals formed when tobacco is burned. Although laboratory studies have detected trace concentrations of some contaminants, it is a small problem amenable to improvements in quality control and manufacturing that are likely with FDA regulation of tobacco products. There is limited evidence from clinical trials that e-cigarettes deliver only small doses of nicotine compared with conventional cigarettes. However, e-cigarette use emulates successfully the cigarette handling rituals and cues of cigarette smoking, which produces suppression of craving and withdrawal that is not entirely attributable to nicotine delivery. THR has been described as having "the potential to lead to one of the greatest public health breakthroughs in human history by fundamentally changing the forecast of a billion cigarette-caused deaths this century."

1. Introduction

In 2006 the American Council on Science and Health (ACSH) became the first American scientific organization to formally endorse tobacco harm reduction (THR), which involves the substitution of far safer sources of nicotine by those smokers who are unable or unwilling to achieve nicotine/tobacco abstinence. ACSH's position was based on a comprehensive review of the existing scientific and medical literature, which documented that (a) epidemiologic studies showed that smokeless tobacco (ST) use was at least 98% safer than smoking, (b) use of ST among men in Sweden was a major factor in very

low prevalence of smoking, (c) ST use is not a gateway to smoking, (d) American smokers are misinformed about the scientific and medical basis for THR [1].

Among developed countries the U.S. currently provides the best access to a wide variety of smoke-free products, including traditional smokeless tobacco, Swedish snus, dissolvable tobacco (sticks, strips, orbs and pellets), e-cigarettes, and pharmaceutical nicotine (gum, lozenges, patches, nasal spray). Many other countries prohibit almost all of them, which sadly enhances the continued dominance of cigarettes. Development and marketing of alternative smoke-free nicotine delivery systems will be accelerated by recent acquisitions by major tobacco manufacturers. In 2009 Reynolds American Inc. purchased Nicotivum, a Swedish company developing novel nicotine products. In 2011 British

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Tobacco Harm Reduction Research, University of Louisville, Room 406,
Clinical Translational Research Building, 505 S. L. Luck Street, KY 40202,
Louisville, USA

American Tobacco established Nicventures Limited, which will develop and commercialize innovative nicotine products, and Philip Morris International purchased global patent rights to a nicotine-containing aerosol developed by scientists at Duke University.

Over the past five years there has been exponential expansion of interest in THR from medical and public health professionals, with a concomitant increase in the number of published studies. The purpose of this manuscript is to review and analyze influential contributions to the scientific and medical literature relating to THR, and to discuss issues that continue to stimulate debate.

The majority of studies published since 2006 have focused on ST use. Section II reviews both primary epidemiologic studies and meta-analyses that provide further evidence that the health risks from ST use are much lower than those from smoking and are extremely small in absolute terms. In contrast to these facts, Section III describes how misinformed Americans are about the relative health risks from smoking as compared with ST use. Section IV reviews new population-level evidence from Sweden, Norway and the United States suggesting that ST is an effective substitute for cigarettes, and also discusses evidence from clinical trials. Section V reviews studies from Sweden and the U.S. documenting that ST use is not a gateway to smoking, most notably among adolescents. Section VI discusses dual use of ST and cigarettes. Section VII reviews scientific studies of e-cigarettes—nicotine-delivery devices that have become popular despite bans in many jurisdictions. The growing global discussion of THR is discussed in Section VIII.

ST is used in many countries around the world, including India and others in South Asia [2]. Compared with manufacturing practices in Sweden and the U.S., there is little control over fermentation and curing in these regions, which may result in elevated levels of tobacco-specific nitrosamines (TSNAs) and other unwanted contaminants [2]. In addition, ST is often combined with betel leaf (*Piper betle*), sliced areca nut (*Areca catechu*) and/or powdered agricultural lime [2], which enhance the toxicity as well as the psychotropic effect of tobacco. These differences also result in higher morbidity and mortality among ST users in South Asia. This manuscript focuses exclusively on ST use in Western societies like Sweden and the U.S.

II. Smokeless Tobacco Use Is Associated With Minimal Health Risks

A. Cancer

In 2007, the International Agency for Research on Cancer published Monograph 89 [2], which contained the findings from an IARC working group established in 2004. The committee found that there was sufficient

evidence that ST use is carcinogenic to humans, with sufficient evidence that “ST causes cancers of the oral cavity and pancreas.”

It is important to understand the magnitude of the risks codified by Monograph 89. Unfortunately, although the document contained detailed descriptions of some epidemiologic studies relevant to cancer among ST users, the monograph did not present any summary risk estimates. Instead, some individuals from the working group, led by IARC epidemiologist Paolo Boffetta, published a meta-analysis in 2008 concluding that ST use was associated with elevated risks for cancers of the oral cavity (Relative risk, RR = 1.8), esophagus (RR = 1.6) and pancreas (1.6), all of which were statistically significant [3] (Table 1).

Even though these risks are low in comparison with smoking, a 2009 meta-analysis published by Peter Lee and Jan Hamling did not confirm them [4]. In fact, after appropriate adjustment for confounding factors, the Lee-Hamling analysis found that ST use was associated only with prostate cancer (Tables 1 and 2). Lee and Hamling commented that “Prostate cancer is not

Table 1 Summary Relative Risks (95% Confidence Interval) for Smokeless Tobacco Use and Cancer From Two Meta-Analyses

Cancer (n = Boffetta; Lee-Hamling estimates)	Boffetta et al.	Lee-Hamling
Oral cavity		
All (14)	1.8 (1.1 - 2.9)	1.79 (1.36 - 2.36)
Adjusted for smoking (9)	NA	1.36 (0.84 - 1.77)
Adjusted for smoking and alcohol (8)	NA	1.07 (0.84 - 1.37)
Esophagus		
All	1.6 (1.1 - 2.3)	1.25 (1.03 - 1.51)
Adjusted for smoking	NA	1.13 (0.95 - 1.33)
Pancreas		
All (6)	1.6 (1.1 - 2.2)	1.00 (0.68 - 1.47)
Adjusted for smoking (6)	NA	1.07 (0.71 - 1.62)
Lung		
All (5)	1.2 (0.7 - 1.9)	0.96 (0.73 - 1.27)
Adjusted for smoking (6)	NA	0.89 (0.71 - 1.17)

NA, Not Available

Source: Boffetta et al. [3]; Lee and Hamling [4].

Table 2 Smoking-Adjusted Summary Relative Risks (RR) for Smokeless Tobacco Use and Other Cancers

Site (number of studies)	RR, (95% Confidence Interval)
Stomach (8)	1.03 (0.89 - 1.20)
Any Digestive (5)	0.86 (0.59 - 1.25)
Liver (2)	1.34 (0.57 - 2.95)
Prostate (4)	1.29 (1.07 - 1.55)
Bladder (10)	0.95 (0.77 - 1.15)
Kidney (6)	1.09 (0.69 - 1.71)
Lymphoma (3)	1.55 (0.62 - 2.90)
All Cancer (9)	0.98 (0.84 - 1.13)

Source: Lee and Hamling [4].

considered smoking related [original citations removed], and more information on its relationship with ST is needed before any clear conclusion can be drawn."

Table 1 shows the major differences in risk estimates between the meta-analyses of Boffetta and that of Lee-Hamling for cancers of the oral cavity, esophagus and pancreas. A detailed subsequent analysis published by Lee and Hamling [5] revealed that the differences were due to the following factors: (a) Boffetta et al. did not use all available studies, and there were no specific criteria for which studies were included and which were excluded; Lee and Hamling used all available studies. (b) in some instances Boffetta et al. used only the highest risk estimates, even though they were derived from internally inconsistent subgroups of either ST exposure or of the disease outcome of interest; Lee and Hamling's analysis was conducted with clear and consistent criteria for ST exposure and disease outcomes [5].

The differences between the Boffetta et al. and Lee-Hamling meta-analyses are clearly illustrated in the case of pancreatic cancer, for which Boffetta reported a statistically significant summary RR of 1.6, and Lee-Hamling reported a summary RR of 1.07, which was not significant. The Lee-Hamling result was also reported in a more detailed analysis for pancreatic cancer published in 2008 by Sponiello-Wang et al. [6].

Both meta-analyses used results from a 2005 Norwegian study [7] and a 2007 Swedish study [8] which reported risk estimates for pancreatic cancer among all snus users and for a subset of snus users who were never smokers. The Norwegian study reported a risk increase among all snus users (RR = 1.7, CI = 1.1 - 2.5) but not for the subset of snus users who were never smokers (RR = 0.9, CI = 0.2 - 3.1) [7]. The Swedish study reported exactly the opposite: There was virtually no risk among all snus users (RR = 0.9, CI = 0.7 - 1.2), but the subset of snus users who never smoked had an increased risk (RR = 2.0, CI = 1.2 - 3.3) [8].

As Lee pointed out in a recent review [9], "For pancreatic cancer, Boffetta cited only the increases for never smokers from the [Swedish] study and for the whole population from the [Norwegian] study, not mentioning the lack of increase for the whole population for the construction workers and for never smokers for the Norway cohorts." It is important to note that Boffetta was a co-author of both studies, which makes his selective use of data from them even more perplexing.

Ironically, the RR differences for pancreatic cancer between the Boffetta et al. and Lee-Hamling meta-analyses have been resolved in favor of Lee-Hamling by a third meta-analysis published in 2011, and it was co-authored by Boffetta [10]. It reported summary RRs for ever ST users (0.98, CI = 0.75 - 1.27), exclusive ST users (0.62, CI = 0.37 - 1.04), and ST users who smoked cigarettes (1.36, CI = 0.94 - 1.96). The authors concluded, "Our results on ST use are in broad agreement with a recently published meta-analysis of all published data on the issue, which reported no excess risk of pancreatic cancer in case control studies" [6].

Other concerns have been raised about the validity of the risk estimates for pancreatic cancer from both the Norwegian [7] and Swedish [8] studies. The former was published in 2005 by Boffetta et al., and it was an extended follow-up of a cohort of Norwegian men recruited in the 1960s [7]. Boffetta et al. reported that ever users of ST had an increased risk for pancreatic cancer (RR = 1.67, CI = 1.12 - 2.50). However, despite the fact that alcohol consumption had been documented as the strongest risk factor for pancreatic cancer in this cohort, with odds ratios up to 10.8 [11], Boffetta et al. did not adjust the snus risk estimates for alcohol use [12]. In addition, Boffetta employed an unconventional classification for snus exposure and an unusual adjustment for smoking, as documented in a subsequent letter to the editor [12].

The Swedish study was published in 2007 by Luo et al., and it is one of many follow-up studies of Swedish construction workers published by investigators at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm [8]. Luo et al. reported that current users of snus had an elevated risk for pancreatic cancer (RR = 2.1, CI = 1.2 - 3.6), but they excluded 135,000 construction workers recruited during the period 1971-74 because of "ambiguities" in questionnaire coding [13]. This cast considerable doubt about the credibility of a 1994 report by Bolinder et al., which stands almost alone in linking snus use with cardiovascular diseases [14]. The Bolinder cohort had contained only workers enrolled in the years excluded by Luo.

The Bolinder cohort [14] has been subjected repeatedly to inclusion and exclusion in ten studies published by Karolinska Institute investigators during the period 2005-2011 [8,15-23] (Table 3). The 2007 study by

Table 3 Inclusion and Exclusion of the Bolinder Cohort in Karolinska Institute Studies

Year	First Author [Ref]	Bolinder In/Out	Major Findings (RR)
1994	Bolinder [14]	In	All CV disease (1.4), All causes (1.4)
2005	Osterbro [15]	In	Skin SCC (0.64)
2007	Lin [16]	Out	Pancreatic cancer (2.0)
2007	Osterbro [16]	In	Melanoma (2.55)
2007	Ferberg [17]	In	Leukemia, MM (0.87 - 1.24*)
2007	Hergens [18]	Out	MI (0.91*), IMA MI (1.38)
2008	Zandendel [19]	In	Esophageal SCC (2.6) Non-cervix stomach cancer (1.4)
2008	Hergens [20]	Out	Stroke (1.02*), fatal stroke (1.27*)
2008	Hergens [21]	Out	Hyper emphyse (1.23 - 1.39)
2010	Cahiers [22]	Out	Inflammatory diseases (0.97 - 1.17)
2011	Nordenstedt [23]	In	Colon, recta, anal cancer (1.05*, 1.03*, 0.67*)

Ref = Reference number

RR = Relative Risk

CV = Cardiovascular

SCC = Squamous cell carcinoma

MM = Multiple myeloma

MI = Myocardial infarction

* Not Statistically Significant.

Hergens et al. [18], which found an elevated risk of fatal heart attack among snus users (RR = 1.28, CI = 1.06 - 1.55), is especially troublesome. This study excluded the Bolinder cohort, and Bolinder was a co-author, giving the impression that in 2007 Bolinder excluded her own cohort from 13 years earlier.

Hergens et al. [18] raised another serious and troubling question about Bolinder's characterization of snus use [14]. Bolinder defined "ST users" in her study as "subjects who reported only present ST use...", a clear representation of current use [14]. However, in describing the rationale for excluding the Bolinder cohort, Hergens et al. stated that "during the period 1971-1974 exposure information on snuff use was limited to ever or never use..." [18]. The descriptions of snuff use in these two studies are conflicting and irreconcilable, and the only rational conclusion is that one is a misrepresentation. The credibility of the Karolinska Institute studies is contingent on the resolution of these discrepancies.

B. Cardiovascular Diseases

There have been at least ten epidemiologic studies evaluating the risks for cardiovascular diseases (primarily heart attack and stroke) among ST users. Two meta-analyses by Lee in 2007 [24] and Boffetta and Straif in 2009 [25] have provided summary RRs from these studies.

1. Heart attack

Both studies found that ST use is **not** associated with statistically significant elevated RRs for heart attack (RRs = 1.12, CI = 0.99 - 1.27; and 0.99, 95% CI = 0.89 - 1.10, respectively) [24,25]. However, Boffetta and Straif [25]

reported an elevated risk for fatal cases among ever users (RR = 1.13, CI = 1.06 - 1.21), almost entirely derived from the Hergens study described previously [18] and a very large analysis in the U.S. conducted by the American Cancer Society on its first and second Cancer Prevention Studies [26].

Boffetta and Straif [25] did not find a dose-response effect for ST use and fatal heart attack, so the elevated risk from their study is somewhat tentative. In addition, although no elevated risks were observed in the majority of studies, the Cancer Society study [26] that reported elevated risks comprised 85% of the Boffetta-Straif analysis. This is noteworthy because smokeless users in this study also had elevated risks for emphysema (RR = 1.28, CI = 1.03-1.59) and lung cancer (RR = 2.0, CI = 1.23-3.24), two diseases closely associated with smoking. Thus, it is likely that there was residual confounding by smoking in the Cancer Society study that was responsible for heart attack risk among ST users.

2. Stroke

The Lee [24] and Boffetta-Straif [25] meta-analyses also reported on the risk of stroke among ST users. Lee reported an increase in stroke risk among smokeless users (RR = 1.42, CI = 1.29 - 1.57)[24]. Boffetta and Straif [25] found no risk overall (RR = 1.19, CI = 0.97 - 1.47), but they found an elevated risk for fatal cases (RR = 1.40, CI = 1.28 - 1.54). Boffetta and Straif [25] did not find a dose-response effect for ST use and fatal stroke, so this risk is also somewhat tentative. The American Cancer Society study [26] comprised 89% of the Boffetta-Straif analysis, so the likelihood of smoking among smokeless users discussed in the previous paragraph is equally important for the elevated fatal-stroke risk.

In 2010, an analysis based on the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities study reported that, compared with nonusers of tobacco, ST users had a slightly elevated incidence of cardiovascular disease events that was not statistically significant (Hazard Ratio, HR = 1.21, CI = 1.00 - 1.45) [27]. The HR was adjusted for confounders including age, sex, race, education, income, alcohol use, physical activity, smoking, blood pressure, diabetes, weight, and serum lipid levels.

In 2010 the American Heart Association released a policy statement on ST use. The statement was based on a literature review conducted by Piano et al. [28], which reported the following findings regarding various conditions:

Hypertension: "In summary, data from the majority of studies in this section do not support an increase in the incidence or prevalence of hypertension in ST product users."

Myocardial Infarction: "In summary, data derived from the majority of studies conducted in Sweden, whereby snuff/snus is the major ST product used, have not demonstrated a significant increase risk of nonfatal or fatal MI. Data derived from predominately U.S. populations are equivocal."

Stroke: "In summary, data from 2 studies (1 from the United States and 1 from Sweden) suggest that ST product use is associated with a slight increase in the risk of stroke mortality."

Other Cardiovascular Risk Factors: "Although the data are limited, most studies have found no relationship between ST use and other biochemical risk factors for [cardiovascular diseases]."

Thus, after a comprehensive review, the Piano et al. study showed that there were no markedly increased risks among ST users for cardiovascular disease. Nevertheless, the Heart Association policy position on ST was decidedly negative: "The American Heart Association does not recommend the use of ST as an alternative to cigarette smoking or as a smoking cessation product."

C. Other Diseases

1. Gastrointestinal Disorders

ST use is inevitably accompanied by swallowing of saliva that has mixed with tobacco extract, raising the possibility of an association with gastrointestinal (GI) disorders. A 2010 study was based on detailed GI symptoms obtained by a questionnaire distributed to 3,000 adults aged 18 to 80 years in the northern Swedish cities of Kalix and Haparanda relating to gastroesophageal reflux, dyspepsia (defined as pain above the stomach and/or nausea and feeling uncomfortably full after a meal), irritable bowel syndrome and other conditions [29].

About 1,000 survey respondents were subjected to endoscopic exams of their upper GI tracts, searching for

ulcers of the esophagus, stomach and small intestine and for evidence of infection by *Helicobacter pylori*. Snus users (n = 96), smokers (n = 165) and dual users (n = 22) were compared with non-users (n = 432).

Snus users reported GI symptoms with the same frequency as non-users. In contrast, smokers were more likely to report dyspepsia (OR = 1.6, 95% CI = 1.1 - 2.2), and dual users were more likely to report dyspepsia (OR = 2.8, CI = 1.1 - 7.3) and IBS (OR = 3.3, CI = 1.3 - 8.2).

With respect to the endoscopy findings, snus users were no more likely than non-users to have ulcers of the esophagus, stomach or small intestine. Smokers were more likely to have peptic ulcer disease (OR = 2.3, CI = 1.0 - 5.2). The published paper presents detailed findings of numerous other minor studies that were performed. Compared with non-users, neither snus users nor smokers had elevated rates of *Helicobacter* infections.

In summary, the study offered reassurance that snus use is not associated with any significant GI symptoms or disorders.

2. Parkinson's Disease and Multiple sclerosis (MS)

A 2005 study by the American Cancer Society showed that ST use may have been protective for Parkinson's Disease in the second Cancer Prevention Survey (RR = 0.22, CI = 0.07 - 0.67) [30].

There are no definitive causes of MS. In 2009 Hedström, et al. published a population-based case-control study of tobacco use and MS [31]. It found that the OR for male smokers was 1.8 (CI = 1.3 - 2.5), and the OR for female smokers was 1.4 (CI = 1.2 - 1.7). The risk increased with the cumulative dose of smoking measured in pack-years (packs per day times years of smoking), which adds to the overall validity of the association. For example, compared to nonusers of tobacco, men who had up to 5 pack-years of smoking had an OR of 1.4 (CI = 1.0 - 2.0), while men who had 16 or more pack-years of smoking had an OR of 2.9 (CI = 1.7 - 5.1).

In contrast to smoking, the study found that snus users had lower risks of MS than nonusers of tobacco. These lower risks were present among snus users of 5 or more package-years who never smoked (OR = 0.4, not statistically significant) and who had smoked (OR = 0.3, CI = 0.1 - 0.9), the latter being statistically significant.

3. Chronic Inflammatory Diseases

In 2010 Carlens et al. conducted a study of chronic inflammatory diseases among smokers and snus users in the Swedish construction workers cohort (Bolinder cohort excluded) [22]. The study reported that, compared with never users of tobacco, ever smokers had significantly elevated risks for rheumatoid arthritis (RR = 2.1, CI = 1.7 - 2.5), Crohn's disease (RR = 1.5, CI = 1.2 -

1.8), multiple sclerosis (RR = 1.9, CI = 1.4 - 2.6) and a lower risk for sarcoidosis (RR = 0.5, CI = 0.4 - 0.5), all of which echoed previous studies. Carlens et al. also reported that former smokers had an increased risk for ulcerative colitis (RR = 1.3, CI = 1.1 - 1.5), another recognized association. In contrast, ever use of snus was not associated with any of these diseases, although Carlens et al did not confirm the inverse association of snus use and MS seen in the report by Hedström et al. [31].

4. Pregnancy Complications

One of the most common challenging questions regarding THR is whether it is applicable to pregnant women who smoke.

According to the 2004 Surgeon General's report, smoking during pregnancy is associated with increased risks for premature delivery, low-birth-weight infants, and stillbirth [32]. Smoking is also associated with increased risk for placental problems, including placenta previa and placental abruption, both of which can place the mother and fetus at risk. Paradoxically, pregnant women who smoke have a significantly lower risk for preeclampsia. But the overall effect of smoking on the developing fetus is decidedly negative.

Can a pregnant smoker who switches to ST benefit her health and that of her developing baby? Three studies have addressed this issue. The first, published in 2003 by England et al [33], reported information on pregnancy outcomes among Swedish women who used snus or smoked, compared with nonusers of tobacco.

In this study, tobacco users had smaller babies than nonusers, although the reductions were modest. The average baby weight for nonusers was 7 pounds 14 ounces; babies of snus users weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces, while light smokers (1-9 cigarettes per day) and heavier smokers (10 or more cigarettes per day) had babies that weighed less (7 pounds 8 ounces and 7 pounds 6 ounces, respectively).

Women who used snus were more likely than nonusers to have a premature delivery (adjusted odds ratio, aOR = 1.79, 95% confidence interval = 1.27 - 2.52), which was similar to that of light smokers (aOR = 1.56, CI = 1.33 - 1.83) and heavier smokers (aOR = 1.84, CI = 1.53 - 2.25).

This study also found that smoking is protective for preeclampsia. The aOR for light smokers was 0.71 (CI = 0.59 - 0.88), and heavier smokers' risk was even less (aOR = 0.48, CI = 0.36 - 0.64). However, snus users had a somewhat elevated risk for preeclampsia (aOR = 1.58, CI = 1.09 - 2.27).

In 2010 two studies from Wikström et al. also documented that snus use has risks for the developing fetus [34,35]. Both studies were based on over 600,000 pregnancies documented in the Swedish Medical Birth Register from 1999 to 2006.

The first study examined the effect of tobacco use on the risk for very premature (less than 32 weeks) or moderately premature (32-26 weeks) births [34]. It showed that snus users had a modestly elevated risk for a very premature birth (aOR = 1.38, CI = 1.04 - 1.83). The risk among light smokers (1-9 cigarettes per day) was 1.60 (CI = 1.42 - 1.81), and the risk among heavy smokers (10 or more cigarettes per day) was 1.90 (CI = 1.61 - 2.25). The study also showed that snus users had an elevated risk for a moderately premature birth of 1.25 (CI = 1.12 - 1.40), which was intermediate between light smokers (aOR = 1.18, CI = 1.12 - 1.24) and heavy smokers (aOR = 1.45, CI = 1.35 - 1.56).

The second study examined the effect of tobacco use on the risk for stillbirth [35]. It showed that women who were snus users had a modestly elevated risk (aOR = 1.57, CI = 1.03 - 2.41), which was again intermediate between light smokers (aOR = 1.15, CI = 0.91 - 1.45) and heavy smokers (aOR = 1.85, CI = 1.39 - 2.46).

This study did not confirm the elevated risk for preeclampsia seen in the 2003 report [33]. In addition, snus users did not have elevated risks for bleeding or for infants who were small for their gestational age, outcomes seen in both light and heavy smokers.

In summary, pregnant women who use snus are at risk for slightly smaller babies, and they also have modestly elevated risks for premature delivery, stillbirth and possibly preeclampsia. Although any form of nicotine should be avoided during pregnancy, the highest risks for the developing baby are associated with smoking.

D. Summary of Health Effects

1. Primary epidemiologic studies and subsequent meta-analyses do not provide convincing evidence that ST use is associated with cancers of the oral cavity, pancreas, and gastrointestinal tract. There is evidence from one meta-analysis that ST use is associated with a small risk for prostate cancer, although a biologic mechanism for this disease has not been established.

2. Epidemiologic studies have not documented that ST use is associated with significantly elevated risks for myocardial infarction; however, a small increased risk for stroke cannot be excluded.

3. Studies from Sweden document that ST use is not associated with benign gastrointestinal disorders and chronic inflammatory diseases.

4. Pregnant women who use snus are at risk for slightly smaller babies, and they also have modestly elevated risks for premature delivery, stillbirth and possibly preeclampsia. Although any form of nicotine should be avoided during pregnancy, the highest risks for the developing baby are associated with smoking.

III. Misperceptions of the Health Risks Associated with ST Use

It has been documented beyond question that, compared with smoking, ST use is associated with minimal health risks that are barely measurable by modern epidemiologic methods. However, this strong scientific rationale for THR is virtually unknown among the general public, and even among health professionals. Recent studies have shown the extent of these misperceptions and the potential impact they have on implementation of THR.

In 2007 Heaver et al. surveyed a convenience sample of 242 smokers in the Edmonton, Alberta area in conjunction with a test market of Swedish snus in the province [36]. About half of smokers had not considered switching to ST because they incorrectly believed that the health risks were the same as those associated with smoking, and about one-third thought that using ST would increase their risk for mouth cancer. A majority of smokers who had not considered switching because of ST risks, however, were willing to consider switching to a hypothetical reduced-risk product. Leavner et al. concluded that "many adult smokers are interested in switching to safer forms of nicotine, but the misperceptions [about nicotine and tobacco] are major barriers to harm reduction." In addition, they attributed the misperceptions "to the effective long-running information campaign by anti-ST and anti-burn-reduction activists who are more concerned with promoting nicotine abstinence than public health."

Felger et al. published a study documenting widespread misperception of ST risks among highly educated university faculty at the University of Louisville [37]. They quantified the risk perceptions, among full-time faculty, of cigarette smoking and ST use with respect to general health, heart attack/stroke, all cancer, and oral cancer, comparing the results from faculty on the health science campus with those in schools not related to health. Felger et al. found that 51% of all faculty incorrectly believed that ST use counters general health risks that are equal to or greater than smoking. The misperception rate was lower for heart attack/stroke risk (33%) but higher for cancer (61%). The misperception rate for oral cancer was 86%. Although faculty on the health science campus had a somewhat lower rate than others (81% vs. 91%), the survey provided evidence that most health professionals have a poor understanding of the fact that ST use is vastly safer than smoking.

Felger et al. believe that misperceptions result from "anti-tobacco advocates and organizations..." that "compare the risks of ST with the risks associated with cigarettes, using either direct or implied statements..."

Misperceptions about smoke-free products are present even in Sweden, where tobacco harm reduction has had a measurable impact on smoking. In 2010 Wikmans and Kamström reported that the majority of Swedish smokers have exaggerated perceptions of the harmfulness of pharmaceutical nicotine and snus, which they believe is an impediment to further reductions in smoking prevalence in that country [38].

In 2011 Callery et al. examined the perceptions and appeal of ST products, with and without pictorial health warning labels and relative health risk messages, among 611 Canadian smokers age 18-80 years [39]. They systematically varied the labels and messages on duMaurier snus, Marlboro snus, Copenhagen moist snuff and Arva dissolvable tobacco products and measured the appeal of the products and participants' willingness to try them. Callery et al. concluded: "The findings from the current study show relatively high levels of appeal for ST products and openness to trying ST products among young adult cigarette smokers in Canada... Pictorial warnings also exaggerated the false belief that smokeless products are equally as harmful as conventional cigarettes. Regardless whether ST products serve as a harm-reduction product at the population level, greater efforts should be undertaken to promote more accurate perceptions of relative health risks between tobacco products."

IV. Evidence That ST is an Effective Substitute for Cigarettes

A. Additional Evidence from Sweden

In 2006 Rodu and Godshall summarized the cumulative evidence from Sweden that ST, in the form of moist snuff called snus, has played an important role in low prevalence of smoking among Swedish men and, to a lesser extent, among Swedish women [1]. That year Kamström and Foulds reported the results from a population-based national Swedish survey from 2001-2002 [40]. They found that snus was the most common cessation aid among men, used by 24% during their last quit attempt. Among men who had used only one cessation aid, 58% had used snus, and the success rate among these subjects (66%) was significantly higher than that among those who used nicotine gum (OR = 2.2, CI = 1.3 - 3.7) or nicotine patch (OR = 4.2, CI = 2.1 - 8.6). Kamström and Foulds also found that "the odds of initiating daily smoking were significantly lower for men who had started using snus than for those who had not" (OR = 0.28, CI = 0.22 - 0.36). They concluded, "Use of snus in Sweden is associated with a reduced risk of becoming a daily smoker and an increased likelihood of stopping smoking."

In 2008 Farborg et al. investigated twelve variables and their interactions as correlates of smoking cessation

among 14,700 regular smokers in the population based Swedish Twin Registry [41]. They reported that ever use of snus was the strongest individual correlate for former versus current smoking (HR = 2.70, CI = 2.30 - 3.20). They concluded, "Swedes appear to be using snus as a form of nicotine replacement therapy despite a lack of clinical trials data to support its use as a smoking cessation aid."

1. Population health effects

In 2007 Gartner et al. assessed the potential population health effects if snus was available in Australia (where it is now banned) [42]. They calculated the life expectancy among people with various trajectories of tobacco use, and they provided estimates of the net effects at the population level.

Gartner et al. summarized their findings: "There was little difference in health-adjusted life expectancy between smokers who quit all tobacco and smokers who switch to snus (difference of 0.1-0.3 years for men and 0.1-0.4 years for women). For net harm to occur, 14-25 ex smokers would have to start using snus to offset the health gain from every smoker who switched to snus rather than continuing to smoke. Likewise, 14-25 people who have never smoked would need to start using snus to offset the health gain from every new tobacco user who used snus rather than smoking."

They concluded: "Current smokers who switch to using snus rather than continuing to smoke can realise substantial health gains. Snus could produce a net benefit to health at the population level if it is adopted in sufficient numbers by inveterate smokers."

In 2009 Rodu and Cole examined lung cancer mortality trends in European Union (EU) countries, starting from about 1950 and ending in 2002 [43]. Lung cancer is the sentinel disease of smoking, and a country's lung cancer mortality rate (LCMR) provides a reasonable indication of the amount of smoking in that country. The data came from the World Health Organization (WHO) and IARC.

In 2002, there were 172,000 lung cancer deaths among men in the EU. If all EU countries had the LCMR of men in Sweden, there would have been 92,000 fewer lung cancer deaths. Rodu and Cole also estimated that there were 509,000 smoking attributable deaths among men in EU countries in 2002. If all EU countries had the smoking rates of Swedish men, there would have been only 237,000 deaths, a reduction of 54% (Table 4).

The large differences in LCMRs between Sweden and other EU countries occur only in men. For most of the last 50 years, the LCMR among Swedish women was the sixth highest in the EU. This context is important, because it has been suggested that vigorous anti-smoking campaigns since the 1970s are the major determinant of the low Swedish smoking rates. However, it is

implausible that these campaigns were highly effective for Swedish men and almost completely ineffective for Swedish women. The striking difference in the relative EU ranking of Swedish men and women is firm evidence that snus use, not anti smoking campaigns, has played the primary role in low LCMR rates among men in Sweden for over a half century.

World War II created millions of male smokers, resulting in very high LCMRs throughout Europe in the 1960s and 1970s. Men in Portugal, Spain and Italy, which had LCMRs similar to those in Sweden in the early 1950s, later experienced peak LCMRs that were four to six times higher, while the peak in Sweden represented only a three-fold increase. Even though snus consumption declined until 1969, its use was high enough to suppress smoking by Swedish men and to keep their LCMR among the lowest in the EU. Increasing snus consumption in the last two decades has been accompanied by further declines in smoking. If current trends hold, the LCMR for Swedish men may become lower than that for Swedish women by 2011.

Currently, snus is banned in all EU countries except Sweden. While it cannot be proven that the availability of snus would reduce smoking prevalence in other EU countries, the study showed that snus use has had a profound effect on smoking among Swedish men for the past half century.

B. Evidence from Norway

In 2008, the European Commission released a report entitled "Health Effects of Smokeless Tobacco Products." [44]. Except for one small part discussing THR (Section 3.8, pages 111-118), most of the report was very negative, even going so far as to deny that snus use has had any effect on smoking in Sweden and Norway.

The report concluded: "It is difficult to envision any significant impact of snus use on smoking cessation in Norway..." This was especially baffling, as Figures 19-22 (pages 42-43) show clearly that increased snus use over the last 20 years was concomitant with decreased smoking.

Norway occupies an interesting position in the European political arena, and in European tobacco issues. While it is located in the Scandinavian peninsula, shares a border with Sweden and has membership in the European Economic Area, Norway has twice rejected membership in the EU. Thus, it has not been subject to the EU ban on Swedish snus and similar smokeless products. In fact, information has emerged from Norway that the increasing use of snus in the past 20 years has resulted in a substantial decline in smoking among Norwegian men, a virtual reproduction of the Swedish experience reviewed by Rodu and Godshall [1].

Table 4 Deaths from Smoking in 2002 Among Men in EU Countries, and Deaths Based on Swedish Lung Cancer Mortality Rate

Country	All Deaths From Smoking in 2002	Deaths If Smoking At Swedish Rate	% Change At Swedish Rate
Austria	7,000	3,900	-44
Bulgaria	7,100	3,600	-49
Czech Republic	12,500	4,300	-64
Denmark	5,700	2,800	-52
Estonia	1,500	500	-66
Finland	4,200	2,600	-38
France	60,000	28,300	-53
Germany	83,700	43,700	-48
Greece	13,900	6,200	-56
Hungary	16,300	4,400	-73
Ireland	2,700	1,300	-52
Italy	75,200	34,200	-54
Lithuania	2,600	900	-64
Luxembourg	3,500	1,500	-57
Malta	400	200	-50
Netherlands	18,700	7,700	-59
Poland	48,500	14,400	-70
Portugal	7,000	5,100	-27
Romania	10,100	3,000	-70
Slovakia	4,800	1,900	-60
Slovenia	2,100	900	-58
Spain	46,100	21,100	-54
Sweden	5,200	5,200	0
UK	39,500	32,000	-19
All EU	509,000	215,500	-58

EU = European Union

UK = United Kingdom

Note: No data was available for Belgium and Cyprus.

Source: Adapted from Rodu and Coia [43].

Much of the information on THR in Norway has been produced by Dr. Karl Erik Lund, a respected tobacco researcher with SIRUS, the Norwegian Institute for Alcohol and Drug Research, an independent institution but also a government entity answerable to the Ministry of Health and Care Services.

In 2008, Dr. Lund gave a presentation on Norwegian tobacco use at the 51st conference of the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (personal communication). He reported that among Norwegian men age 16-35 years, the prevalence of smoking declined from 50% in 1985, to 30% in 2007, while the prevalence of snus use increased from 10% to 30%.

Lund reported that snus is very popular as a quit-smoking aid among Norwegian men. Among those who quit smoking in 2007, snus was used by 23%, while nicotine gum was used by only 9%; the nicotine patch, Zyban and a quit line were used by even fewer (6%, 3% and 3% respectively).

Lund also presented information about the outcome of the last quit attempt by Norwegian male smokers age 20-50 years in 2007. Of those who used snus, 74% "quit smoking altogether" or experienced a "dramatic reduction in smoking intensity," which is very similar to the rate among American men in the 2000 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) who switched to ST (discussed below in Section D). Lund added that the quit percentages for those who used nicotine gum, patch and Zyban were 50%, 47% and 40% respectively.

In 2009 Lund published a report on THR, in which he noted that existing anti-smoking measures will result in "diminishing marginal returns." [45] Lund provided a compelling rationale for THR, and noted in an epilogue that the Norwegian Health Directorate has cautiously endorsed the strategy.

In 2010 Lund et al. published a study confirming that Norwegian men prefer snus over all other methods to quit smoking [46]. The analysis was based on a survey

by the Norwegian Institute for Alcohol and Drug Research, which asked 3,533 former or current smokers age 20-50 years what method they used when they last tried successfully (former) or unsuccessfully (current) to quit. Snus was used by 32% of all respondents, making it the most popular method by far. Other methods that enjoyed modest popularity were nicotine gum (18%), self-help material (12%), and the nicotine patch (10%). Nicotine inhaler, Zyban, Champix, telephone quit line, and help from health care professionals were also measured in the survey, but they had negligible usage rates.

Lund et al. reported an adjusted odds ratio (aOR) to indicate the effectiveness of ST products compared with nicotine gum, their reference product. For quitting completely, the aOR for snus was 2.7, meaning that it was nearly three times more effective than gum. Snus was also three times more effective than nicotine gum in "greatly reducing cigarette consumption" among continuing smokers (aOR = 3).

In 2011 Lund et al. also published a study comparing quit-smoking rates among snus users and never users in seven Norwegian surveys [47]. Quitting was defined as the percentage of ever smokers who were former smokers at the time of the survey.

As seen in Table 5, quit rates for snus users were always higher than for those who had never used snus; the results are statistically significant for all surveys except number 4. This provides compelling evidence that snus has played a powerful role in smoking cessation among Norwegians and, as Lund noted, it is consistent with the Swedish evidence.

C. Clinical Trials

Prior to 2006, only one clinical trial relating to THR had been conducted, a pilot study with one- and seven-year follow-ups [48,49]. But during the past five years, several more clinical trials have been completed.

In 2007 Mendoza-Baumgart et al. conducted small pilot trials focused on two ST products (either Exalt

snus or Ariva dissolvable) versus a nicotine lozenge [50]. They evaluated toxicant exposure, subjective responses and product preferences among smokers using a cross-over design.

Mendoza-Baumgart et al. found that, compared with baseline smoking, all products produced significant reductions in 4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanol (NNAL), a metabolite of the TSNA 4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone (NNK), and all produced comparable effects on withdrawal and craving. Ariva was the preferred product, followed by the nicotine lozenge and Exalt. The authors concluded that "These findings make it difficult to ignore the potential of some ST products, specifically Ariva, to reduce exposure to [TSNAs], particularly NNK..."

In 2008 Sharp et al. reported the results of a nurse led smoking cessation program, employing ad libitum use of alternative nicotine products including snus, among 50 patients undergoing aggressive treatment for advanced stage head and neck cancer [51]. As they noted, "Our aim was to support the patients to be smoke-free during and after cancer treatment, rather than to be nicotine-free."

Sharp et al. reported that 74% of patients were confirmed cigarette abstinent during the treatment period. Forty-one patients were alive at the one-year follow-up, and 28 were off cigarettes. Multiple product use was common; the nicotine patch was the most commonly used product (91%), followed by snus (54%).

In 2008 Tønnesen et al. published the results of an open, randomized smoking cessation trial using group therapy and Oliver Twist, a ST pellet made in Denmark [52]. Cessation at 7 weeks was higher among subjects using ST (31.5% vs. 19.2%, OR = 1.94, CI = 1.05 - 3.62), but no significant differences were seen at the 6-month follow-up. At six months, 17.5% of participants were still using ST, even though a trial objective was cessation at 12 weeks after enrolment.

The unimpressive response rate for ST may have been influenced by negative attitudes among study staff. Tønnesen et al. commented that "...we do not believe that the therapists induced a positive expectation in the ST group. Our impression is that the nurses were not convinced that ST would help or would be accepted by the smokers." Nevertheless, they concluded that the trial demonstrated short-term efficacy of ST in combination with group therapy, and they indicated that other trials were underway.

In 2010 Caldwell et al. compared snus with nicotine gum among heavy smokers in New Zealand [53]. After observing smoking patterns and consumption for one (lead-in) week, Caldwell's group gave 63 smokers three different cigarette substitutes, each for two weeks. The substitutes were Swedish snus (4-gram pouches in three

Table 5 Quit Smoking Rates Among Snus Users and Never Snus Users in Seven Norwegian Surveys

Survey Number	Snus Users (%)	Never Snus Users (%)
1	50	53
2	55	28
3	61	53
4	62	53
5	75	45
6	90	50
7	73	43

Note: Compared with never snus users, snus users percentage statistically significant for all surveys except No. 4.

Source: Lund et al. 47.

flavors). Habitrol nicotine gum (4 milligrams of nicotine) and a peppermint pouch containing 4 milligrams of nicotine embedded in microcrystalline beads, produced by a Swedish company called Nicovom.

The researchers collected information from the participants about the "acceptability and the willingness of smokers to use" the substitutes. They asked five questions gauging satisfaction, and they reported that "subjects scored Zonnic and snus more highly than gum for four out of the five..." All three products significantly reduced craving for cigarettes, and all three "...enabled subjects to reduce their smoking significantly compared with the lead-in week."

Participants ranked Zonnic and snus higher than nicotine gum for both quitting and reducing smoking. "At the conclusion of the study, subjects were asked to rank the three products in order of overall preference. For their first choice, an equal number (40%) chose snus or Zonnic, while 20% chose gum."

In 2010 Carpenter and Gray published a small but powerful study documenting that dissolvable tobacco products "led to a significant reduction (40%) in cigarettes per day, no significant increases in total tobacco use, and significant increases in two measures of readiness to quit, either in the next month or within the next 6 months." [54]

The authors randomly assigned 31 smokers who were uninterested in quitting to receive Ariva or Stonewall dissolvable smokeless products, or to continue smoking cigarettes. Smokers were given "minimal instructions on how to use" these products and were "told that there is no safe tobacco product and that the best thing they can do for their health is to quit entirely."

They wrote that their findings suggest "that Ariva and Stonewall are effective products to curb withdrawal and craving," and that there is "no evidence that ST (Ariva or Stonewall) undermines quitting. To the contrary, readiness to quit (in the next month and within the next 6 months) significantly increased among smokers who used a ST product relative to those who continued to smoke conventional cigarettes." This addressed the concern that telling smokers about vastly safer smokeless substitutes will "undermine quitting."

In 2010 Cobb et al. compared the acute effects (within 45 minutes) of administration of Ariva, Marlboro snus, Camel snus, and Commit lozenges with own-brand and Quest (very low nicotine) cigarettes to smokers who had been abstinent overnight [55]. Each of the 28 participants attended seven sessions, during which 40 physiological and subjective measures were assessed at several time points after two separate administrations of each product.

Camel snus and Commit significantly decreased an "intention to smoke" measure after the second

administration, although not as much as own-cigarette brand. Ariva and Marlboro snus did not affect this measure. Very similar findings were also observed for a craving measure.

These results may have been related to the plasma nicotine levels produced by the various products. Own-brand cigarettes resulted in sharp and significant increases in plasma nicotine, and Camel snus produced a significant increase 15 minutes after the second administration, but the other products did not.

Although Ariva and Marlboro snus had no effect, Camel snus and Commit exhibited modest subjective effects on abstinence symptoms, even though they were not as effective as own-brand cigarettes. Nevertheless, Cobb et al. made the sweeping conclusion that "currently marketed non-combustible [potential reduced exposure products] may not be a viable harm reduction strategy for US smokers."

In 2011 Kotlyar et al. published the results of a clinical trial which was done in 2006-7, assessing whether RJ Reynolds' Camel Snus and Philip Morris' Taboka (a precursor of Marlboro Snus) were viable substitutes for cigarettes [56]. They recruited smokers who were interested in quitting, assigning them to use one of three products: 4 milligram nicotine gum or lozenge, Camel Snus or Taboka (participants had a choice of various flavors for each product). Participants were instructed to use at least one or two doses of the assigned product per day during a one-week sampling period; for the next four weeks, they were told to use the product at least 6 to 8 times daily (and additional doses if needed). During week 5, participants were required to reduce consumption of the substitute; by the end of that week they had to be completely tobacco- and nicotine-free.

There were several interesting results. First, all participants in all groups had a reduction in exhaled carbon monoxide, clearly demonstrating that they smoked less than before the study. Participants in all groups had a reduction in the urine concentration of N'-nitrosonornicotine (NNN) and NNAL. The reductions were statistically significant except for NNN in Camel Snus users ($p = 0.07$).

Overall craving and withdrawal scores decreased over the 4 weeks in all groups, with no differences between the groups. Continuous abstinence rates over the 4 treatment weeks varied from 33% (Taboka) to 43% (Camel Snus). Two weeks after the treatment ended, 39% of the Taboka group, 47% of the Camel Snus group and 56% of the nicotine group were not smoking, but these percentages dropped to 23%, 31% and 33% respectively after ten weeks of complete abstinence. One possible reason for the precipitous drop in the smoke-free percentages was the insistence on abstinence after 4 weeks.

There were other interesting aspects of this study. The Taboka group smoked significantly more than those using nicotine or Camel Snus. It is possible that Taboka, which had very low nicotine levels, simply didn't satisfy smokers.

A total of 1,159 smokers responded to advertisements for the study. According to the researchers, 800 "were able to be reached and were screened over the telephone," and 429 qualified and were interested in participating. Another 212 did not show up for the orientation. The attrition didn't stop there: 211 smokers were enrolled in the study but only 130 were randomized to one of the three groups. Just 80 participants completed the 4-week treatment period and the one-week transition to abstinence.

These numbers represent one of the biggest challenges of clinical trials, especially in the field of risky behaviors like smoking. The 80 participants who completed the study represent only 6.9% of the smokers who originally responded, so they are an especially motivated group. That has been one of the problems with quit-smoking trials: It is impossible to generalize their results because the subjects are almost always derived from a highly selected population that is not representative of smokers in general [57].

In 2011 Barrett et al. reported the effects of "Swedish-style" snus and a 2 mg nicotine lozenge on delay of smoking and craving reduction among 15 smokers using four double-blind placebo-controlled sessions [58]. The investigators, who conducted the study at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, reported that snus delayed the urge to smoke and suppressed craving only in the eight men in the study, but that snus was ranked as the least preferred product.

Although the investigators acknowledged the impact on smoking and craving, they believed that "the therapeutic potential of [Swedish-style snus] may be limited by its acceptability." However, there are some elements of their protocol that may explain participants' dislike of the products. First, subjects "were told the products may contain some of the ingredients commonly found in cigarettes (e.g., tar, ammonia, carbon monoxide, menthol, nicotine, sucrose, etc.)." It is unclear how the investigators communicated that non-combustible products contained "tar" and "carbon monoxide," but these statements likely affected product ratings. Second, although the subject of the paper was Swedish snus, the investigators picked a brand made in Denmark instead of much more popular and successful Swedish products. Finally, the preference ratings were probably affected by the fact that the snus was unflavored, whereas the nicotine lozenge was flavored with mint.

In summary, the study by Barrett et al. showed that snus "may have some therapeutic potential for those

attempting to quit smoking," but it was designed in a manner that portrayed a very negative view of its acceptability.

In 2011 O'Connor et al. reported the results of a 2008 sampling study of Camel snus, Marlboro snus, Stonewall dissolvable pellets and Commit nicotine lozenges among 59 smokers not interested in quitting, 44 of whom completed the entire study [59]. After all products were sampled, 45% of participants chose Commit, followed by Marlboro (29%), Camel (14%) and Stonewall (12%), with 80% very or somewhat likely to purchase their preferred product in the next year. Over the seven-day trial phase, cigarette consumption decreased from 11.8 to 8.7 per day while use of the other products was constant at 4.7 units per day. This was accompanied by a decline in exhaled carbon monoxide.

Despite these findings, O'Connor et al. made some very negative conclusions: "However, we observed no true switching (i.e., abandoning cigarettes), even though [smokeless] and [nicotine replacement] products were provided without cost. It is clear that simply informing smokers of the lower risk and providing products is not going to result in major immediate shifts to smokeless alternatives. In the absence of some significant incentive, it is unlikely that information campaigns alone would lead to migration from use of cigarettes toward less hazardous nicotine sources among United States smokers."

It is unclear how O'Connor et al. generalized the results from 44 subjects in Buffalo, NY to all American smokers. Furthermore, although two sessions "presented information about the relative risks of ST and nicotine replacement products compared to cigarettes to provide a health rationale for considering these products as alternatives," the paper did not disclose the details about the extent and tone of the information, which may have played an important role in the results. Twenty-three of the subjects were women, who may have had a pre-existing bias against ST. In addition, 23 had already used pharmaceutical nicotine, which may partially explain the preference for Commit.

O'Connor et al. provided a valuable insight: "...the greater the range of products offered, the greater the proportion of smokers who may find a product they see as a viable substitute for cigarettes. This is consistent with the body of literature [original references omitted] suggesting that smokers' varied reactions to different products may be informative in themselves, meaning a 'sampling' approach may allow smokers to find an appealing alternative product to cigarettes."

D. American Survey Evidence

In 2008 Roda and Phillips provided the first population-level evidence that American men have quit smoking by

switching to ST [60]. Using data from the 2000 NHIS, which the CDC uses to estimate smoking prevalence in the U.S., Rodu and Phillips estimated that 359,000 American male smokers had tried to switch to ST during their most recent quit attempt, and 73% (261,000, termed switchers) were former smokers at the time of the survey, representing the highest proportion of successes among all methods. In comparison, the nicotine patch was used by an estimated 2.9 million men in their most recent quit attempt, but only 35% were former smokers at the time of the survey. Of the 964,000 men who had used nicotine gum, 34% became former smokers. Of the 98,000 men who used the nicotine inhaler, 28% quit successfully. None of the estimated 14,000 men who had tried the nicotine nasal spray became former smokers.

Rodu and Phillips showed that switching to ST compares very favorably with pharmaceutical nicotine as a quit-smoking aid among American men, despite the fact that few smokers know that the switch provides almost all of the health benefits of complete tobacco abstinence. The results of this study show that THR is a viable cessation option for American smokers.

In 2009 Biener and Bogen reported the results from the 2006-2007 Indiana Adult Tobacco Survey that had implications for THR [61]. Indianapolis had served as a test market of Swedish-style snus by the two largest American cigarette manufacturers. In 2006 Philip Morris launched a test market there for 'tobacco snus' (in 2008 it was discontinued when Marlboro snus was launched). In 2007 Indianapolis was one of several expansion markets for RJ Reynolds' Camel Snus; that product went on to national distribution in 2009.

Biener and Bogen reported that almost 20% of survey respondents throughout Indiana were aware of snus. Awareness among smokers statewide was 44%, which was 4.5 times higher than awareness among non-smokers.

Awareness among respondents in central Indiana (i.e. around Indianapolis) was 29%. More importantly, about 64% of male smokers in central Indiana had heard about snus, and 20% had tried it. This is evidence that Philip Morris and Reynolds were targeting adult male smokers in their test-market campaigns, and that the manufacturers were fairly successful.

Biener and Bogen also reported that risk perception played an important role in getting people to try snus. Respondents who correctly believed that ST is less harmful than cigarettes were almost four times as likely to try snus as those who believed the misinformation about the differential risks. Unfortunately, this study revealed that 88% of all respondents incorrectly believed that ST was just as dangerous as cigarettes.

Biener and Bogen offer some perceptive comments on the sad state of smoker misinformation:

"Both marketing and health education messages should include the information that all tobacco products are harmful and that abstinence from all tobacco products is the most healthful choice. At the same time, simply saying that ST is 'not safe' is not a sufficient stance for public health communications. There is a recognized continuum of risk along which various tobacco products can be placed, with low-nitrosamine ST products much lower on the risk continuum than combustible tobacco, although it is not harmless. Devising an effective way to inform the public about the continuum should be an important research priority, as currently consumers are woefully incorrect in their assessments of relative risk of various tobacco products. This state of affairs could result in people deciding not to give up smoking in favor of a product lower on the risk continuum because they assume that all tobacco products are equally harmful."

E. Summary

There is extensive research evidence that ST use has been a key factor in the declining rates of smoking and of smoking-related diseases in Sweden. While it cannot be proven that the availability of ST would reduce smoking prevalence in other countries, the potential population health benefits of ST are far greater than the potential risks. This makes the continued prohibition of ST in cigarette-dominant markets an unsustainable and counterproductive public health debacle.

V. ST Use is Not a Gateway to Smoking

A. Evidence from Sweden

In 2006 Rodu and Godshall reviewed the published studies from Sweden documenting that there is no evidence that ST is a gateway to smoking, especially among youth [4]. This was confirmed in a 2008 study of 3,000 adolescents from the Stockholm area by Galanti et al. [62]. They found that "the majority of tobacco users (70%) started by smoking cigarettes" and "the proportion of adolescent smoking prevalence attributable to a potential induction effect of snus is likely small."

In 2008, the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks concluded that "The Swedish data...do not support the hypothesis that...snus is a gateway to future smoking." [64].

B. Evidence from the U.S.

Opponents of THR in the U.S. believe that it will lead to increased teenage ST use, which will function as a "gateway" to smoking [63]. It has been observed that teenagers who use ST are more likely than non-users to subsequently smoke [64-68]. But a close examination of the evidence suggests only that ST use is one of several

behaviors associated with smoking, not that it leads to smoking.

In the U.S., concomitant use of cigarettes is common among ST users [69] (dual use will be covered in Section VI). However, investigators have not found credible evidence that ST use is a gateway to smoking among American youth. In 2003 Kozlowski et al. analyzed data from the 1987 NLLS survey and concluded that there was little evidence that ST use was a gateway to smoking, because the majority of ST users had never smoked or had smoked cigarettes prior to using ST [70].

The belief that ST is a gateway to smoking is based mainly on two longitudinal studies comparing subsequent smoking among adolescent ST users and non-users [68,71]. The first study, which used the 1989 Teenage Attitudes and Practices Survey and its 1993 follow-up, found that young males who used ST were significantly more likely to have become smokers at follow-up than non-users of tobacco (OR = 3.5, CI = 1.8 - 6.5) [68]. However, a subsequent analysis revealed that the earlier study did not take into account well-known psychosocial predictors of smoking initiation that were in the TAPS, including experimenting with smoking, below average school performance, household member smoking, depressive symptoms, fighting and motorcycle riding [72]. Inclusion of these variables into a multivariate model reduced the odds ratio of smoking among regular ST users to 1.7, which was not statistically significant. The investigators concluded that the earlier "analysis should not be used as reliable evidence that ST may be a starter product for cigarettes."

The second study found that 7th and 9th grade students who had used ST (in the past 30 days) were more likely than nonusers to be smoking two years later (OR = 2.6, 95% CI = 1.5 - 4.5), after controlling for smoking by family and friends, low grades, alcohol use and deviant behavior [71]. However, Timberlake et al. [73] have observed that regression analysis may not adequately control for imbalances in covariate distributions between ST users and nonusers. They analyzed data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health after propensity score matching and found that adolescent ST use was not associated with an increased risk of smoking in later adolescence or young adulthood [73].

In 2005 O'Connor et al. examined data from the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse to determine if ST use led to smoking. They described the impact of ST use on subsequent cigarette smoking initiation as "minimal at best," and they concluded that the association of ST use and smoking seen in other reports "is likely a manifestation of dual experimentation rather than a causal relationship." [74]

In 2010 Rodu and Cole investigated the gateway issue by analyzing data from the 2003-05-07 National Survey

on Drug Use and Health, which asked survey participants at what age they used cigarettes or smokeless for the first time [75]. Using this information, Rodu and Cole classified participants as cigarette initiators, ST initiators, or both, and they determined the prevalence of current smoking among these groups at the time of the survey. The analyses were restricted to white men age 18 years or over, and white boys aged 16 to 17 years, which are the groups most likely to have used ST.

The prevalence of current smoking among white men who were cigarette initiators was 35%. In comparison, the prevalence of smoking among ST initiators was only 28%, which was significantly lower (Prevalence ratio, PR = 0.80, CI = 0.77 - 0.84). The results for boys were even clearer. Current smoking among cigarette initiators was 43%, but only 18% of ST initiators smoked. This means that boys who had started with ST were less than half as likely to be smoking at the time of the survey (PR = 0.43, CI = 0.36 - 0.52).

Rodu and Cole concluded that "ST use has played virtually no role in smoking initiation among white men and boys, the demographic groups among which ST use is most prevalent. There is evidence that, compared with cigarette initiators, ST initiators are significantly less likely to smoke. This suggests that ST may play a protective role."

Despite the preponderance of the evidence, claims of a gateway effect persist, which prompted O'Connor et al. to note in 2005, "Continued evasion of the [harm reduction] issue based on claims that ST can cause smoking seems, to us, to be an unethical violation of the human right to honest, health-relevant information." [74]

C. Summary

It is now established that ST use is not a gateway to smoking in Sweden, nor in the U.S. In fact, there is evidence that the opposite is true: ST users may play a protective role against subsequent cigarette smoking.

VI. Dual Use of ST and Cigarettes

Dual use is the object of persistent complaints by opponents of THR. For example, in 2002 Henningfield et al. described the theoretical adverse consequences of dual use [76]. Despite their concerns, they acknowledged that "There are virtually no data that currently exist on the safety of such use or the degree to which such use will foster the perpetuation of smoking or contribute to reduced overall smoking...The issue warrants further study."

A. Evidence

In 2010 that study was completed by Frost-Pineda et al, who reviewed 17 published research studies that had data on the health risks from dual use versus those from

smoking [77]. Frost-Pineda and colleagues conclude that "...there are not any unique health risks associated with dual use of ST products and cigarettes, which are not anticipated or observed from cigarette smoking alone." The authors further commented that "some data indicate that the risks of dual use are lower than those of exclusive smoking."

Frost-Pineda et al. also reviewed longitudinal studies in the U.S. and Sweden to determine if dual users had a different trajectory of tobacco use and cessation than that of exclusive smokers. A 2002 study by Wetter et al. found that 11% of dual users were tobacco-abstinent after 4 years of follow-up, compared with 16% of exclusive smokers [69]. However, 80% of exclusive smokers were still smoking at the 4-year follow-up, while only 27% of dual users were smoking; 42% were still dual users and 17% were exclusive smokeless users.

Very similar results have been reported in longitudinal studies of dual users in Sweden. For example, Rodu et al. reported the follow-up tobacco status of men in northern Sweden who were either cigarette smokers or dual users when they enrolled in a population-based epidemiological study [78]. Among exclusive smokers followed for 5 years, 69% were still smoking, 4% were dual users, 7% used ST, and 19% were tobacco free; the respective percentages among dual users were 6%, 52%, 24%, and 18% [79]. Among smokers followed for 9 years, 51% were still smoking, 10% were dual users, 16% used ST, and 45% were tobacco free; the respective percentages among dual users were 4%, 44%, 41% and 11%. Among smokers followed for 13 years, 46% were still smoking, 7% were dual users, 12% used ST, and 36% were tobacco free; the respective percentages among dual users were 9%, 22%, 60%, and 9%.

Frost et al. concluded that, although dual users are less likely than exclusive smokers to be completely tobacco abstinent at follow-up, they are much less likely to be smoking.

B. Summary

In follow-up studies, dual users are less likely than exclusive smokers to achieve complete tobacco abstinence, but they are also less likely to be smoking. Follow-up studies also suggest that the health risks from dual use are lower than those from exclusive smoking.

VII. Electronic Cigarettes (E-cigarettes)

A. Introduction

E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that vaporize a mixture of water, propylene glycol, nicotine and flavorings. They are activated when the user inhales through the mouthpiece of the device. To date, most e-cigarettes and mixtures are manufactured in China.

E-cigarettes have been sold on the American market for several years. In 2008 and 2009, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) detained shipments being imported by two American distributors, Smoking Everywhere and NJOY, on the grounds that the items were unapproved drug-delivery devices. The distributors filed a lawsuit in federal district court, and in January 2010 Judge Richard J. Leon ruled that the FDA does not have the authority to regulate e-cigarettes in that manner [80]. Judge Leon ordered that "the FDA shall not detain or refuse admission into the United States of [Smoking Everywhere's and NJOY's] electronic cigarette products on the ground that those products are unapproved drugs, devices, or drug-device combinations."

The judge found that the 2009 "Tobacco Act applies to 'tobacco products,' which Congress defined expansively as 'any product made or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption'...Congress enacted the Tobacco Act to confer FDA jurisdiction over any tobacco product - whether traditional or not - that is sold for customary recreational use, as opposed to therapeutic use. As such, the Tobacco Act, in effect, serves as an implicit acknowledgment by Congress that FDA's jurisdiction over drugs and devices does not, and never did, extend to tobacco products, like electronic cigarettes, that are marketed in customary fashion for purely recreational purposes."

Finding that e-cigarettes, like all tobacco products, are subject to FDA oversight but fall outside of both drug and device categorization, Judge Leon characterized the FDA's attempt to apply pharmaceutical standards to e-cigarettes as "bootstrapping run amuck."

The FDA filed an appeal, and in January 2011 an appellate court affirmed Judge Leon's decision requiring the FDA to regulate e-cigarettes as tobacco products, rather than as drug-delivery devices. On April 25, 2011, the FDA accepted the appellate ruling. In an open letter published on the agency's website, Tobacco Center Director Lawrence R. Deyton and Drug Center Director Janet Woodcock acknowledged that e-cigarettes are tobacco products and would be subject to regulations under the 2009 Tobacco Act [81].

The FDA decision was a victory on several counts for American smokers and for public health. First, the FDA decision guarantees that e-cigarettes, which have helped many smokers quit, will remain on the market. Second, the Deyton Woodcock letter indicated that FDA regulation of e-cigarettes will subject them "to general controls, such as registration, product listing, ingredient listing, good manufacturing practice requirements, user fees for certain products, and the adulteration and misbranding provisions, as well as to the premarket review requirements for 'new tobacco products' and 'modified risk tobacco products.'" These requirements will

promote the marketing of safe and quality-controlled products. Finally, the decision could allow pharmaceutical companies to reposition nicotine medicines as recreational alternatives to cigarettes. Today, these products are sold with a therapeutic claim for smoking cessation, but they are expensive, unsatisfying and FDA-approved only for temporary use (10-12 weeks). That accounts for their dismal success rate among smokers. Pharmaceutical companies may enter the recreational nicotine market with products that satisfy smokers indefinitely and are cheap enough to compete directly with cigarettes. Clearly, the tobacco industry is poised to compete in this market - Reynolds American owns Nicotivum (here <http://www.nicotivum.se/>) and British American Tobacco recently formed Nicventures (here <http://www.nicventures.co.uk/>).

B. Scientific Studies of E-cigarettes

1. Clinical Studies

Cigarette smoke contains thousands of chemical agents in addition to nicotine. In comparison, e-cigarettes produce a vapor consisting primarily of water, propylene glycol, nicotine and flavorings. The ingredients themselves do not pose any significant health risks. Nicotine is one of the most intensively studied drugs in history; while it is highly addictive, it is not the primary cause of any of the diseases related to smoking. Propylene glycol is approved by the FDA for use in a large number of consumer products. It is sometimes vaporized, forming artificial smoke in theatrical and other productions. While brief exposure to propylene glycol vapor is not associated with any adverse health effects, there are no studies relating to long-term daily exposure.

Nevertheless, tobacco control activists have aggressively attacked these products. For example, in 2009 Dr. Jack Henningfield, a scientific adviser on tobacco to the WHO and an advisor to GlaxoSmithKline on pharmaceutical nicotine, called e-cigarettes "renegade products" for which "we have no scientific information." [82] He then stated that e-cigarettes "are not benign," although there was no explanation in his article of how he came to that conclusion in the absence of any scientific information. While it is true that there is a paucity of scientific studies pertaining to this new area, and that the discussion has become highly polarized, several reports have provided important information.

There has been almost no research conducted on the absorption of nicotine from e-cigarettes and its distribution across various anatomic sites, but a study of the pharmaceutical nicotine vapor inhaler is informative. In 1995 Bergström et al. asked smokers to use an inhaler containing radiolabeled nicotine by using shallow frequent "puffing" inhalations or deep "pulmonary" inhalations, and they measured nicotine uptake by positron

emission tomography (PET) [83]. They found that participants had about 45% of the inhaled nicotine in the oral cavity and pharynx, 10% in the esophagus (suggesting transfer from the oral cavity) and 8% in the respiratory tract. The rest of the nicotine was probably in sites that were not covered by the PET scan. No significant differences were noted between the types of inhalation. The results of this trial have important implications for e-cigarette users: they are probably absorbing nicotine mainly from the oral and pharyngeal mucosa.

In 1995 another study by Lucell et al. found that 80% of participants preferred shallower puffing for nicotine inhalers, and only 13% favored deeper inhalation [84]. They also observed that a placebo inhaler containing no nicotine resulted in partial suppression of some withdrawal symptoms such as irritability and difficulty in concentrating.

In 2010 Bullen et al. published the results of a cross-over clinical trial in which e-cigarettes containing 0 mg. and 16 mg. of nicotine were compared with a nicotine inhaler and own-brand cigarettes among 40 smokers who had been abstinent overnight [85]. Bullen et al. reported that 16 mg. e-cigarettes and the inhaler produced the same reduction in desire to smoke and other withdrawal symptoms. Both products produced modest elevations in peak blood nicotine (1.3 and 2.1 ng/ml respectively) that were much lower than that produced by cigarettes (13.4 ng/ml). Compared with inhalers, e-cigarettes resulted in significantly less frequent mouth and throat irritation (38% vs. 38%). Bullen et al. concluded that the tested e-cigarettes were "well tolerated, acceptable to most users, rated significantly more pleasant to use than the inhalator, and in the first hour exhibited a pharmacokinetic profile more like the inhalator than a tobacco cigarette, without excess adverse events. These findings suggest potential to help people stop smoking in the same way as a nicotine inhalator."

In 2010 Eissenberg used a controlled puffing regimen and compared two brands of e-cigarettes with own-brand cigarettes, measuring blood nicotine levels, heart rate and craving among 16 smokers abstinent for 12 hours [86]. He concluded that the e-cigarettes "delivered little to no nicotine," and the measured increases in blood nicotine were very similar to those from Bullen et al. In addition, Eissenberg found that e-cigarettes "suppressed craving less effectively," although both brands produced reductions, one of which was significant at a single time point. Later in 2010 the same research group included these results in an expanded trial that included 32 smokers, but the conclusions remained essentially the same [87].

In 2010 Trchounian et al. used a smoking machine to compare the puffing characteristics and smoke/aerosol densities of 4 brands of e-cigarettes, Liberty Stix,

Smoking Everywhere, NJOY and Crown Seven with those of combustible cigarettes [88]. They found that, except for Liberty Six, e-cigarettes required a much higher vacuum for puffing than commercial cigarettes; the vacuum required for the former brand was the lowest of all tested products. In addition, puff strength had to be increased as puff number increased. They also found considerable variation in the maximum number of puffs delivered by the products, which ranged from 177 (Smoking Everywhere) to 313 (NJOY).

Recent research documents that it is possible to deliver satisfying doses of nicotine via inhalation. In 2010 Rose et al. described a pilot study of vaporized nicotine pyruvate among nine overnight-abstinent smokers [89]. Rose et al. determined that nicotine pyruvate delivers more effective pulmonary doses than pure nicotine because vapor particle size is smaller (0.6 μm) than other nicotine inhalers, and the neutral pH of the solution is less irritating. Compared with placebo, nicotine pyruvate inhalation produced a sharp increase in plasma nicotine levels and was moderately satisfying to smokers. Rose et al. concluded that nicotine pyruvate "has promise as a potentially more effective form of nicotine replacement. The pharmacokinetic and subjective data demonstrated that this technology can be used to administer nicotine by the pulmonary route for rapid absorption, coupled with acceptable sensory qualities, to provide subjective satisfaction and relief of craving." They also commented about "long term nicotine replacement, to be used by smokers who would otherwise relapse to smoking; this approach would be analogous to methadone maintenance, which has been demonstrated to be an effective treatment of heroin addiction (reference omitted). In this harm reduction scenario, ex-smokers would continue to receive the perceived benefits of nicotine while minimizing the risk of disease from combustion and pyrolysis products, including nitrosamines, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and numerous other toxic substances contained in tobacco smoke."

2. Laboratory Studies

In 2008 Health New Zealand released the results of a comprehensive battery of laboratory tests on Ruyan e-cigarette liquid [90]. This organization found that cartridges contained TSNA's at trace levels, approximately 4 parts per billion. It evaluated mist samples for well characterized toxic agents in cigarette smoke. The samples did not contain detectable levels of 1,3-butadiene, acrolein, acrylonitrile, benzene, ethylene glycol, ethylene oxide and hydrogen cyanide. The following trace levels of other agents included (parts per million): acetaldehyde (0.34), acetone (0.16), formaldehyde (0.25), cresol (0.16), xylene (0.18) and styrene (0.29). Health New Zealand also found traces of some of the 34 polycyclic

aromatic hydrocarbons that it surveyed, but it found no detectable heavy metals.

On July 22, 2009, the FDA released the results of laboratory tests of e-cigarettes, which were conducted by the Division of Pharmaceutical Analysis at the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research [91]. In a press release, the FDA said: "These tests indicate that these products contained detectable levels of known carcinogens..."

The FDA analyzed 18 cartridges from two e-cigarette manufacturers, Smoking Everywhere and NJOY [91]. The FDA analyzed 14 products from Smoking Everywhere, but the agency only reported the TSNA levels for 7 of those products; it tested 3 out of 4 NJOY products. It is not clear why the FDA tested only half of the company's products for carcinogens, nor how did the agency chose the products. There are some clues in the report. First, the products that weren't tested simply had blank boxes in the results chart. A footnote says, "Open boxes indicate the sample was not available for testing." Another note in the methods section admitted that "...not all sample lots were available for analysis...as they were consumed in other testing." The FDA didn't purchase enough of the products to conduct the testing in a systematic and scientific manner.

What the FDA didn't test is even more important than what the agency tested. The report noted that the "Nicotrol Inhaler, 10 mg cartridge was used as a control for some test methods." That inhaler is a pharmaceutical nicotine product that is regulated by the FDA, but the agency didn't test the product for TSNA's. This is a critical omission, because it's been known for over 20 years that nicotine medications contain TSNA's [92].

Why did the FDA analyze e-cigarettes for carcinogens, when there is no evidence the agency ever conducted carcinogen studies of products that they have regulated for over 20 years? Is it possible that the FDA approved medicines that contained TSNA's, but the agency is now disapproving e-cigarettes because they contain the same contaminants? To answer these important questions, we have to know how high - or how low - the TSNA levels are in these products.

Unfortunately, the agency did not report TSNA levels. Instead, it reported that TSNA's were either "Detected" or "Not Detected," which is entirely inadequate. Many tobacco products have TSNA levels in the single-digit parts per million range, a level at which there is no scientific evidence that they are harmful [93]. According to the report, the FDA used an analytic method published in 2008 [94]. The report notes that "the published method is quite sensitive for the TSNA's..." and it goes on to explain that the level of detection is 40 parts per trillion. Thus, it seems that the FDA tested e-cigarette samples using a method that detects TSNA's at about 1

million times lower concentrations than are conceivably related to human health.

In summary, the FDA tested e-cigarettes for TSNAs using a questionable sampling regimen and using methods that were so sensitive that the results are highly unlikely to have any possible significance to users. The agency failed to report specific levels of these contaminants, and it has failed to conduct similar testing of nicotine medicines that have been sold in the U.S. for over 20 years.

C. Summary

E-cigarettes produce a vapor composed of water, propylene glycol and nicotine, so e-cigarette users are not exposed to the thousands of toxic agents formed when tobacco is burned. Although laboratory studies have detected trace concentrations of some contaminants, this appears to be a small problem that is amenable to improvements in quality control and manufacturing that are likely with FDA regulation as tobacco products. There is limited evidence from clinical trials that e-cigarettes deliver only small doses of nicotine compared with conventional cigarettes. However, e-cigarette use emulates successfully the cigarette handling rituals and cues of cigarette smoking, which produces suppression of craving and withdrawal that is not entirely attributable to nicotine delivery.

VIII. The Growing Global Discussion of Tobacco Harm Reduction

In 2006, ACSH concluded "that strong support of THR is fully consistent with its mission to promote sound science in regulation and in public policy, and to assist consumers in distinguishing real health threats from spurious health claims...there is a strong scientific and medical foundation for THR, which shows great potential as a public health strategy to help millions of smokers." [95]

It is ironic that vocal and enthusiastic calls to implement THR have come from tobacco experts in New Zealand and Australia, where ST is effectively banned. Writing in the *New Zealand Medical Journal* in 2007, Laugesen urged government action: "Added to the mountain of evidence against cigarettes, sufficient evidence now exists for [the New Zealand] government to use [S.C.] to create safer tobacco choices for smokers, end cigarette sales altogether, and thus end the cigarette smoking deaths epidemic - in which 200,000 New Zealanders have died so far." [96]

Australian researchers Coral Gartner and Wayne Hall made an interesting comparison between S.C. use and alcohol consumption in a 2007 *Public Library of Science Medicine* article: "On current evidence the health risks of [S.T.] are comparable to those of regular alcohol use

rather than cigarette smoking...If the goal of tobacco control is to reduce tobacco-related disease, rather than tobacco use per se, then the promotion of [S.T.] use by inveterate smokers is a promising public health policy." [97]

In 2008 Gartner and Hall criticized the provision of misinformation by public health authorities in the U.S. and Australia in the *Medical Journal of Australia*: "Public health authorities in Australia and the United States have also claimed that S.T. products 'are just as bad for your health as cigarettes.' The epidemiological evidence shows that this is untrue. Dissemination by governments of misinformation on the relative harms of [S.T.] creates scepticism and mistrust of public health messages. It is paternalistic to misinform smokers about the risks of S.T. products for fear of increasing population nicotine use. We think it is also unethical to deny smokers access to a product that may reduce their health risk while cigarettes are readily available and very few quit attempts succeed." [98]

In 2007 a landmark report was published by the Royal College of Physicians, one of the oldest and most prestigious medical societies in the world [99]. Its findings were unequivocal: "Compiled by leading experts in the field, this report makes the case for harm reduction strategies to protect smokers. It demonstrates that smokers smoke predominantly for nicotine, that nicotine itself is not especially hazardous, and that if nicotine could be provided in a form that is acceptable and effective as a cigarette substitute, millions of lives could be saved."

In 2007, Foulds and Kozlowski provided a global perspective: "Around a billion people are addicted to nicotine in deadly cigarettes and many have no immediate plans to quit. Young people will also continue to try dangerous and addictive products. We believe it is preferable that, if people become addicted to cigarettes or decide to try tobacco, they can use a product that is markedly less harmful than cigarettes...we should not delay in allowing [S.T.] to compete with cigarettes for market share, and we should be prepared to accurately inform smokers about the relative risks of cigarettes, [S.T.], and approved smoking cessation medications. In light of all the available evidence, the banning or exaggerated opposition to [S.T.] in cigarette-use environments is not sound public health policy." [100]

In 2008, Britton and Edwards lamented the lack of progress against smoking and urged governments to incorporate THR into tobacco regulatory frameworks: "In the 50 years since the health risks of smoking first became widely recognized, the political and public health responses to smoking at national and international levels have been grossly inadequate...A logical harm reduction approach for the millions of smokers who are unlikely to achieve complete abstinence...is to

- cigarettes [http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/Research/UCM173250.pdf].
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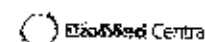


EXHIBIT 2

Original Article

Electronic cigarettes as a harm reduction strategy for tobacco control: A step forward or a repeat of past mistakes?

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Abstract The issue of harm reduction has long been controversial in the public health practice of tobacco control. Health advocates have been reluctant to endorse a harm reduction approach out of fear that tobacco companies cannot be trusted to produce and market products that will reduce the risks associated with tobacco use. Recently, companies independent of the tobacco industry introduced electronic cigarettes, devices that deliver vaporized nicotine without combusting tobacco. We review the existing evidence on the safety and efficacy of electronic cigarettes. We then revisit the tobacco harm reduction debate, with a focus on these novel products. We conclude that electronic cigarettes show tremendous promise in the fight against tobacco-related morbidity and mortality. By dramatically expanding the potential for harm reduction strategies to achieve substantial health gains, they may fundamentally alter the tobacco harm reduction debate.

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Keywords: electronic cigarette; harm reduction; nicotine regulation; tobacco control

Introduction

Harm reduction is a framework for public health policy that focuses on reducing the harmful consequences of recreational drug use without necessarily reducing or eliminating the use itself.¹ Whereas harm reduction policies have been widely adopted



for illicit drug use (for example, needle exchange programs²) and alcohol use (for example, designated driver programs³), they have not found wide support in tobacco control. Many within the tobacco control community have embraced nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) and other pharmaceutical products, but these products are designed as cessation strategies rather than recreational alternatives. Recently, however, a new product that does not fit neatly into any previous category has entered the nicotine market: the electronic cigarette. Electronic cigarettes do not contain tobacco, but they are recreational nicotine devices and the user closely mimics the act of smoking. Thus, they are neither tobacco products nor cessation devices. The novel potential of electronic cigarettes warrants revisiting the harm reduction debate as it applies to these products.

In this article, we first explain what electronic cigarettes are and why they are difficult to categorize. Second, we examine the available evidence concerning the safety and efficacy of electronic cigarettes. Then, we review the most common arguments made against harm reduction in the tobacco control literature, followed by an analysis of each of these arguments in light of the recent emergence of electronic cigarettes. Finally, we identify conclusions from this analysis and their implications for the public health practice of tobacco control.

What are Electronic Cigarettes and Why are They Novel?

Electronic cigarettes are hand-held devices that deliver nicotine to the user through the battery-powered vaporization of a nicotine/propylene-glycol solution. The act of 'smoking' an electronic cigarette is called 'vaping' and it mimics smoking; but, there is no combustion and the user inhales vapor, not smoke. Although the nicotine is derived from tobacco, electronic cigarettes contain no tobacco. Theoretically, we would expect *vaping* to be less harmful than smoking as it delivers nicotine without the thousands of known and unknown toxicants in tobacco smoke. Moreover, a product that mimics the act of smoking, in addition to delivering nicotine, can address both pharmacologic and behavioral components of cigarette addiction. Electronic cigarettes are not manufactured or distributed by the tobacco industry or by the



pharmaceutical industry. Hundreds of small distributors market them over the internet and in shopping mall kiosks. They have been on the market in the United States for more than 3 years and have become increasingly popular.

Review of Evidence Regarding the Safety of Electronic Cigarettes

As ~5300 of the estimated 10000–100000 chemicals in cigarette smoke have ever been identified,⁴ we already have more comprehensive knowledge of the chemical constituents of electronic cigarettes than tobacco ones. We were able to identify 16 studies^{2–17} that have characterized, quite extensively, the components contained in electronic cigarette liquid and vapor using gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS) (Table 1). These studies demonstrate that the primary components of electronic cigarette cartridges are propylene glycol (PG), glycerin, and nicotine. Of the other chemicals identified, the FDA has focused on potential health hazards associated with two: tobacco-specific nitrosamines (TSNAs) and diethylene glycol (DEG).⁵

TSNAs have been detected in two studies at trace levels.^{5,6} The maximum level of total TSNAs reported was 8.2 ng/g.⁶ This compares with a similar level of 8.0 ng in a nicotine patch, and it is orders of magnitude lower than TSNA levels in regular cigarettes.¹⁸ Table 2 shows that electronic cigarettes contain only 0.07–0.2 per cent of the TSNAs present in cigarettes, a 500-fold to 1400-fold reduction in concentration. The presence of DEG in one of the 18 cartridges studied by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is worrisome, yet none of the other 15 studies found any DEG. The use of a non-pharmaceutical grade of PG may explain this contamination.

Other than TSNAs and DEG, few, if any, chemicals at levels detected in electronic cigarettes raise serious health concerns. Although the existing research does not warrant a conclusion that electronic cigarettes are safe in absolute terms and further clinical studies are needed to comprehensively assess the safety of electronic cigarettes, a preponderance of the available evidence shows them to be much safer than tobacco cigarettes and comparable in toxicity to conventional nicotine replacement products.

Table 1: Laboratory studies of the components in and safety of electronic cigarettes⁵⁻¹²

Study	Brand tested	Main findings
Evaluation of e-cigarettes (FDA laboratory report) ⁵	NJOY, Smoking Everywhere	"Very low levels" of tobacco-specific nitrosamines (TSNAs) were detected in 5 of 10 cartridges tested. Diethylene glycol (DEG) was detected about 0.1% in 1 of 18 cartridges tested.
Safety Report on the Ruyan e-Cigarette Cartridge and Inhaled Aerosol ⁶	Ruyan	Trace levels of TSNAs were detected in the cartridge liquid. The average level of TSNAs was 3.9 ng/cartridge, with a maximum level of 8.2 ng/cartridge. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon carcinogens found in cigarette smoke were not detectable in cartridge liquid. No heavy metals detected. Exhaled carbon monoxide levels did not increase in smokers after use of the e-cigarette. The study concluded that e-cigarettes are very safe relative to cigarettes and safe in absolute terms on all measurements applied.
Ruyan E-cigarette Bench-top Tests ⁷	Ruyan	None of the 50 priority-listed cigarette smoke toxicants were detected. Toxic emissions score for e-cigarette was 0, compared to 100-134 for regular cigarettes.
Characterization of Liquid "Smoke Juice" for Electronic Cigarettes ⁸	Liberty S.A.	No compounds detected via gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS) of electronic cigarette cartridges or vapors other than propylene glycol (99.1% in vapor), glycerin (0.46%), and nicotine (0.44%).
Analysis of Components from Gamucci Electronic Cigarette Cartridges, Tobacco Flavour Regular Smoking Liquid ⁹	Gamucci	GC-MS detected propylene glycol (77.5%), glycerin (14.0%), nicotine (8.5%), and cyclotene hydrate (0.08%) in e-cigarette liquid. Levels of cyclotene hydrate were not believed to be of concern.
Analysis of Components from Gamucci Electronic Cigarette Cartridges, Tobacco Flavour Light Smoking Liquid ¹⁰	Gamucci	GC-MS detected propylene glycol (80.2%), glycerin (14.4%), and nicotine (5.3%) in e-cigarette liquid. No other compounds detected.

Analysis of Components from Gamucci Electronic Cigarette Cartridges, Ultra Light Smoking Liquid ⁹	Gamucci	GC-MS detected propylene glycol (85.5%), glycerin (11.1%), and nicotine (1.4%) in e-cigarette liquid. No other compounds detected.
Analysis of Components from Gamucci Electronic Cigarette Cartridges, Tobacco Flavour Zero, Smoking Liquid ⁹	Gamucci	GC-MS detected propylene glycol (84.5%), glycerin (7.6%), 1,3-bis(3-phenoxyphenoxy)Benzene (7.6%), 3-Isopropoxy-1,1,1,7,7,7-hexamethyl-5,5,5-tris(trimethylsilyloxy)tetrahydro-2H-pyridine (0.77%), and α , β , γ -tris(trimethylsilyloxy)Benzeneacetic acid (0.39%) in e-cigarette liquid. No other compounds were detected. 1,3-bis(3-phenoxyphenoxy) Benzene is non-hazardous. The other two chemicals have an unknown safety profile, but are present at nominally low levels.
NJOY e Cigarette Health Risk Assessment ¹¹	NJOY	The vapor constituents detected were propylene glycol, glycerin, nicotine, acetaldehyde, 1-methoxy-2-propanol, 1-hydroxy-2-propanone, acetic acid, 1-menthone, 2,3-butanediol, menthol, carvone, maple lactone, benzyl alcohol, 2-methyl-2-pentanone acid, ethyl malonol, ethyl cinnamate, myosamine, benzoic acid, 2,3-bipyridine, cotinine, hexadecanoic acid, and 1,1-oxobis-2-propanol. No TSNA, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or other tobacco smoke toxicants were detected. On the basis of the amounts of these components present and an examination of the risk profile of these compounds, the report concludes that the only significant side effect expected would be minor throat irritation resulting from the acetaldehyde.
Characterization of Regal Cartridges for Electronic Cigarettes ¹¹	inLife	No DEG was detected in the cartridge liquid or vapors.
Characterization of Regal Cartridges for Electronic Cigarettes – Phase II ¹²	inLife	No TSNA were detected in the e-cigarette liquid (limit of detection was 20 ppb).





Study	Brand tested	Main findings
Analysis of Components from "e-juice" XX High (36 mg/ml e-liquid) Nicotine Solution ¹² ref S33434	e-juice	GC-MS detected propylene glycol (51.2%), 1,3-bis(3-phenoxy)phenylbenzene (10.2%), glycerin (13.0%), nicotine (1.0%), vanillin (1.2%), ethanol (0.4%), and 3-cyclohexeno-2-methylol, 4-(4-(1-dimethyl)phenyl)phenol (0.4%). No other compounds detected. 1,3-bis(3-phenoxy)phenylbenzene is not hazardous. Vanillin and 3-cyclohexeno-2-methylol, 4-(4-(1-dimethyl)phenyl)phenol have unknown safety profiles.
Analysis of Chemical Components from High, Med, & Low Nicotine Cigarettes ¹⁴	The Electronic Cigarette Company (TKI)	The compounds detected by GC-MS were propylene glycol, water, ethanol, ethanal, nitrobenzene, and thiacetone. Thiacetone is not known to be hazardous. No other compounds were detected.
Chemical Composition of "Inhaled" Electronic Cigarette Smoke Juice and Vapor ¹⁵	Inhaled	No DFG was detected in e-cigarette liquid or vapor for the two products tested.
Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) Analysis Report ¹⁶	Not specified	GC-MS detected propylene glycol, glycerin, nicotine, caffeine, tetra-ethylene glycol, glyridol, methyl pyridine, pyridine, methyl pyrimidinyl, benzofuran, and hexadecanoic acid in the e-cigarette liquid.
Super Smoker Report ¹⁷	Super Smoker	GC-MS detected propylene glycol, glycerin, nicotine, ethanol, acetone, ethyl acetate, acetaldehyde, isobutyraldehyde, essential oils, and 2-methyl butanal in the e-cigarette liquid. No other compounds were detected.

Table 1 continued

Table 2: Maximum tobacco-specific nitrosamine levels* in various cigarettes and nicotine-delivery products (ng/g, except for nicotine gum and patch that are µg/patch or ng/gum piece)^c

Product	NNN	NNK	NAT	NAB	Total
Nicorette gum (4 mg) ¹⁸	2.00	ND	ND	ND	2.00
NicoDerm CQ patch (4 mg) ¹⁸	ND	8.00	ND	ND	8.00
Electronic cigarettes ⁶	3.87	1.46	2.16	0.69	8.18
Swedish snus ¹⁸	980	780	790	60	2010
Winston (full) ¹⁵	2200	580	560	25	3365
Newport (full) ¹⁵	1100	830	1900	53	3883
Marlboro (extra-light) ¹⁸	2900	750	1100	58	4808
Camel (full) ¹⁷	2500	900	1700	91	5191
Marlboro (full) ¹⁸	2900	960	2300	100	6260
Skoal (long cut straight) ¹⁸	4300	470	4700	220	9290

*The concentrations here represent nanograms (ng) of toxin detected in 1 mg or 16-mg multi-dose cartridge (which contains approximately 1 µg of e-liquid). They are compared to the amount of toxin contained in approximately one tobacco cigarette (approximately 1 mg of tobacco) or one unit of nicotine replacement product.

Abbreviations: NNN=1-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)- γ -butanone; NNK=N-nitroso- α -nicotine; NAT=N-nitrosoanatabine; NAB=N-nitrosoarabasine.

ND: Not detected.

Review of Evidence about the Effectiveness of Electronic Cigarettes in Smoking Cessation

No studies have measured directly the effectiveness of electronic cigarettes in helping smokers cease smoking. Two published studies have examined the effectiveness of the product by measuring their effect on cravings and other short-term indicators. We summarize them briefly in Table 3.^{19,20} Bullen *et al*¹⁹ demonstrated that electronic cigarettes deliver nicotine effectively, more rapidly than a nicotine inhaler. In this study, electronic cigarette use significantly reduced craving, a similar effect to what was observed with a nicotine inhaler. Nicotine delivery and reduction in cigarette craving was much less than with a regular cigarette. Bissenberg²⁰ found that 10 puffs on one brand of electronic cigarettes delivered a small amount of nicotine, again far less than a tobacco cigarette, whereas another brand delivered little to none. The first brand was able to significantly reduce cigarette craving.

Taken together, this evidence suggests that electronic cigarettes are capable of reducing cigarette craving, but that the effect is not due exclusively to nicotine. Bullen *et al* observe that ‘the reduction in

Table 3: Studies of the effectiveness of electronic cigarettes in reducing cigarette craving and other nicotine withdrawal symptoms.^{9,20}

<i>Study</i>	<i>Brands tested</i>	<i>Summary of findings</i>
Effect of an E-Cigarette on Cravings and Withdrawal, Acceptability and Nicotine Delivery: Randomized Cross-Over Trial ¹⁹	Ruyan	The 16 mg electronic cigarette delivered nicotine more rapidly than a nicotine inhaler, but less rapidly than cigarettes. Electronic cigarette use significantly reduced craving, but less than cigarettes. The reduction of craving was similar to that observed with the nicotine inhaler. The electronic cigarettes produced fewer minor side effects than the nicotine inhaler.
Electronic Nicotine Delivery Devices: Ineffective Nicotine Delivery and Craving Suppression after Acute Administration. ²⁰	NJOY and Crown Seven	After 10 puffs on an electronic cigarette, one of the two brands tested significantly reduced the craving for a cigarette. Nicotine delivery was found to be minimal.

desire to smoke in the first 10 min[utes] of [electronic cigarette] use appears to be independent of nicotine absorption' (p. 100).¹⁹ The sizable craving reduction achieved by the 'placebo' – a nicotine-free electronic cigarette – demonstrates the ability of physical stimuli to suppress cravings independently.¹⁹ Many studies have established the ability of *denicotinized* cigarettes to provide craving relief.^{21,22} Barrett²¹ found that denicotinized cigarettes reduce cravings more than a *nicotinized* inhaler, supporting Buchhalter *et al's*²² conclusion that although some withdrawal symptoms can be treated effectively with NRT, others, such as intense cravings, respond better to smoking-related stimuli.

Although more research is needed before we will know how effective electronic cigarettes are at achieving smoking abstinence, there is now sufficient evidence to conclude that these products are at least capable of suppressing the urge to smoke. There is also reason to believe that they offer an advantage over traditional nicotine delivery devices '[t]o the extent that non-nicotine, smoking-related stimuli alone can suppress tobacco abstinence symptoms indefinitely' (p. 556).²²



The Most Common Arguments against Harm Reduction

Our review of the existing literature identified five primary arguments against harm reduction as a tobacco control strategy. These arguments explain why, in the past, harm reduction has not been accepted as a tobacco control strategy.

Promotion of safer alternatives will inhibit smoking cessation/prevention efforts

The core fear is that smokers who might otherwise have quit smoking altogether will instead become addicted to another harmful product. In addition, a product that reduces harm to the individual may attract new, nonsmoking users, and thus undermine efforts to prevent tobacco use.²³

Skepticism about the role of combusted products in harm reduction

The argument here, based on numerous related concerns, is that the combustion of tobacco produces inherently dangerous exposures and thus the search for a 'safer' cigarette is futile. It is impossible to assess the risks of a new product using machine measured delivery of smoke constituents, because there is no good way to simulate actual smoking behavior.²³ We cannot, moreover, easily infer human risk from chemical measurements because no reliable toxicity indices exist.²⁴ A widespread school of thought in tobacco control holds that the very nature of tobacco combustion precludes safer cigarettes, and therefore attempts to develop them should be abandoned.²⁵

Alternatives promoted as safer may prove more dangerous, or they may be equally dangerous, leading to false or unsupported claims and to the misleading of the public

Experience with potentially reduced exposure products in the past has revealed that products promoted by the tobacco industry as potentially safer have ended up either not being safer or resulted in increased toxicant exposures.²³ In particular, a broad consensus within the public health community holds that 'light' cigarettes

misled consumers into thinking that they were being exposed to lower levels of toxic chemicals.²⁶ Smokers ended up compensating for the reduced nicotine in 'lights' by smoking with greater frequency and intensity, resulting in higher exposures than originally reported.²³

NRT has not been effective, meaning that harm reduction equals harm maintenance

Pierce²⁷ argued that using NRT for tobacco harm reduction is, in fact, harm maintenance because NRT is so ineffective that it essentially ensures that Big Tobacco (the large tobacco industry companies) will not lose its customers. Smokers simply do not like products that merely deliver nicotine, and therefore 'we should not assume that smokers would be willing and able to substitute a nicotine maintenance product for their cigarette smoking' (p. S54).

Big Tobacco cannot be trusted to develop and market a safer tobacco alternative

The final argument is that the tobacco companies, based on their history of lies and deception, simply cannot be trusted to develop and market a safer tobacco alternative.²⁸ Fairchild and Colgrove²⁸ make a related point, that 'prioritizing the reduction of harm, however great or minimal, may necessitate some level of cooperation with the tobacco industry and will *certainly prove lucrative for it*' (our emphasis added, p. 207). Thus, tobacco harm reduction will necessarily benefit the tobacco industry regardless of what else might be achieved.

Analysis of Arguments in Light of the Emergence of Electronic Cigarettes

With the emergence of electronic cigarettes, the harm reduction debate in tobacco control has changed. We now address the five major arguments against harm reduction in light of the emergence of electronic cigarettes.



Promotion of safer alternatives will inhibit smoking cessation/prevention efforts

In contrast to reduced risk cigarettes or smokeless tobacco products, electronic cigarettes are not tobacco products. Thus, switching to electronic cigarettes is not an alternative to smoking cessation, but rather a form of smoking cessation akin to long-term use of NRT. Moreover, because 'low absolute abstinence rates suggest that nicotine alone may not be sufficient to suppress ... abstinence symptoms effectively' (p. 551),²² higher abstinence rates are likely to obtain from a product that better addresses these symptoms. Crucially, electronic cigarettes could entice smokers who were not otherwise inclined, to attempt to quit. Although the use of electronic cigarettes by nonsmokers is a theoretical concern, there is no existing evidence that youths or nonsmokers are using the product. Regulations can address the sale and marketing of these products to minors.

Skepticism about the role of combusted products in harm reduction

Electronic cigarettes, such as NRT, are not tobacco products and no combustion takes place.

Alternatives promoted as safer may actually be equally or more dangerous

Thus far, none of the more than 10 000 chemicals present in tobacco smoke,⁴ including over 40 known carcinogens, has been shown to be present in the cartridges or vapor of electronic cigarettes in anything greater than trace quantities. No one has reported adverse effects, although this product has been on the market for more than 3 years. Still, the FDA struck a more ominous tone in its July 2009 press release, warning of the presence of carcinogens at 'detectable' levels.²⁹ Yet it failed to mention that the levels of these carcinogens was similar to that in NRT products (Table 2). Whereas electronic cigarettes cannot be considered safe, as there is no threshold for carcinogenesis, they are undoubtedly safer than tobacco cigarettes.

NRT is unappealing and ineffective

Pharmaceutical products for dispensing nicotine are unappealing ‘by design’ (p. 5123)³⁰ to avoid ‘abuse-liability’.³⁰ Electronic cigarettes, on the other hand, were designed with the express purpose of replicating the act of smoking, without using tobacco.³¹ An investment newsletter reports that demand thus far has been explosive.³² Intense consumer interest in electronic cigarettes has already spawned a vibrant online community of ‘vapers’ who compare and contrast the performance of various brands and models according to their durability, battery life, thickness of vapor, and other criteria.³³ No non-tobacco nicotine product has heretofore elicited such dedication among its users, suggesting the rare promise of the electronic cigarette as a smoking cessation tool.

Big Tobacco cannot be trusted

Electronic cigarettes are not tobacco products and not produced by tobacco companies. They were invented in Beijing by a Chinese pharmacist Hon Lik, whose employer, Golden Dragon Holdings, ‘was so inspired that it changed its name to Ruyan (meaning “like smoke”) and started selling abroad’.³¹ Rather than being helpful to cigarette makers, electronic cigarettes compete directly against them.³² Thus David Swenor, adjunct law professor specializing in tobacco control issues at the University of Ottawa, says they are ‘exactly what the tobacco companies have been afraid of all these years’.³¹

Conclusion

Tobacco cigarettes are the leading cause of disease in the United States, which is why the ‘primary goal of tobacco control is to reduce mortality and morbidity associated with tobacco use’ (p. 326).²³ Electronic cigarettes are designed to mitigate tobacco-related disease by reducing cigarette consumption and smoking rates. The evidence reviewed in this article suggests that electronic cigarettes are a much safer alternative to tobacco cigarettes. They are likely to improve upon the efficacy of traditional pharmacotherapy for smoking cessation.

In light of this evidence, it is unfortunate that in the United States, the American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, American



Heart Association, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Action on Smoking and Health, American Legacy Foundation, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence have all issued statements supporting FDA efforts to take them off the US market.³⁴ In the United States, the courts will ultimately determine whether the FDA has the legal authority to do this, but we question the ethical and health policy merits of this approach.

Do products with established user bases warrant a different regulatory approach than entirely new products? This would seem to follow from consistent application of the principal of nonmaleficence – ‘do no harm.’ Products yet to enter the market have only *potential* beneficiaries, people who can only speculate about what the precise therapeutic effects of the product will be for them. In contrast, products already on the market have users who may already be deriving benefits. By definition, enacting a ban will harm current users, unless the evidence suggests that the harms outweigh the benefits *for those already using the product*. The burden of proof is on the regulatory agency to demonstrate that the product is unreasonably dangerous for its intended use.

How does this principle apply to electronic cigarettes? For the many vapers who report using them in place of cigarettes,³³ the benefits of the product are readily observable, already established. Simply demonstrating that electronic cigarettes are ‘not safe’ may not be sufficient grounds to ban them. Unless the evidence suggests that vaping does not yield the anticipated *reduction* in harm to the user, enacting an electronic cigarette prohibition will do harm to hundreds of thousands of vapers already using electronic cigarettes in place of tobacco ones – a clear violation of nonmaleficence.

The essential rationale for the FDA’s pre-market approval process – to keep dangerous products out of the marketplace – may not easily extend to new nicotine products because a range of extraordinarily deadly nicotine products is already grandfathered into the market. This has led to an awkward nicotine regulatory structure where dirty tobacco products face few barriers to market entry whereas cleaner products are subject to oft onerous hurdles. The FDA contends that they can and should regulate electronic cigarettes as ‘drug-device combinations’ that are required to meet stringent Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) safety standards. The FDA reasons that

electronic cigarettes do not qualify for the usual exemption from FDCA standards afforded to most other recreational nicotine products because ‘much less is known about the safety of E-Cigarettes’ and ‘it may be possible for E-Cigarettes ... to satisfy the FDCA’s safety, effectiveness, and labeling requirements and obtain FDA approval’ (p. 26).³⁵ Ironically, the only nicotine products exempted from FDCA safety requirements are those that are too obviously harmful to have any chance of meeting these requirements. Litigation presently before the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia may ultimately determine whether the FDA can legally regulate electronic cigarettes as drug-device combinations.³⁶ Regardless of the court’s decision, we believe a better regulatory approach would not actively discourage producers of harm reduction products.

Fairchild and Colgrove³⁸ conclude that ‘the later history of tobacco industry deception and manipulation was an important factor contributing to the erosion of public health support for harm reduction’ (p. 207). With entrenched skepticism toward harm reduction now manifested as deep cynicism about electronic cigarettes – a distinct product that actually *does* reduce risk and threatens cigarette makers – the tobacco industry is ironically benefiting from its own past duplicity. The push to ban electronic cigarettes may repeat the mistakes of the past in the name of avoiding them. Regulatory policy for electronic cigarettes and other novel nicotine products must be guided by an accurate understanding of how they compare to tobacco cigarettes and NRT in terms of reducing toxic exposures and helping individual smokers quit.

About the Authors

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EXHIBIT 3



Effect of an electronic nicotine delivery device (e cigarette) on desire to smoke and withdrawal, user preferences and nicotine delivery: randomised cross-over trial

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Effect of an electronic nicotine delivery device (e cigarette) on desire to smoke and withdrawal, user preferences and nicotine delivery: randomised cross-over trial

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ABSTRACT

Objectives To measure the short-term effects of an electronic nicotine delivery device ('e cigarette', ENDD) on desire to smoke, withdrawal symptoms, acceptability, pharmacokinetic properties and adverse effects.

Design Single blind randomised repeated measures cross-over trial of the Ruyan V8 ENDD.

Setting University research centre in Auckland, New Zealand

Participants 40 adult dependent smokers of 10 or more cigarettes per day.

Interventions Participants were randomised to use ENDDs containing 16 mg nicotine or 0 mg capsules, Nicorette nicotine inhalator or their usual cigarette on each of four study days 3 days apart, with overnight smoking abstinence before use of each product.

Main outcome measures The primary outcome was change in desire to smoke, measured as 'area under the curve' on an 11-point visual analogue scale before and at intervals over 1 h of use. Secondary outcomes included withdrawal symptoms, acceptability and adverse events. In nine participants, serum nicotine levels were also measured.

Results Over 60 min, participants using 16 mg ENDD recorded 0.82 units less desire to smoke than the placebo ENDD ($p=0.006$). No difference in desire to smoke was found between 16 mg ENDD and inhalator. ENDDs were more pleasant to use than inhalator ($p=0.016$) and produced less irritation of mouth and throat ($p<0.001$). On average, the ENDD increased serum nicotine to a peak of 1.3 mg/ml in 19.6 min, the inhalator to 2.1 mg/ml in 32 min and cigarettes to 13.4 mg/ml in 14.3 min.

Conclusions The 16 mg Ruyan V8 ENDD alleviated desire to smoke after overnight abstinence, was well tolerated and had a pharmacokinetic profile more like the Nicorette inhalator than a tobacco cigarette. Evaluation of the ENDD for longer-term safety, potential for long-term use and efficacy as a cessation aid is needed.

Trial registration No. 12627863587434, Australia and New Zealand Clinical Trials Register

Nicotine replacement therapies (NRTs) are safe and effective aids for smoking cessation¹; however, they remain underutilised.² To widen their appeal to smokers, a variety of effective NRTs and cigarette smoking alternatives are needed. In 2004, a Beijing-based company, Ruyan Group (Holdings) Ltd, China, patented and launched an electronic nicotine delivery device (ENDD) or 'e-cigarette',³ a battery-powered device resembling a cigarette that contains

a microelectrical circuit activated by drawing on the mouthpiece. With each puff, a small amount of nicotine propylene glycol solution contained in replaceable cartridges is heated and vapourised, to create a visible mist without smoke or flame. Manufacturers now export a growing number and variety of these devices to industrialised countries. People report buying them to help quit smoking, to reduce cigarette consumption and costs, to relieve tobacco withdrawal symptoms due to workplace smoking restrictions, or as a replacement for cigarette smoking.¹

Although ENDD use has not been comprehensively studied, to our knowledge, no deaths or hospitalisations from ENDD use have been reported. Analyses of emissions of the Ruyan V8 ENDD suggest a low risk of toxicity (M Laugesen, 2009, TC2009/034865, submitted). The risk of impurities in the cartridge liquid is, however, of concern to the US Food and Drug Administration,⁴ and there is a lack of internationally certified manufacturing sites. Regulators also lack data on the ability of ENDDs to relieve the desire to smoke cigarettes and to suppress other tobacco withdrawal symptoms. Study designs that assess change in subjective withdrawal symptoms have been used to evaluate the utility of other novel nicotine delivery devices.⁵⁻⁸ Using such an approach, this study compared the Ruyan V8 ENDD containing 16 mg nicotine cartridges to one containing 0 mg cartridges (identical in appearance and in chemistry but lacking nicotine), Nicorette nicotine inhalator and usual cigarettes. We measured change in desire to smoke, withdrawal symptoms, product preferences, serum nicotine levels and adverse events after 1 day's use.

METHODS

Participants

Participants were recruited from the local community in Auckland, New Zealand, between January 2008 and February 2008. They were assessed via an initial telephone call for eligibility (aged between 18 and 70 years, smoked 10 or more factory-made cigarettes per day for at least the past year, smoked their first cigarette of the day within 60 min of waking, and were not currently attempting to quit smoking or wishing to do so in the next 30 days). Eligible participants were invited to visit the study centre at The University of Auckland to give written informed consent, complete a questionnaire asking about demographic and smoking

characteristics and undergo screening (medical history, blood pressure, heart rate and urinalysis for glucose). We excluded people who reported recent myocardial infarction, angina pectoris or other serious medical conditions (diabetes mellitus, severe allergies, poorly controlled asthma or other airways disease, poorly controlled psychiatric disorders or current chemical dependence other than nicotine) and pregnancy (confirmed by positive urinary dipstick for β HCG), breast feeding, blood pressure >180 mm Hg systolic and/or 100 mm Hg diastolic, weight <45 or >120 kg, or current use of any other smoking cessation medications. At this time, we invited all participants to indicate if they were also willing to give venous blood samples for analysis of nicotine.

Study medication

Ruyan VS ENDDs supplied by the manufacturer, Ruyan Group (Holdings) Ltd, are pen-shaped devices that include a rechargeable lithium ion battery, an electronic circuit, a vaporiser, a replaceable cartridge and a mouthpiece. The cartridge labelled 16 mg contains 1.06 g of liquid comprising 3.8% water, 1.4% nicotine, 87.7% propylene glycol and 0.1% glycol (*M Laugesen, 2009, TC2009/054355, submitted*). Participants randomised to a day using the ENDD were asked to puff the device as they would their usual cigarette for 5 min. After the first hour, they left the study centre and used the device as required for a further 8 h before returning to complete the rating scales. We charged all batteries 2 weeks before the study and between each day of use to ensure they would operate as intended. Nicorette inhalators (manufactured at the time of the study by Pfizer Health AB, Helsingborg, Sweden) were purchased commercially. When participants used the inhalator, we gave them a blister pack of six inhalator cartridges, each containing 10 mg of nicotine for inhalation, with instructions to puff on the inhalator over 20 min in the first hour. Thereafter, they were instructed to use it freely, preferably hourly, up to a maximum of six cartridges over the day, as recommended by the manufacturer,⁹ before returning to the study centre. When randomised to smoke their usual cigarettes, participants did so over the first 5 min in the first hour, then freely as they wished.

Sample size

Based on a previous study,¹⁰ we estimated 48 participants would be needed to detect a one-point difference in desire to smoke on an 11-point (0–10) scale measured at 20 min, for the comparison between the 16 and 0 mg ENDD, assuming a within participant SD of the response variable of 1.5 points and statistical power of 90% at a two-sided significance level of 5%.

Procedures

Participants were requested to abstain from smoking and alcohol from 20:00 on the night before each study day and from food and caffeine for at least 1 h before the session. On arrival at the study centre, carbon monoxide (CO) was measured in participants' expired breath using a Bedfont Smokelyser.¹¹ If CO was ≤ 15 parts per million (ppm), the assigned study treatment was allocated; however, if CO was >15 ppm or they reported smoking in the previous 12 h, participants were rescheduled wherever possible to a subsequent session. On the first study day, participants were randomised to use one of four different products: ENDDs containing nicotine (16 mg) or placebo (0 mg) capsules, Nicorette nicotine inhalator or their usual cigarette. Allocation was performed using a random sequence of four codes, each corresponding to one product, prepared in advance by the study statistician using the Latin square method to

control for time effects. Participants and investigators were blinded only to assignment to the ENDD condition (16 or 0 mg), and it was not possible to change the order of treatment allocation. Participants sat at desks in a room where they completed ratings of desire to smoke and other withdrawal symptoms 15 and 5 min before using their allocated product (these ratings were later averaged to provide baseline ratings). They rinsed their mouth with water (to equalise oral pH) and took their first dose at 08:30. When allocated to smoke their usual cigarettes, participants did so outside (required by law); however, when allocated to the ENDDs, participants used them indoors. Ratings were made at 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 and 60 min counting from the first puff on each product. Participants then left the study centre with instructions to continue their usual daily activities but not to smoke (unless in the usual cigarette group) and to use the study product regularly and freely throughout the day. They returned at 17:30 for CO measurement, to report product use including adverse events and the number of any cigarettes smoked, rate the degree of satisfaction and usefulness, and to return the remaining study product. Participants were allowed to smoke as they wished once these measures were collected and during the 3-day washout period between each study day. On the day allocated for using their own cigarette, participants did not take part in evening measurements.

A subset of participants gave venous blood samples for analysis of plasma nicotine concentrations. In this group, in addition to the procedures described above, on each study day, medical staff inserted an 18-gauge butterfly needle in a non-dominant forearm vein and withdrew 5-ml blood samples at baseline, then at 5, 10, 15, 30 and 60 min after initial dosing. Blood samples were held in vacuum tubes in a temperature-monitored cool box maintained between 0°C and 6°C and at the end of each study session were transported to a local laboratory for separation. The plasma fraction was frozen before being shipped to a national reference laboratory for nicotine concentration assay using the method developed by Mahoney and Al-Delaimy.¹²

Following study completion, participants were invited to attend a group cessation clinic run over 5 weeks. The majority attended at least one of these sessions.

Measures

We assessed withdrawal using three items from the Minnesota Nicotine Withdrawal Scale¹³: irritability, restlessness and difficulty concentrating. The other Minnesota Nicotine Withdrawal Scale items—increased appetite/weight gain, depression or insomnia—were not included because these would not be plausibly experienced in such a short period. We included an additional item, "desire to smoke" (a cigarette), a construct equivalent to the more commonly used terms "craving" or "urges",¹⁴ which was measured by asking, "Right now, how much do you want a cigarette?" We asked participants to indicate their perception of all items by circling a visual analogue scale number between 0 and 10, where 0="not at all" and 10="extremely". Participants noted the occurrence of adverse events commonly experienced with NRT use using categories adapted from Hajek *et al*¹⁵ and any other reactions not on this list. On the last study day, still blind to the ENDD condition, participants were asked to rate their satisfaction with the products compared to their usual cigarettes using scales (0="completely unsatisfying", 10="fully satisfying")¹⁶; on the same scale, they rated helpfulness (in keeping them from smoking), how pleasant the product was to use, how embarrassing it was to use in the company of others, the degree to

which they would use it to aid a quit attempt, and whether they would recommend it to a friend who wanted to stop smoking.

Statistical analysis

All analyses were undertaken on an intention-to-treat basis. We analysed the primary outcome, comparison of change in desire to smoke between the 16 and 0 mg ENDD, using area under the curve over 60 min as the dependent variable. The treatment effect was thus the average change in desire to smoke over the 60 min after first using each product. For this and the other ratings, the baseline score (the area under the curve at 5 min before product use), treatment effect and time period were fixed effects in the model. We also examined the change in desire to smoke between the ENDD and other products (inhalator and usual cigarette) using analysis of covariance with within-participant variation included as a random effect. We dealt with missing data using the last value carried forward method. Pharmacokinetic parameters (C_{max} (peak plasma concentration) and t_{max} (time to reach C_{max})) were calculated based on plasma concentration-time data by model-independent methods using SAS version 9.2 (SAS Institute). Multiple comparisons between products were adjusted for using the Tukey-Kramer method and p values and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were estimated for each comparison.

RESULTS

Participant characteristics

Figure 1 shows participant flow. Forty participants were randomised, 53% of whom were women. The mean age was 47.6 (SD 12.4) years and the mean level of nicotine dependence (Fagerström Test of Nicotine Dependence¹⁶) was 5.4. Participants smoked an average of 20.2 (SD 7.3) cigarettes smoked per day. Twenty-five participants had previously used nicotine patches, nineteen reported previously using nicotine gum, two had used the inhalator, but none had used an ENDD before. During the study days, most participants used the products regularly and abstained from smoking as instructed; however, when using the 16 mg ENDD, participants smoked on average 2.8 usual cigarettes over the day, compared with 4.5 cigarettes when using the 0 mg ENDD and 3.4 cigarettes when using the inhalator. Nine participants on average gave blood samples for pharmacokinetic analysis on each of 5 study days.

Desire to smoke and withdrawal symptoms

Figure 2 shows the change from baseline in desire to smoke over 60 min. Usual cigarette use resulted in significantly greater reductions in desire to smoke compared to ENDD (16 and 0 mg) and inhalator. Desire to smoke ratings reached their lowest level 5 min after the first puff with usual cigarettes, 10 min after the first puff with 0 mg ENDD, 15 min after first puff with 16 mg ENDD and on completing 20 min of puffing on the inhalator. Over the 60 min period, participants using the 16 mg ENDD experienced a greater decrease in desire to smoke (2.6 units) than participants using the 0 mg ENDD (1.5 units), a difference of 0.92 units (95% CI 0.25 to 1.38; $p=0.006$) (see table 1). In the comparisons between 16 and 0 mg ENDD at each time point, the difference in desire to smoke became significant from 25 min through to 60 min, when users recorded 1.3 units (95% CI 0.33 to 2.25, $p=0.009$) less desire to smoke with the 16 mg ENDD than the 0 mg ENDD.

Over 60 min, the use of the 16 mg ENDD reduced ratings for irritability, restlessness and difficulty concentrating more than the 0 mg ENDD; however, these differences were not statisti-

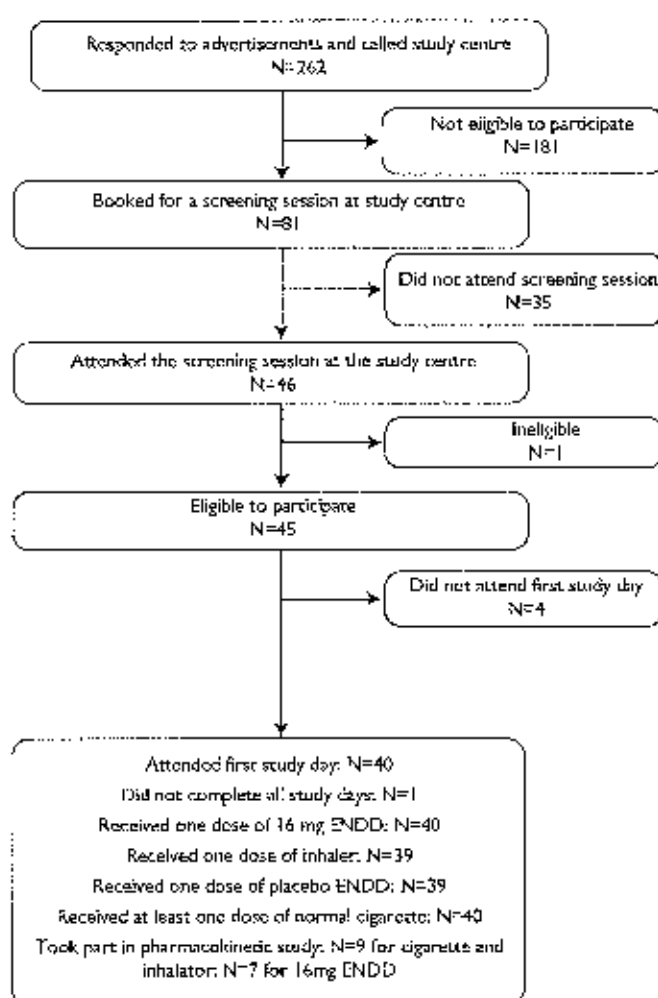


Figure 1 Participant flow.

cally significant (table 1). Similarly, there was no difference in withdrawal symptoms between the 16 mg ENDD and inhalator, whereas usual cigarettes reduced withdrawal ratings more on all items than the other products.

Results of the secondary analyses comparing the 16 mg ENDD, inhalator, usual cigarette and 0 mg ENDD are shown in table 2. Although a greater reduction in desire to smoke was observed with the 16 mg compared to the 0 mg cigarette, this difference was no longer significant when adjusted for multiple comparisons.

Product preferences

The 16 mg ENDD rated higher for pleasantness of use than the inhalator, by 1.49 units (95% CI 0.23 to 2.74, $p=0.016$). Figure 3 shows that mean satisfaction ratings for 16 mg ENDD and inhalator were similar and were higher than those for placebo ENDD, and embarrassment associated with using the device in the company of others was low but not significantly different to the inhalator. The 16 mg ENDD was favoured over other products for enabling participants to keep from smoking, to be used as a potential quitting aid and for recommending to a friend who wanted to stop smoking. It was also the most preferred alternative to cigarettes: 56% of participants said they preferred the ENDD, 25% preferred the inhalator and 13% liked neither. The degree of ease of use was similar for ENDD and inhalator (43% and 45%, respectively).

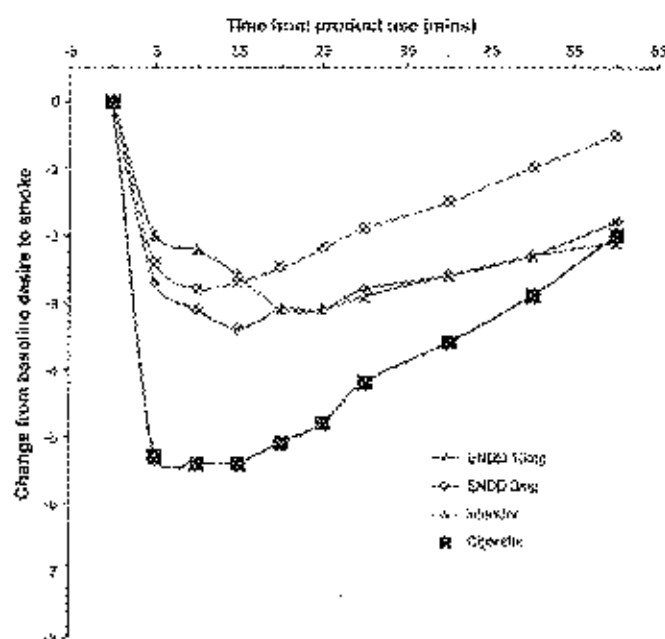


Figure 2 Change in desire to smoke from baseline over the first hour after each product use.

Pharmacokinetics

On average, the use of the 16 mg ENDD resulted in modest increases in blood nicotine levels (see table 3). The fastest time to peak nicotine concentration was obtained with usual cigarettes, followed by nicotine ENDDs and the inhalator. Usual cigarette use gave a significantly higher C_{max} than the other products in the individual product and crossover analysis, with adjustment for multiple comparisons ($p=0.01$).

Adverse events

The most frequently reported adverse events were mouth and throat irritation (table 4), and were most common with the inhalator (88%) and least common with the 0 mg ENDD (22%). The differences between active and placebo ENDDs and inhalator were statistically significant ($p<0.001$). Nausea was most commonly reported after 16 mg ENDD use, but, as with the other between-product differences in adverse events occurrence, was not significant. No serious adverse events (ie, deaths or events requiring hospitalisation) occurred during the study.

DISCUSSION

The 16 mg Ruyan ENDD was significantly more effective than the 0 mg ENDD at reducing desire to smoke over 1 h of use. The 0 and 16 mg ENDD relieved desire to smoke within the first 10 min of use, but the 16 mg ENDD reduced desire to smoke most at 15 min (10 min after the last puff), more than either the 0 mg ENDD or the nicotine inhalator, which was still being puffed as per instructions given to participants. The reduction in

Table 1 Primary comparisons of change in desire to smoke and other withdrawal symptoms from baseline between 0 and 16 mg nicotine ENDD

Withdrawal symptom*	Mean change (95% CI)	p Value
Desire to smoke	0.82 (0.25 to 1.38)	0.006
Irritability	0.26 (-0.46 to 0.99)	0.48
Restlessness	0.53 (-0.11 to 1.18)	0.10
Poor concentration	0.38 (-0.30 to 1.07)	0.26

*Visual analogue score 0 to 10.

Table 2 Secondary analyses using multivariate^a comparisons of change in desire to smoke from baseline between all products

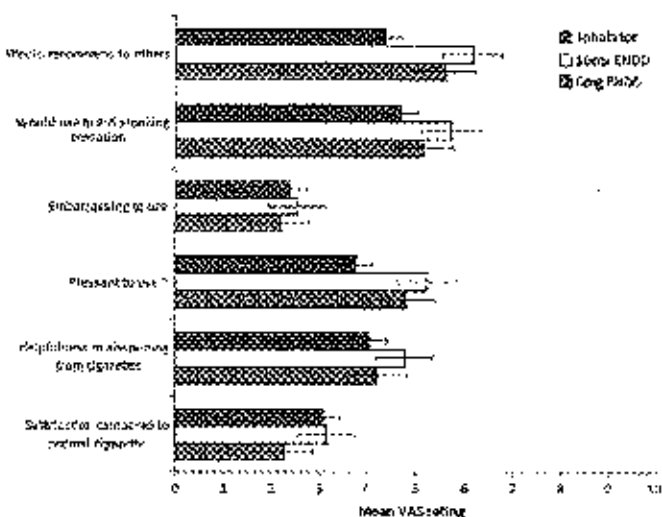
Product comparison	Mean difference (95% CI)	Adjusted p value
0 versus 16 mg ENDD	0.80 (-0.27 to 1.36)	0.21
0 mg ENDD versus Nicorette inhalator	0.69 (-0.38 to 1.77)	0.33
0 mg ENDD versus usual cigarette	2.23 (1.17 to 3.30)	<0.0001
16 mg ENDD versus Nicorette inhalator	-0.10 (-1.36 to 0.95)	0.99
16 mg ENDD versus usual cigarette	1.44 (0.39 to 2.48)	0.003
Nicorette inhalator versus usual cigarette	1.54 (0.48 to 2.59)	0.001

ENDD, electronic nicotine delivery device.

^aAdjusted for treatment period, baseline craving, within participant correlation as a random effect and multiple comparisons using Tukey Kramer method.

desire to smoke in the first 10 min of ENDD use appears to be independent of nicotine absorption, and may be due to behavioural and oral and tactile sensations similar to cigarette smoking, and the anticipation of nicotine delivery.

In the pharmacokinetic analyses, the serum nicotine C_{max} for usual cigarettes was comparable with other studies.¹⁷ The 16 mg ENDD's performance was consistent with findings from intensive-mode smoking machine tests of this same make of ENDD, which delivered 10% of the nicotine per puff delivered by a regular Marlboro cigarette (M Laugesen, 2009, UC2009/034355, submitted). This suggests that it is more like a NRT product, concerning nicotine delivery, than a cigarette. The shorter t_{max} of the ENDD in comparison to the inhalator may reflect some absorption via the respiratory tract compared with buccal absorption for the Nicorette inhalator. The ENDDs in the study were not as consistent for puffing and nicotine delivery as the medicinal Nicorette inhalator. About one-third of participants showed no increase in blood nicotine when using the ENDD. Some participants reported that the device sometimes failed to produce mist when puffed. It is possible that technical problems could have affected the dose received. This is not altogether surprising given that these devices are not manufactured to the same standards required of pharmaceutical devices, such as the inhalator.



*Adjusted for treatment period, baseline craving, participant as random effect and multiple comparisons using Tukey method.

Figure 3 A higher rating is indicative of a greater likelihood of finding the product more satisfying, helpful, pleasant, embarrassing, likely to be used for aiding smoking cessation and to be recommended to others (error bars represent standard error).

Table 3 Pharmacokinetic properties of usual cigarette, 16 mg ENDD and Nicorette inhalator

Product	Mean Tmax (min) (95% CI)	Mean Cmax (ng/mL) (95% CI)*
Usual cigarette (n=8)	14.3 (8.8 to 19.9)	13.4 (6.5 to 25.3)
16 mg ENDD (n= 8)	19.6 (4.3 to 34.2)	1.3 (0.0 to 2.6)
Nicorette inhalator (n=10)	32.3 (18.7 to 45.3)	2.1 (1.0 to 3.1)

ENDD, electronic nicotine delivery device.

*Corrected for baseline nicotine levels.

We also noted that three participants (one using the inhalator, two using ENDDs) had high baseline serum nicotine values (12.8, 12.0 and 6.6 ng/mL), which declined over the hour, raising the possibility of recent smoking of a tobacco cigarette, despite CO readings suggesting otherwise. Excluding these data in a post hoc analysis on the primary outcome and withdrawal symptoms gave a small increment in the mean decrease in desire to smoke, from 0.82 to 0.91 units (95% CI 0.29 to 1.53), which was still significant ($p=0.006$) compared to placebo, with little change to the values and significance of changes in irritability, restlessness and poor concentration.

Overall, the Ruyan ENDD was similar to the Nicorette inhalator on a range of subjective ratings of user preferences, and users reported a similar frequency of most adverse events except for a far lower occurrence of mouth or throat irritation than for the inhalator.

The strengths of this study include the study population of dependent but "healthy" male and female smokers recruited from the community; the use of a crossover design to minimise variability, bias and confounding; and the use of items from validated instruments for measuring key outcomes. We used a range of statistical tests including mixed model analysis, which has the advantage of including all the data and accounting for within-subject correlation.

The study has a number of limitations. First, it was statistically powered to detect a difference between 16 mg ENDD and 0 mg ENDD, not to detect a difference between 16 mg ENDD and inhalator, and the desired sample size of 48 was not achieved despite best endeavours to recruit to this target. Second, low baseline ratings of desire to smoke may have limited the degree of observable change. Third, the study was limited to smokers not intending to quit, which may underestimate the reduction in desire to smoke expected in smokers intending to quit. Fourth, this was the first experience for participants and investigators with the ENDD and there was no period of familiarisation with the products before use nor did we test them to ensure normal

Table 4 Adverse events reported by participants after 9 h of product use, by product

Adverse event	ENDD 0 mg		ENDD 16 mg		Nicorette inhalator	
	n/N ^a	(%)	n/N	(%)	n/N	(%)
Mouth/throat irritation†	14/64	22	22/66	33	36/11	88
Aching jaws	4/35	11	3/37	8	2/37	5
Nausea	6/33	18	9/31	29	6/33	18
Fatulence/belching/hiccups/heartburn	6/111	5	6/113	5	11/147	23
Vertigo/feeling high	9/69	9	14/66	21	12/66	18
Headache	7/32	22	6/34	18	6/33	18
Sweatiness/damp skin	5/75	4	3/77	4	7/76	3
Palpitations	0/38	0	2/38	5	0/39	0

ENDD, electronic nicotine delivery device.

^an: number of events, N=numbers of participants in each group. In some cases, groups were pooled because of similarity of symptoms, hence the large numbers.

†ENDD 0 mg versus inhalator $p<0.001$; ENDD 16 mg versus inhalator $p<0.001$.

What does this mean?

- ▶ The Ruyan 16 mg nicotine ENDD reduces desire to smoke.
- ▶ The ENDD has a pharmacokinetic profile more like the nicotine inhalator than a tobacco cigarette.
- ▶ Further research is needed on the pharmacokinetics, long-term use potential, safety, manufacturing quality and quitting efficacy associated with ENDD use.

functioning. Both factors could have affected the pharmacokinetic results and attenuated the ratings of desire to smoke. Fifth, the four-fold greater puffing time allowed for the inhalator is problematic for comparing products, as it is by no means clear yet whether an ENDD inhaling session should be for 5, 10 or 20 min a session. Finally, use of each study product for just 9 h did not allow sufficient time for assessment of delayed acute or chronic use effects, nor of the potential for long-term use.

CONCLUSIONS

The Ruyan V8 16 mg ENDD reduced desire to smoke more than the placebo ENDD and during 9 h of use was well tolerated, acceptable to most users, rated significantly more pleasant to use than the inhalator, and in the first hour exhibited a pharmacokinetic profile more like the inhalator than a tobacco cigarette, without excess adverse events. These findings suggest potential to help people stop smoking in the same way as a nicotine inhalator. Our findings should be regarded as preliminary and need to be confirmed for this and other brands of ENDD. The nicotine pharmacokinetics of ENDDs should be confirmed in other studies, and different ways of using these devices need to be explored. A large, well-conducted randomised trial is needed to evaluate the ENDD's efficacy as a quitting aid and to identify any delayed or long-term adverse effects.

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Competing interests CB, ST and BL have no competing interests to declare. HM has received honoraria for speaking at research symposia and received benefits in kind and travel support from, and has provided consultancy to the manufacturers of smoking cessation medications. VL acted as contract manager with the sponsor, Ruyan Group (Holdings) Limited, via his company Health New Zealand Ltd. ML and Health New Zealand Ltd have no patent, stock or other financial interest in Ruyan Group (Holdings) Limited or any nicotine or tobacco company. WF has provided consultancy to the manufacturers of smoking cessation medications.

Ethics approval Ethical approval for the trial was obtained from the New Zealand Ministry of Health's Northern Y Flinders Committee (approval number KTY/07/10/103).

Contributors CB, JLM, ST, MG, BL and ML designed and conducted the study, interpreted the data, and wrote the manuscript. CB, HM and ST are guarantors.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

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EXHIBIT 4

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

Effect of an electronic nicotine delivery device (e-cigarette) on smoking reduction and cessation: a prospective 6-month pilot study

Ricardo Polosa^{1,2*}, Pasquale Caporaso², Jaymin B. Morjan³, Gabriela Espale², Davide Carrozzini^{1,2} and Cristina Russo^{1,2}

Abstract

Background: Cigarette smoking is a tough addiction to break. Therefore, improved approaches to smoking cessation are necessary. The electronic-cigarette (e-cigarette), a battery-powered electronic nicotine delivery device (END) resembling a cigarette, may help smokers to remain abstinent during their quit attempt or to reduce cigarette consumption. Efficacy and safety of these devices in long-term smoking cessation and/or smoking reduction studies have never been investigated.

Methods: In this prospective proof-of-concept study we monitored possible modifications in smoking habits of 40 regular smokers (willing to quit) experimenting the "category e-cigarette" with a focus on smoking reduction and smoking abstinence. Study participants were invited to attend a total of five visits at baseline, week-4, week-8, week-12 and week-24. Product use, number of cigarettes smoked, and exhaled carbon monoxide (CO) levels were measured at each visit. Smoking reduction and abstinence rates were calculated. Adverse events and product preferences were also reviewed.

Results: Sustained 50% reduction in the number of cigarettes at week-24 was shown in 12/40 (32.5%) participants; their median of 25 cigarettes/day decreasing to 6 cigarettes/day ($p < 0.001$). Sustained 50% reduction was shown in 5/40 (12.5%) participants; their median of 30 cigarettes/day decreasing to 3 cigarettes/day ($p = 0.013$). Sustained smoking abstinence at week-24 was observed in 9/40 (22.5%) participants; with 6/9 still using the e-cigarette by the end of the study. Combined sustained 50% reduction and smoking abstinence was shown in 22/40 (55%) participants; with an overall 88% fall in cigarettes/day. Mean (SD) (20.6%) and median (22.4%) initiation and day cough (32.4%) were common, but diminished substantially by week-24. Overall, 2 to 3 cigarettes/day were used throughout the study. Participant perception and acceptance of the product was good.

Conclusion: The use of e-cigarette substantially decreased cigarette consumption without causing significant side effects in smokers not intending to quit (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12916-014-0195-9>).

Background

With well over one billion smokers worldwide, cigarette smoking is a global epidemic that poses a substantial health burden and costs [1]. This is because cigarette smoke harms several organ systems of the human body, thus causing a broad range of diseases, many of which are fatal [2,3]. The risk of serious disease diminishes

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products increase the chance of committed smokers to stop smoking, they reportedly lack high levels of efficacy, especially in the real life setting [8]. Although this is known to reflect the chronic relapsing nature of tobacco dependence, the need for novel and effective approaches to smoking cessation interventions is beyond doubt.

The electronic-cigarette (e-Cigarette) is a battery-powered electronic nicotine delivery device (ENDD) resembling a cigarette designed for the purpose of nicotine delivery, where no tobacco or combustion is necessary for its operation [9] (Figure 1). Consequently, this product may be considered as a lower risk substitute for factory-made cigarettes. In addition, people report buying them to help quit smoking, to reduce cigarette consumption and to relieve tobacco withdrawal symptoms due to workplace smoking restrictions [10]. Besides delivering nicotine, e-Cigarettes may also provide a coping mechanism for conditioned smoking cues by replacing some of the rituals associated with smoking gestures (e.g. hand-to-mouth action of smoking). For this reason, e-Cigarettes may help smokers to remain abstinent during their quit attempt or to reduce cigarette consumption. A recent internet survey on the satisfaction of e-Cigarette use has reported that the device helped in smoking abstinence and improved smoking-related symptoms [11]. Under acute experimental conditions, two marketed electronic cigarette brands suppressed tobacco abstinence symptom ratings without leading to measurable levels of nicotine or CO in the exhaled breath [12]. The e-Cigarette is a very hot topic that has generated considerable global debate with authorities wanting to ban it or at least regulate it. Consequently, a formal

demonstration supporting the efficacy and safety of these devices in smoking cessation and/or smoking reduction studies would be of utmost importance.

With this in mind, we designed a prospective proof-of-concept study to monitor possible modifications in the smoking habits of a group of well characterized regular smokers experimenting the most popular marketed e-Cigarette in Italy ('Categoria'; Arbi Group Srl, Milano, Italy) focusing on smoking reduction and smoking abstinence. We also monitored adverse events and measured participants' perception and acceptance of the product.

Methods

Participants

Healthy smokers 18-60 years old, smoking ≥ 15 factory-made cigarettes per day (cig/day) for at least the past 10 years and not currently attempting to quit smoking or wishing to do so in the next 30 days were recruited from the local Hospital staff in Catania, Italy. None of the participants reported a history of alcohol and illicit drug use, major depression or other psychiatric conditions. We also excluded subjects who reported recent myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, high blood pressure (BP > 140 mmHg systolic and/or 90 mmHg diastolic), diabetes mellitus, severe allergies, poorly controlled asthma or other airways diseases. The study protocol was discussed with the Chair of the local institutional ERB (Comitato Etico Azienda Vittorio Emanuele) in February 2010. In consideration of the fact that e-cigarette use is a widespread phenomenon in Italy, that many e-cigarette users are enjoying them as consumer goods, that this type of product is not regulated as a drug or a drug device in Italy (end users can buy e-cig almost

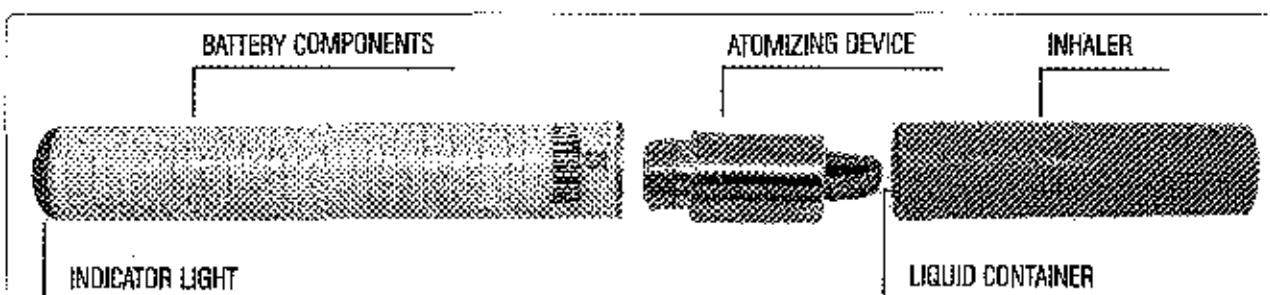


Figure 1 Structure of the 'Categoria' electronic-cigarette (e-Cigarette). The e-Cigarette is a battery-powered electronic nicotine delivery device (ENDD) resembling a cigarette designed for the purpose of providing inhaled doses of nicotine by way of a vaporized solution to the respiratory system. This device provides a flavor and physical sensation similar to that of inhaled tobacco smoke, while no smoke or combustion is actually involved in its operation. It is composed of the following key components: (1) the inhaler - also known as 'mouthpiece' or disposable non-refillable plastic mouthpiece - resembling a tobacco cigarette's filter - which contains an absorbent material that is saturated with a liquid solution containing nicotine; (2) the atomizing device (the heating element that vaporizes the liquid in the mouthpiece and generates the mist with each puff); (3) the battery component (the body of the device - resembling a tobacco cigarette - which houses a lithium-ion rechargeable battery to power the atomizer). The body of the device also houses an electronic air-flow sensor to automatically activate the heating element upon inhalation and to light up a red LED indicator to signal activation of the device with each puff. Each pre-filled 'Original' cartridges used in this study contains nicotine (1.25 mg/cartridge) dissolved in propylene glycol (233.7 mg/cartridge) and vegetable glycerin (64.0 mg/cartridge) [details can be found at: <http://www.laion.us.org/public/aling/it/categoria/b.pdf>].

anywhere - internet, tobacconists, pharmacies, restaurants, and shops), and that only healthy smokers not willing to quit smoking would participate, it was felt that the study fulfilled the criteria of an observational naturalistic investigation and was exempt from the requirement from ethical approval. Participants gave written informed consent prior to participation in the study.

Study Design and Baseline Measures

Eligible participants were invited to use an ENDD ('Categoria' e-Cigarette, Arbi Group Srl, Milano, Italy) and were followed up prospectively for 6 months. They attended a total of five study visits at our smoking cessation clinic (Centro per la Prevenzione e Cura del Tabagismo (CPCIT), Università di Catania, Italy): a baseline visit and four follow-up visits, (at week-4, week-8, week-12 and week-24) (Figure 2).

At baseline (study visit 1), basic demographic and a detailed smoking history were taken and individual pack-years (pack/yrs) calculated together with scoring of their level of nicotine dependence by means of Fagerstrom Test of Nicotine Dependence (FTND) questionnaire [13]. Subjective ratings of depression were assessed with the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) [14]. Additionally, levels of carbon monoxide in exhaled breath (eCO) were measured using a portable device (Micro CO, Micro Medical Ltd, UK). Participants were given a free e-Cigarette kit containing two rechargeable batteries, a charger, and two atomizers and instructed on how to charge, activate and use the e-Cigarette. Key troubleshooting were addressed and phone numbers were supplied for both technical and medical assistance. A full 4-weeks supply of 7.4 mg nicotine cartridges ("Original" cartridges; Arbi Group Srl, Milano, Italy) was also provided and participants were trained on how to load them onto the e-Cigarette's atomizer. Random checks confirmed that the nicotine content per cartridge was 7.25 mg. Detailed toxicology and nicotine content analyses of "Original" cartridges had been carried in a laboratory certified by the Italian Institute of Health and can be found at: <http://www.iaf-onlus.org/public/allegati/categoria1b.pdf>

Participants were permitted to use the study product *ad libitum* throughout the day (up to a maximum of 4 cartridges per day, as recommended by the manufacturer) in the anticipation of reducing the number of cig/day smoked, and to fill a 4-weeks' study diary recording product use, number of any tobacco cigarettes smoked, and adverse events.

Participants were invited to come back at week-4 (study visit 2), week-8 (study visit 3), and week-12 (visit 4), a) to receive further free supply of nicotine cartridges together with the study diaries for the residual study

periods, b) to record their eCO levels, and c) to give back completed study diaries and unused study products.

Study participants attended a final follow-up visit at week-24 (study visit 5) to report product use (cartridges/day) and the number of any tobacco cigarettes smoked (from which smoking reduction and smoking abstinence could be calculated), to re-check eCO levels and to rate the degree of usefulness of the study product. In particular, participants were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the products compared to their usual cigarettes using a visual analogue scale (VAS) from 0 to 10 points (0 = being 'completely unsatisfied', 10 being = 'fully satisfied'); on the same scale, they also rated helpfulness (in keeping them from smoking) and whether they would recommend it to a friend who wanted to stop/reduce smoking. Adverse events were obtained from their study diaries.

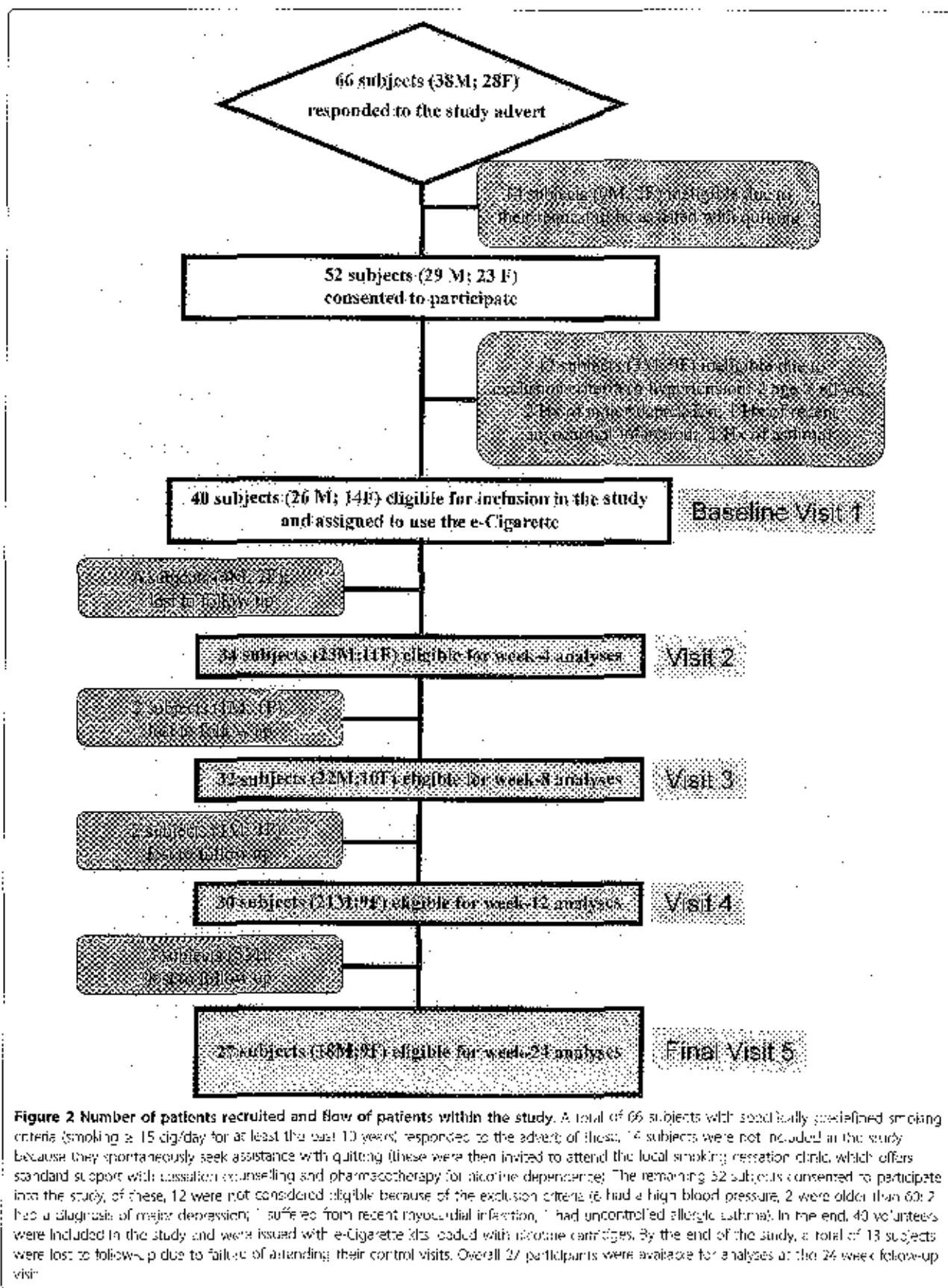
Given the observational nature of this study, no emphasis on encouragement, motivation and reward for the smoking cessation effort were provided since this study was intended to monitor the case of a smoker (unwilling to quit) trying out an unconventional nicotine delivery device in a real world setting. Although participants were allowed to smoke their own brand of cigarette as they wished, smoking cessation services were provided to those who would spontaneously ask for assistance with quitting. These subjects were excluded from the study protocol.

Study outcome measures

The primary efficacy measure was sustained 50% reduction in the number of cig/day at week-24 from baseline (*reducers*) [15]; defined as sustained self reported 50% reduction in the number of cig/day compared to baseline for the 30 days period prior to week-24 study visit (eCO levels were measured to verify smoking status and confirm a reduction compared to baseline).

A secondary efficacy measure of the study was sustained 80% reduction in the number of cig/day at week-24 from baseline (*heavy reducers*); defined as sustained self-reported 80% reduction in the number of cig/day compared to baseline for the 30 days period prior to week-24 study visit (eCO levels were measured to verify smoking status and confirm a reduction compared to baseline).

An additional secondary efficacy measure of the study was sustained smoking abstinence at week-24 (*quitters*); defined as complete self-reported abstinence from tobacco smoking (not even a pull) for the 30 days period prior to week-24 study visit (eCO levels were measured to objectively verify smoking status with an eCO concentration of <10 ppm).



Those smokers who failed to meet the above criteria at the final week-24 follow-up visit (study visit 5) were categorized as reduction/cessation failures (*failures*).

Statistical Analyses

This was a proof-of-concept pilot study, the first of its kind, hence no previous data could be used for power calculation. However, using our previous experience in smoking cessation studies, we estimated that a sample of 40 subjects would have been adequate to acquire quit/reduction rates from 70-75% of the subjects enrolled [16]. Primary and secondary outcome measures were computed by including all enrolled participants - assuming that all those individuals who were lost to follow-up are classified as failures (intention-to-treat analysis). The changes from baseline (study visit 1) in number of cig/day and in eCO levels were compared with data recorded at subsequent follow-up visits using Wilcoxon Signed rank test as these data were non-parametric. Parametric and non-parametric data were expressed as mean (\pm SD) and median (interquartile range (IQR)) respectively. Correlations were calculated using Spearman's Rho Correlation. Statistical methods were 2-tailed, and P values of < 0.05 were considered significant.

Results

Participant characteristics

After excluding for the study exclusion criteria, a total of 40 (M 26; F 14; mean (\pm SD) age of 42.9 (\pm 8.8) years) regular smokers (mean (\pm SD) pack/yr of 34.9

(\pm 14.7)) consented to participate and were included in the study (Table 1; Figure 2). Twenty-seven (67.5%) completed all study visits and returned for their final follow-up visit at week-24. Baseline characteristics of those who were lost to follow-up were not significantly different from participants who completed the study.

Outcome measures

Participants' smoking status at baseline and at 24-week is shown on Table 2. Taking the whole cohort of participants ($n = 40$), an overall 80% reduction in median cig/day use from 25 to 5 was observed by the end of the study ($p < 0.001$). Sustained 50% reduction in the number of cig/day at week-24 was shown in 13/40 (32.5%) participants, with a median of 25 cig/day (IQR 20, 30) decreasing significantly to 6 cig/day (IQR 5, 6) ($p < 0.001$). Of these tobacco smoke reducers, five (12.5%) could be classified as sustained heavy reducers (at least 80% reduction in the number of cig/day) at week-24. They had a median consumption of 30 cig/day (IQR 25, 35) at baseline, decreasing significantly to 3 cig/day (IQR 3, 6) ($p = 0.043$). There were 9/40 (22.5%) quitters, with 6/9 still using the e-Cigarette by the end of the study. Overall, combined sustained 50% reduction and smoking abstinence was shown in 22/40 (55%) participants, with a median of 25 cig/day (IQR 20, 30) decreasing significantly to 3 cig/day (IQR 0, 6) ($p < 0.001$), which is equivalent to an overall 88% reduction. Details of mean cigarette use and eCO levels throughout the study is shown in Figure 3 and 4.

Table 1 Patient Demographics

	Parameter	Mean (\pm SD)*
Subjects eligible for inclusion ($n = 40$)		
	Age	42.9 (\pm 8.8)
	Sex	26M; 14F
	Smoking Years	26.9 (\pm 8.8)
	FTND	5.0 (6, 8)*
	Beck Depression Inventory	9 (5, 12.3)†
	Cigarettes/day	25 (20, 30)*
	eCO	21.5 (15.8, 36)*
Subjects available for week-24 analyses ($n = 27$)		
	Age	42.6 (\pm 8.4)
	Sex	18M, 9F
	Smoking Years	27.2 (\pm 8.9)
	FTND	7 (6, 7)*
	Beck Depression Inventory	9 (5, 12.5)*
	Cigarettes/day	25 (20, 30)*
	eCO	21 (15.5, 33)*

*Non-parametric data expressed as median (IQR).

† Subjects excluding those lost-to-follow-up.

Abbreviations: SD - Standard Deviation; M - Male; F - Female; FTND - Fagerstrom Test of Nicotine Dependence; eCO - exhaled carbon monoxide; IQR - interquartile range.

Table 2 Subject Parameter Outcomes Following 24 Weeks of Electronic Cigarette Use

Parameter	AT BASELINE	AT 24-Weeks Post E-Cigarette	p value†
Sustained 50% (excluding quitters) reduction in cigarette smoking (n = 13)			
Age	40.1 (± 7.0)	4 (5, 6)*	< 0.001
Sex	8M; 5F	5 (5, 1)*	0.001
Smoking Years	24.5 (± 8.0)		
Cigarettes/day	25 (20, 30)*		
eCO	19 (14, 23)*		
Sustained 80% (excluding quitters) reduction in cigarette smoking (n = 5)			
Age	40.6 († 10.4)†	3 (3, 6)*	0.043
Sex	4M; 1F	6 (3, 10)*	0.012
Smoking Years	25.4 (± 11.8)†		
Cigarettes/day	30 (25, 35)*		
eCO	15 (14, 24)*		
Sustained 100% (quitters) reduction in cigarette smoking (n = 9)			
Age	44.7 (± 9.3)	0 (0, 0)*	0.008
Sex	8M; 1F	1 (0, 3)*	0.006
Smoking Years	29 (± 9.6)		
Cigarettes/day	25 (25, 30)*		
eCO	31 (23, 41)*		
Sustained > 50% (including quitters) reduction in cigarette smoking (n = 22)			
Age	42 (± 8.5)†	3 (0, 6)*	< 0.001
Sex	16M; 6F	5.5 (2, 9.5)*	< 0.001
Smoking Years	26.3 (± 9.1)		
Cigarettes/day	25 (20, 30)*		
eCO	27 (19.5, 37.5)*		
Smoking Failure (< 50% smoking reduction) (n = 5)			
Age	45.6 (± 7.9)*	20 (20, 20)*	0.157
Sex	2M; 3F	7.8 (1.7, 31.7)	0.892
Smoking Years	21.2 (± 7)*		
Cigarettes/day	25 (20, 25)*		
eCO	18 (16, 32)*		

Abbreviations: SD - Standard Deviation; M - Male; F - Female; eCO - exhaled carbon monoxide.

†p value - within group Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test.

† Parametric data expressed as mean (± SD).

*Non-parametric data expressed as median (interquartile range(IQR)).

Product Use

Details of mean cartridge use throughout the study is shown in Figure 5. The reported number of cartridges/day used by our study participants was dissimilar, ranging from a maximum of 4 cartridges/day (as per manufacturer's recommendation) to a minimum of 0 cartridges/day ('zero' was recorded in the study diary, when the same cartridge was used for more than 24 hours). For the whole group (n = 27), a mean (± SD) 2.0 (± 1.4) cartridges/day was used throughout the study. The number of cartridges/day used was slightly higher when these summary statistics were computed with the exclusion of the eight study failures; the value increasing to a mean (± SD) of 2.2 (± 1.3) cartridges/day. Correlation between the number of cartridges/day and smoking reduction in those participants with

sustained 50% reduction in smoking was not significant (Rho -0.003; p = 0.988). Likewise, the correlation between the number of cartridges/day, and combined sustained 50% reduction and smoking abstinence was also non-significant (Rho -0.185; p = 0.546).

Adverse Events

The most frequently reported adverse events were mouth irritation (20,6%), throat irritation (32,4%), and dry cough (32,4%) (Table 3). These events were most commonly reported at the beginning of the study and appeared to wane spontaneously by study visit 5. Remarkably, side effects commonly recorded during smoking cessation trials with drugs for nicotine dependence were absent (i.e. depression, anxiety, insomnia, irritability, hunger, constipation were not reported).

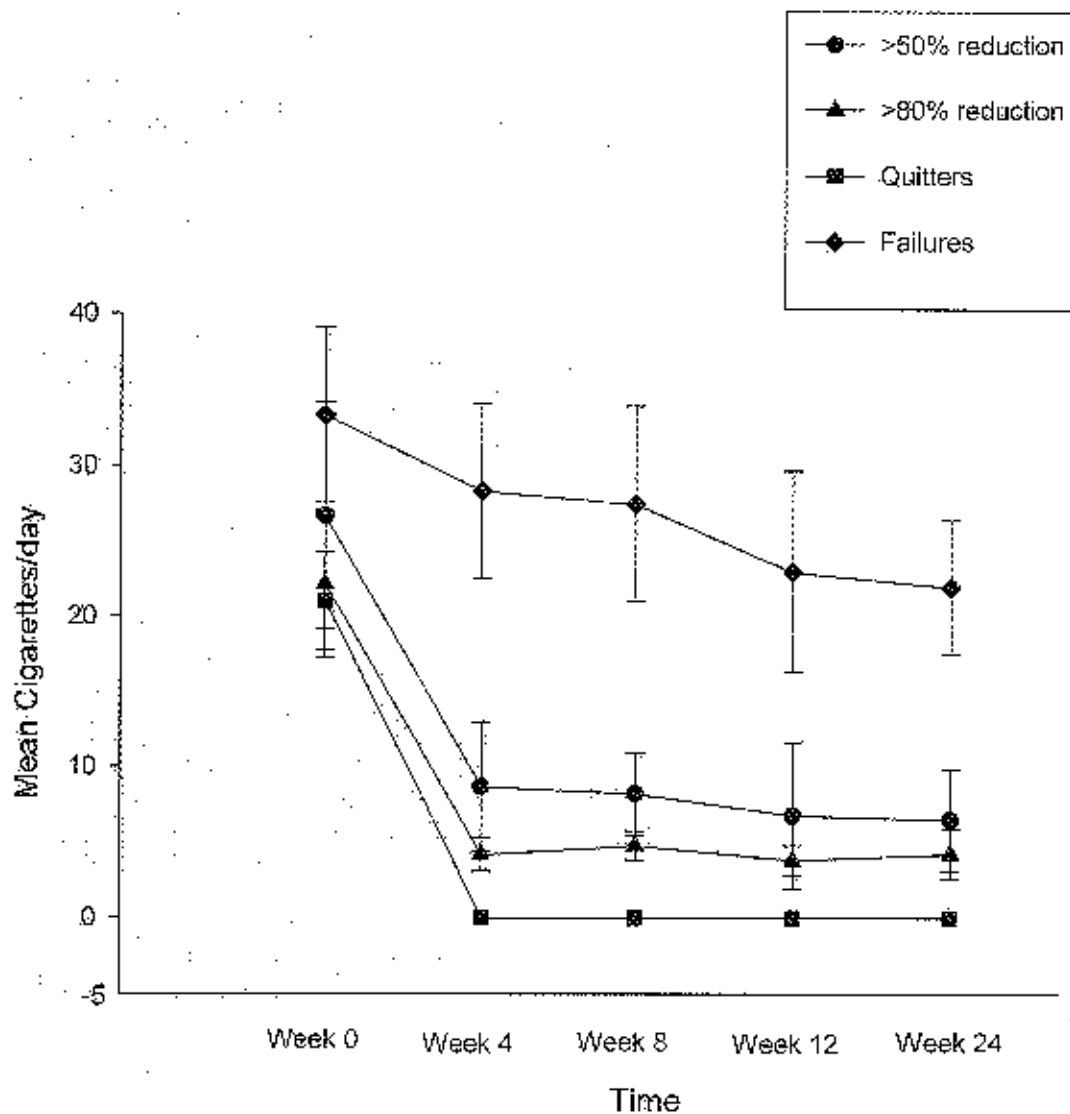


Figure 3 Changes in the mean (\pm SD) cigarette use for each study subgroups throughout the study.

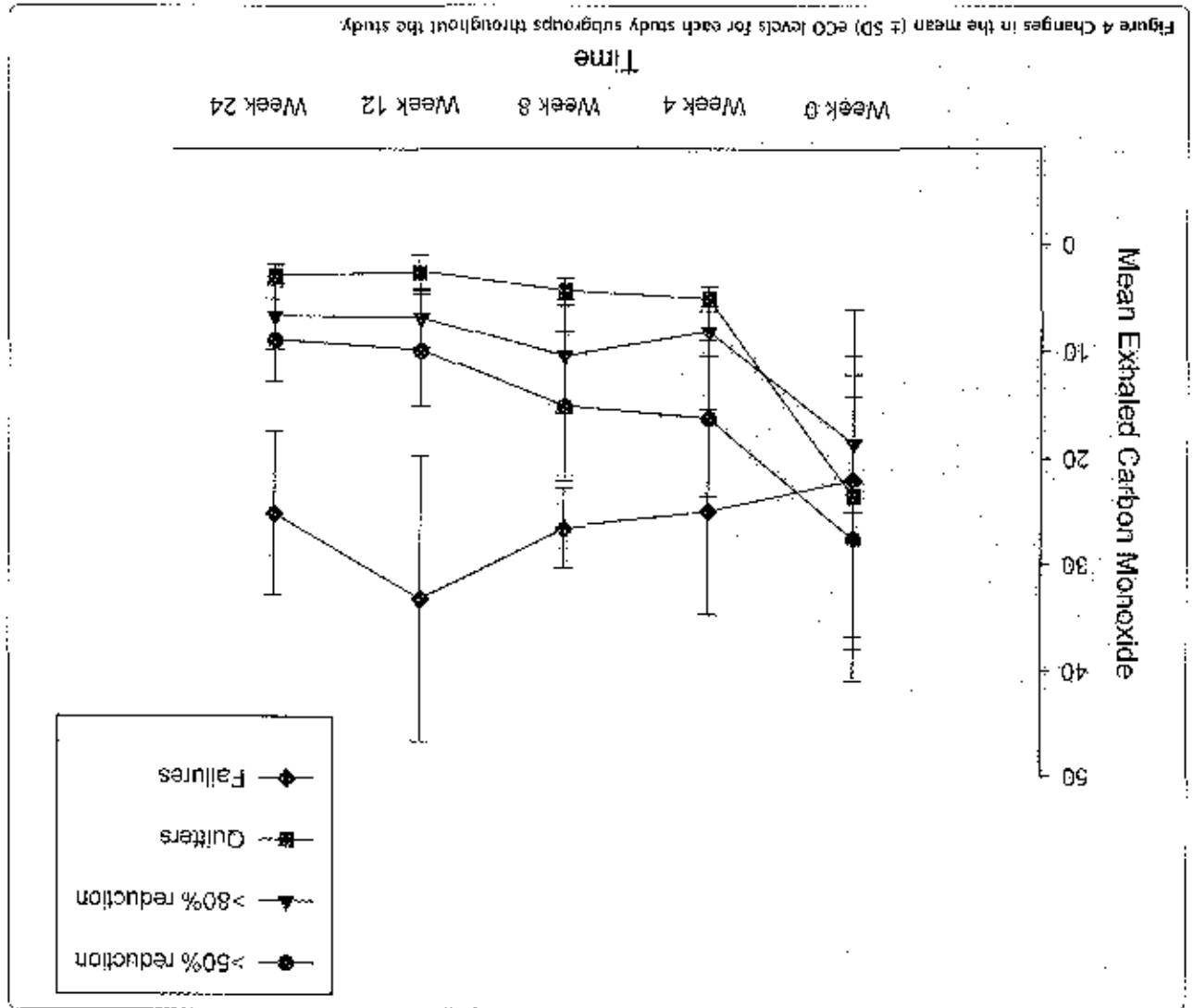
Moreover, no serious adverse events (i.e. events requiring unscheduled visit to the family practitioner or hospitalisation) occurred during the study.

Product Preferences

The 'Categoria' e-Cigarette rated scores well above the mean for satisfaction and for helpfulness (enabling them to refrain from smoking), their mean (\pm SD) VAS values being 6.3 (\pm 2.5) and 7.5 (\pm 2.7) respectively. Moreover, it was observed that participants would enthusiastically recommend the e-Cigarette to friends or relatives who wanted to stop/reduce smoking, the mean (\pm SD) VAS value being 8.0 (\pm 3.4). Predictably, the e-Cigarette rated even higher scores when these summary statistics were computed with the exclusion of the study failures ($n = 8$). On the contrary, the perception and acceptance of

the product by those who failed to remain abstinent or to reduce smoking ($n = 5$) was poor; the mean (\pm SD) VAS values for satisfaction and for helpfulness being 2.2 (\pm 0.8) and 2.5 (\pm 1.0), respectively. As expected, these individuals were unlikely to recommend the 'Categoria' e-Cigarette to friends or relatives; the mean (\pm SD) VAS value being 2.3 (\pm 1.2).

Among the most positive features of e-Cigarettes were the pleasure of inhalation and exhalation of the vapour. Other positive features mentioned included cleaner and fresher breath, absence of odours in clothing and hair. Although the overall participants' perception and acceptance of the product was good, its ease of use could be improved and technical defects reduced. During the course of the study, five study participants could not use the product as recommended and had to be retrained



within 72 hours. Three participants reported that the device often failed to produce mist when puffed (three atomizers had to be substituted). Another two were given a faulty charger (chargers were immediately replaced). According to study participants, perception and acceptance of the product could be improved by increasing manufacturing standards, by providing a recharge lasting at least 24 hours, by reducing the weight of the device and by substituting the hard plastic mouthpiece.

Discussion

In this pilot study, we have shown for the first time that substantial and objective modifications in the smoking habits may occur in smokers using e-Cigarettes, with significant smoking reduction and smoking abstinence and no apparent increase in withdrawal symptoms. Participants were not only enthusiastic about using the e-Cigarette strongly suppressed cigarette use. However, no correlations were observed between the number of cigarettes, but the majority (67.5%) were also able to adhere to the program and to return for the final follow-up visit at week-24 with an overall quit rate of 22.5%. Moreover, at least 50% reduction in cigarette smoking was observed in 32.5% of participants. Overall, combined reduction and smoking abstinence was shown in 55% of participants. These preliminary findings are of great significance in view of the fact that all smokers in the study were, by inclusion criteria, not interested in quitting. Although not directly comparable with classic cessation and/or reduction studies with other pharmaceutical products because of its design (the present study is not an ordinary cessation study), the results of our study are in general accordance with the findings published in the medical literature [17].

The large magnitude of this effect suggests the e-Cigarette strongly suppressed cigarette use. However, no correlations were observed between the number of

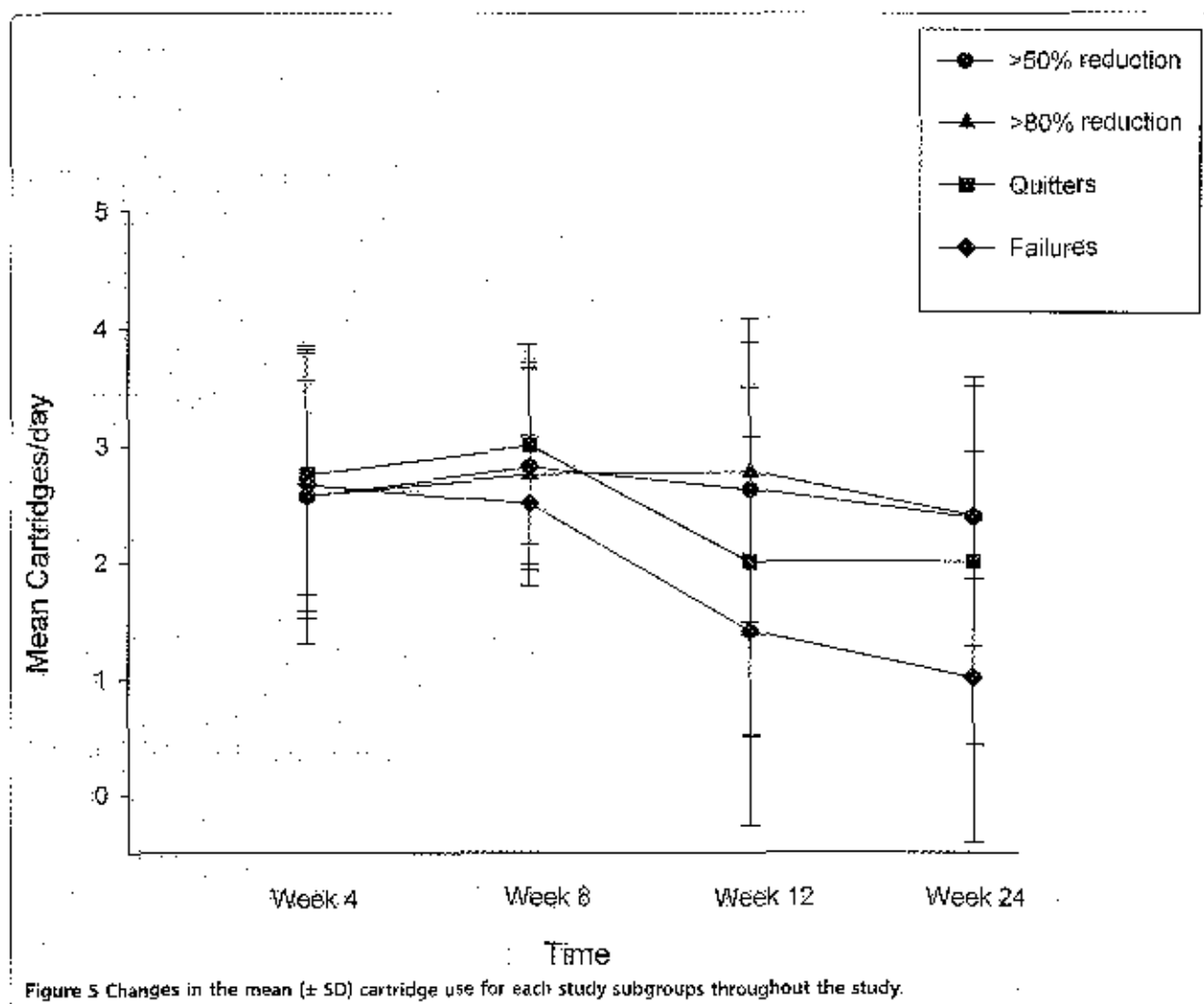


Figure 5 Changes in the mean (\pm SD) cartridge use for each study subgroups throughout the study.

Table 3 Adverse events reported by participants who completed all study visits

Adverse Event	Study Visits			
	4-week n/n (%)	8-week n/n (%)	12-week n/n (%)	24-week n/n (%)
Throat irritation ^a	1/34 (2.9%)	5/32 (15.6%)	5/30 (16.7%)	4/27 (14.8%)
Nasal irritation ^a	7/34 (20.6%)	1/32 (3.1%)	5/30 (16.7%)	2/27 (7.4%)
Sore throat	4/34 (11.8%)	1/32 (3.1%)	1/30 (3.3%)	2/27 (7.4%)
Dry cough	1/34 (2.9%)	6/32 (18.8%)	3/30 (10.0%)	3/27 (11.1%)
Dry mouth	3/34 (8.8%)	7/32 (21.9%)	1/30 (3.3%)	1/27 (3.7%)
Mouth ulcers	1/34 (2.9%)	7/32 (21.9%)	1/30 (3.3%)	0/27 (0.0%)
Dizziness ^b	5/34 (14.7%)	2/32 (6.3%)	2/30 (6.7%)	1/27 (3.7%)
Headache	4/34 (11.8%)	7/32 (21.9%)	2/30 (6.7%)	1/27 (3.7%)
Nausea	5/34 (14.7%)	2/32 (6.3%)	1/30 (3.3%)	1/27 (3.7%)

^a Throat and mouth irritation were described either as tickling, itching, or burning sensation

^b Dizziness, was also used to mean vertigo and light headedness.

nicotine cartridges/day used and the level of smoking reduction. This is not unexpected, in view of the powerful interaction between physical and behavioural dependence of smoking [18,19] and the modest increases in blood nicotine levels measured after the use of this type of devices [20]. Therefore, it is unlikely that the observed positive effect of the e-Cigarette is due to nicotine delivery. Rather, the strong suppression of smoking in association with the absence of correlation between cartridges use and level of smoking reduction, suggests that the positive effect of the e-Cigarette may be also due to its capacity to provide a coping mechanism for conditioned smoking cues by replacing some of the rituals associated with smoking gestures (e.g. hand-to-mouth action of smoking). In agreement with this, we have recently demonstrated that nicotine free inhalators can only improve quit rates in those smokers for whom handling and manipulation of their cigarette played an important role in their ritual of smoking [21].

Although dry cough and mouth ulcers can be associated with withdrawal effects, typical withdrawal symptoms of smoking cessation trials with drugs for nicotine dependence were not reported during the course of the study. It is possible that the e-Cigarette by providing a coping mechanism for conditioned smoking cues could mitigate withdrawal symptoms associated with smoking reduction and smoking abstinence. In contrast from other ENDDs such as Eclipse (which is known to generate substantial level of eCO) [22], e-Cigarettes use does not lead to increased eCO levels [12]. In the present study, the smoking reduction with 'Categoria' e-Cigarette use was associated to a substantial decrease in the level of eCO. The most frequent adverse events were mouth irritation, throat irritation and dry cough, but all appeared to wane spontaneously with time. These are likely to be secondary to exposure to propylene glycol mist generated by the e-Cigarette's atomizer. Propylene glycol is a low toxicity compound widely used as a food additive and in pharmaceutical preparations. Exposure to propylene glycol mist may occur from smoke generators in discotheques, theatres, and aviation emergency training and is known to cause ocular, mouth, throat, upper airway irritation and cough [23,34]. Dizziness was often reported by participants at the beginning of the study and can be brought about by the hyperventilation associated to the greater puffing time with the e-Cigarette. Alternatively, the dizziness as well as other reported adverse events such as nausea and headaches may be due to nicotine overuse. The substantial reduction in the frequency of dizziness observed by the end of the study may be due to the improved familiarisation with the puffing technique and/or to the overall reduction in nicotine use. Therefore, the 'Categoria' e-Cigarette can be seen as a safe way to smoke although larger and longer studies will be required for a full assessment of its adverse events.

The 'Categoria' e-Cigarette rated high scores for a range of subjective ratings of user preferences suggesting that the product was functioning as an adequate cigarette substitute. Hence, participants were more likely to recommend the e-Cigarette to friends or relatives. Conversely, as would be expected the perception and acceptance of the product by those who failed to remain abstinent or to reduce smoking was poor and these individuals were unlikely to recommend the e-Cigarette. We cannot exclude that technical problems (particularly those who went unreported) and difficulty of use (it takes time to familiarize with the puffing technique) could have affected the number of lost to follow-up and failures. Although the overall participants' perception and acceptance of the product was good, its ease of use could be improved. Technical defects could be reduced by increasing manufacturing standards, providing a

recharge lasting at least 24 hours, reducing the weight of the device and substituting the hard plastic mouth-piece. These latter two suggestions would improve device acceptability for certain common rituals of cigarette smoking, e.g. keeping the cigarette between lips.

Harm-reduction strategies are aimed at reducing the adverse health effects of tobacco use in individuals unable or unwilling to quit. Reducing the number of cig/day is one of several kinds of harm reduction strategies [25]. It is uncertain whether substantial smoking reduction in smokers using the e-Cigarette will translate in health benefits, but a number of studies have analyzed the ability of smoking reduction to lower health risks and have reported some reductions in cardiovascular risk factors and lung cancer mortality [26-28]. Moreover, reduction in cigarette smoking by e-Cigarette may well increase motivation to quit as indicated by a substantial body of evidence showing that gradually cutting down smoking can increase subsequent smoking cessation among smokers [15,29-32]. While not the treatment of choice, reduced smoking strategies might be considered for recalcitrant smokers unwilling to quit, as in the case of our study population.

There are some limitations in our study. Firstly, this was a small uncontrolled study, hence the results observed may be due to a chance finding and not to a true effect; consequently the results should be interpreted with caution. However, it would have been quite problematic to have a placebo arm in such a study. Secondly, 32.5% of the participants failed to attend their final follow-up visit, but this is not unexpected in a smoking cessation study. Thirdly, because of its unusual design (smokers not willing to quit, e-Cigarettes were used throughout the entire study period) this is not an ordinary cessation study and therefore direct comparison with other smoking cessation products cannot be made. Fourthly, failure to complete the study and smoking cessation failures could be due to occurrence of technical defects for the e-Cigarette. However, this could not be assessed with confidence in the present study. Lastly, assessment of withdrawal symptoms in our study was not rigorous. Withdrawal was assessed at each visit by simply asking about the presence/absence of irritability, restlessness, difficulty concentrating, increased appetite/weight gain, depression or insomnia. It is likely that this way of collecting information is liable to recall bias. Therefore, the reported lack of withdrawal symptoms in the study participants should be considered with caution.

Conclusions

Current smoking cessation interventions can increase the chance of quitting in committed smokers who are already motivated and prepared to stop smoking [33],

but a broader range of interventions are needed in order to bring more smokers into treatment and increase the numbers who are motivated to make quit attempts. Although not formally regulated as a pharmaceutical product, the e-Cigarette can help smokers to remain abstinent or reduce their cigarette consumption. By replacing tobacco cigarettes, the e-cigarette can only save lives.

Here we show for the first time that e-Cigarettes can substantially decrease consumption without causing significant side effects in smokers not intending to quit. However, large and carefully conducted RCTs will be required before a definite answer about the efficacy and safety of these devices can be formulated. Some of these trials are now in progress in Italy [34-36] and New Zealand [37] and hopefully they will be able to confirm and expand the preliminary observations reported in the present article.

Abbreviations

e-Cigarette: Electronic Cigarette (E-Cigarette); Nicotine Delivery Device. Cigarette: Cigarette Test of Nicotine Dependence (CTND) test boxes. Depression Inventory: 20-item self-rated depression test (range 0-20). Depression Inventory: 20-item self-rated depression test (range 0-20). e-Cigarette: Electronic Cigarette (E-Cigarette); Nicotine Delivery Device. Cigarette: Cigarette Test of Nicotine Dependence (CTND) test boxes. Depression Inventory: 20-item self-rated depression test (range 0-20). Depression Inventory: 20-item self-rated depression test (range 0-20).

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank our group (M. Williams, T. Fox) for the free supplies of e-Cigarette kits and nicotine cartridges as well as their support. We would also like to thank the study participants for all their time and effort and LVA (Luigi Lalliani, author) for the collaboration.

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Authors' contributions

RP: Principal investigator, protocol design, interpretation of the data, writing of the first RCT, coordination of the data writing of the first RCT, statistical analyses, interpretation of the data, writing of the first RCT. Coordination of the study, writing of the protocol design, interpretation of the data, writing of the first RCT. Coordination of the data writing of the first RCT. Coordination of the data writing of the first RCT. Coordination of the data writing of the first RCT.

Competing interests

None of the authors have any competing interests to declare. RP has received lecture fees from Pfizer and, from Feb 2011, he has been serving as a consultant for Altria Group (SmithKline Beecham, Italy), the manufacturer of the e-Cigarette kit used in the present study and all related activities. RP was not involved in the study design, conducting of the study or analysis and presentation of the results.

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TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL JAY GREEN, ESQ.

ON BEHALF OF

VOLCANO FINE ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

I represent Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes (hereafter “Volcano”), Hawaii’s largest electronic cigarette retailer/supplier.

SB 2819, as presently proposed, would amend the definition of “tobacco” and “tobacco products” to include “electronic cigarettes” (hereafter “e-cigarettes”) in order to accomplish two objectives: (1) to prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes to minors; and (2) for purposes of taxation.

Volcano supports the proposed bill’s restriction on sales to minors, and indeed adheres to its own strict no-minors policy.

Volcano opposes the imposition of the tobacco tax on e-cigarettes. The tobacco tax targets harms caused by tobacco use. However, there has been no showing that e-cigarettes cause the same harms. To the contrary, numerous medical doctors and researchers have done studies and made preliminary findings that e-cigarettes hold promise as an effective means for reducing the harms caused by tobacco use, because they are a healthier alternative to tobacco cigarettes and may be more effective as a smoking cessation tool than other forms of nicotine replacement therapy (see exhibits 1-4 attached to the written testimony of Volcano President Cory N. Smith).

Accordingly, any government regulation aimed at deterring e-cigarette use, such as the tobacco tax presently proposed in SB 2819, is at best premature, and quite possibly, injurious to the public health. Dr. Michael Seigel, MD, a professor

in the Department of Community Health Sciences at Boston University's School of Public Health and an advisor to the American Council on Science and Health (hereafter "ACSH") has summed up the issue as follows:

Thus, promoting the removal of electronic cigarettes from the market pending further research and recommending that people refrain from using the product pending further research are both strategies that will almost invariably cause substantial health harm to the population.¹

In *Sottera, Inc. v. Food and Drug Administration*, 627 F.3d 891 (D.C. Cir. 2010), the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit affirmed a district court's preliminary injunction barring the FDA from regulating e-cigarettes under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The Court held that since the liquid nicotine used in e-cigarettes is derived from natural tobacco plants, the e-cigarettes can be regulated under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act of 2009 (the "Tobacco Act"), because the Tobacco Act broadly defines the term "tobacco product" to include any product "derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, including any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product. . ." 21 U.S.C. §321(rr). The court rejected the FDA's harm to the public interest argument for denying the preliminary injunction, reasoning that the FDA had cited no evidence to show that e-cigarettes harmed anyone. 627 F.3d at 899.

Judge Garland's concurring opinion in *Sottera* is quite instructive. Judge Garland agrees that e-cigarettes are subject to regulation under the Tobacco Act because of the Act's broad definition of the term "tobacco product." Nonetheless, Judge Garland noted that the liquid nicotine used in e-cigarettes is merely *derived* from natural tobacco plants but does not itself actually contain any tobacco, 627 F.3d at 901, and it seems even "less natural to regard that fact as sufficient to

¹See ACSH HealthFactsandFears.com, August 3, 2011, attached hereto as Exhibit 1. ACSH was founded by a group of scientists in 1978. Its mission is to ensure that peer-reviewed mainstream science reaches the public, the media, and the decision-makers who determine public policy (see "About ACSH," attached hereto as Exhibit 2). ACSH is directed and advised by over 350 physicians, scientists and policy advisors (see Exhibit 1).

transform [the e-cigarette's] plastic cartridges –which contain no tobacco– into a tobacco product.” 627 F.3d at 899. SB 2819, as presently proposed, would classify all components of the e-cigarette, including the plastic cartridges, batteries, etc. –and even liquid containing no nicotine at all and all components of the e-cigarettes even when used to vaporize non-nicotine liquid– as tobacco products.

Judge Garland distinguished e-cigarettes from products containing tobacco as follows, 627 F.3d at 900-901:

First, unlike products containing tobacco, which the FDA has found to be associated with “cancer, respiratory illness, and heart disease,” [*FDA v. Brown & Williamson*, 529 U.S. 120,] 134-135, the FDA has *not* found that nicotine or tobacco-free products that deliver nicotine are inherently unsafe. . . . Indeed, the FDA states that “it may well be possible for a manufacturer of ‘electronic cigarettes’ . . . to satisfy the FDCA’s safety, effectiveness, and labeling requirements and obtain FDA approval.” [FDA Br. 16].

In light of the obvious differences between products containing tobacco, and e-cigarettes which do not, it makes no sense to subject e-cigarettes to the tobacco tax, which is specifically directed at addressing tobacco related harms. To the contrary, since current research suggests that e-cigarettes show promise as an effective means to reduce tobacco use and tobacco related harms, subjecting e-cigarettes to the tobacco tax would actually undermine the justification for the tax itself.

For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully ask the Committee to strike Part I from SB 2819 before introducing the bill to the Senate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

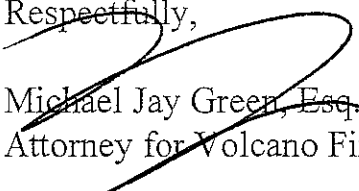
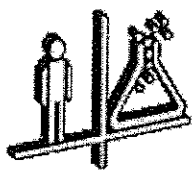

Michael Jay Green, Esq.
Attorney for Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes

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New research lights up success of e-cigarettes

As electronic cigarettes become a more popular means of quitting conventional cigarettes, studies pointing to their efficacy are accumulating. In an online survey of nearly 3,600 subjects who were recruited from either e-cigarette-related web sites or smoking cessation sites that have nothing to do with e-cigarettes, researchers from the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine at the University of Geneva found that a large majority of the responders who had quit reported that e-cigarettes helped them get off cigarettes.

And, in an entry for his blog tobaccoanalysis.com, ACSH advisor Dr. Michael Siegel, professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the Boston University School of Public Health, discusses the study results, which were published in the journal *Addiction*. Among e-cigarette users who used the devices to quit smoking, four out of five said they fear they would return to smoking cigarettes if the electronic nicotine delivery devices were banned.

Despite the study's positive conclusions regarding the use of e-cigarettes as effective smoking cessation devices, some prominent public health organizations continue to rail against the alleged dangers of allowing these products on the market. But people who rely on science, not simply feelings, are frustrated by such fervent opposition, says ACSH's Dr. Gilbert Ross. "Those who want to ban e-cigarettes and refuse to investigate the potential of harm reduction are adhering to a discredited dogma, which is frustrating to scientists such as Dr. Siegel."

A ban on e-cigarettes is hypocritical and illogical," adds ACSH's Dr. Josh Bloom, "especially since Congress has allowed companies to legally sell harmful or useless (and untested) products, such as dietary supplements. But all of a sudden, regulators are worried about the safety of e-cigarettes? How about considering the known and serious risk of real cigarettes in the equation? Any minor safety concerns about e-cigarettes are dwarfed by the *real* risk of smoking. Why people who are supposedly acting in the interest of public health can't grasp this simple concept is a mystery to me."

Dr. Siegel sums up the issue very nicely:

Thus, promoting the removal of electronic cigarettes from the market pending further research and recommending that people refrain from using the product pending further research are both strategies that will almost invariably cause substantial health harm to the population.

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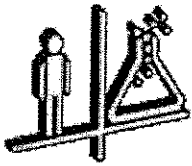
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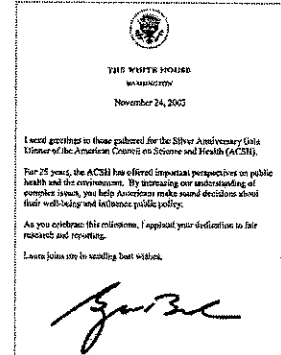
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Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrew cartwright
Organization: Cdf water supply
E-mail: Andrew@cdfwatersupply.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

The electronic cigarette is a wonderful invention. It is saving people's lives and money. For those of us who are addicted to tobacco the electronic cigarette is truly a lifesaver. It should be more available and less restricted. We the people need this product. Please consider the wonderful impact the e cigarette is making while making your decisions. Please protect us against this law like you took an oath to do

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: erwin0725@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:42:56 PM
Attachments: [To the Honorable Governor of Hawaii.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ervin Santos Santiago
Organization: Ecig bussiness
E-mail: erwin0725@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

To the Honorable Governor of Hawaii:

My name is Ervin Santiago. I recently traveled to Hawaii in June 2011 and was instantly attracted to the electronic cigarette which was sold by Volcano Ecig. The main reason I decided to try it was the positive research which has been done which showed remarkable benefits for my wife and son who have to endure my nasty habit of smoking. Research has shown the horrible effects of smoking cigarettes. I made a very difficult decision to start Ecig for my family. I hope one day I would be able to say this saved my life.

I enjoyed it so much that I wanted to bring it to Guam. So I started a small business with the help of the folks at Volcano Ecigs. I was recently informed by my wholesaler Adam Burnett that Hawaii was introducing a bill to prevent minors from purchasing electronic cigarettes and to raise taxes on any component of Electronic Cigarettes. I have never sold any Electronic Cigarette to a minor and would never think of it. I commend you all for taking the time to regulate sales to minors. The problem with raising taxes on all the components of the Electronic cigarettes is that it will dramatically raise the prices of the product that I buy from Volcano Ecigs. I then would have to sale it for more which would be detrimental to my small business.

If this law is passed I would have to find another distributor who is not subjected to the laws of Hawaii in regards to taxes on Electronic Cigarettes. This will also affect my families' vacation trips. Every other year we spend money to go to Hawaii because it is cool and not freezing like in the mainland USA. My family in Michigan and northern California meet up in Hawaii to reunite and I would be able to conduct business with the fine folks in Volcano Ecigs, but this would probably change because I would be conducting business elsewhere. So I humbly ask that you reconsider the law that would raise the taxes on Electronic Cigarettes. I feel it is unfair and unnecessary. Your island should embrace this healthier alternative to smoking cigarettes which is far more dangerous.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jamie@volcanoecigs.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:08:44 PM
Attachments: [SB2819.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jamie Ernestberg
Organization: Volcanoecigs
E-mail: jamie@volcanoecigs.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Aloha,

I am emailing you today in regards to the Bill SB2819. As an avid Electronic Cigarette supporter, I am all for the banning of sales to minors although the taxing of Electronic Cigarettes, not so much. In the past 2 years Electronic Cigarettes have been in my life with nothing but positive outcomes. I have had countless friends and family members switch from smoking cigarettes to vaping Electronic Cigarettes with achieving their personal goals of cutting back on cigarettes, saving money and quitting smoking all together! Even the ones that were not planning on quitting smoking actually stopped having the cravings to smoke cigarettes without even trying! Everyone of them have raved about how much better they feel, how their taste buds have come back to life, the fact that they have run a marathon successfully with ease, the money they were able to save for other necessities and so much more. I am so blessed to have been given the opportunity to work for Volcanoecigs and find out about such a great product that has had such a impact on all it's users. With working for an Electronic Cigarette company I have heard so many stories about how the Electronic Cigarette has impacted so many lives in so many ways. On a daily basis people come in to our retail locations thanking us for what we do. I know that by passing this bill the way it is now, not only will you affect all Electronic Cigarette companies in Hawai'i but this will deeply impact all Electronic Cigarette users and possibly push them back to their old and bad habits of smoking cigarettes. Please take the time to rethink this bill as it will have a huge negative impact on the State of Hawai'i.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Jamie Ernestberg

Chief Operating Officer

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jess@islandvapor.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:27:24 AM
Attachments: [letter to state of hawaii.wps](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jess Lovely
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jess@islandvapor.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Please don't pass this law and put all the E-cigarette stores out of business. There are to many people that benefit from this product!!!

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jess Lovely and I decided to pursue my dreams of opening my own Electronic Cigarette business called Island Vapor in Kihei, Maui on December 15th 2011. I have only been open for 6 weeks and then I get the news that the local government wants to classify E-cigarettes as a tobacco product for the purpose of taxation at a 70% rate! This will no doubt put everyone out of business and generate zero dollars of revenue for the state of Hawaii. I currently sell a basic starter kit for \$65. 70% tax rate would boost the base price of my bare bones starter kit to \$110.50! Is this correct? If not let me know. Also I totally agree with not selling E-cigarettes to minors. I only sell my product to people over the age of 18 years old. I think the thing that is going unnoticed in this bill is all the good that E-cigarettes do for people every day. I smoked for 13 years and used E-cigarettes to stop smoking cigarettes permanently. It is hands down the most helpful product that has ever been introduced to help people stop smoking. Also I sell E-liquid that is comprised of mostly vegetable oil not propylene glycol. Now you have to ask yourself, is vegetable oil bad for you? There are many doctors that say that nicotine is not bad for the human body. It is actually a stimulant just like caffeine. Since E-cigarettes are the cleanest form of nicotine delivery ever invented (99% less chemicals and no tar) I think that they are not being viewed in the positive light that they deserve. The fact that the state is trying to make them sound bad for people is not a fair shake! I'm all for not selling E-cigarettes to minors but you need to look harder at the tax issue. If you tax E-cigarettes and put all the outlets in Hawaii out of business, the state won't make any money, and you will put many people out of jobs. On top of that there are hundreds of online sites that will happily send people E-cigarettes tax free. As the owner of Island Vapor in Kalama Village in Kihei, I strongly oppose the taxation of electronic cigarettes in Hawaii.

Thank You,
Jess Lovely
Owner/Operator
Island Vapor
1941 S. Kihei Rd. #14
Kihei HI 96753
509-280-5078

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: matt@longleymarketing.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:23:47 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matthew Longley
Organization: Longley Marketing
E-mail: matt@longleymarketing.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

The proposed bill would dramatically hurt my business as well as other businesses selling electronic cigarettes. Many businesses located in Hawaii would be forced to take their business elsewhere. Taxing the e-liquid would be one thing, but taxing accessories for ecigs makes no sense at all.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: victoria@thevaporkgirl.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:41:02 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Victoria Sylvestre
Organization: The vapor girl
E-mail: victoria@thevaporkgirl.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

E cigarettes are NOT TOBACCO!

They help people quit smoking (which causes cancer)!!! Ecigs sometimes can have nicotine that is not a carcinogen.

E cigarettes are approved by many doctors organizations.

Do we tax nicotine gum? Nicotine patches??? This would set a president for that, and I don't think big pharm wants you to do that.

I will support keeping e cigarettes out of minors hands. Of course that is wise. But to tax as regular cigarette products? That is ridiculous. It is not the same. There are doctors associations that have come out in favor of the e cig! They are saving people's lives! Every doctor I go to has been thrilled I quit smoking and started vaping. It is not the same thing! There is no tobacco, no combustion, no smoke, no poisons for secondhand people and it's not bad for the environment. Nicotine is not a carcinogen. Please don't do this. There are so many people who will be living longer, healthier lives because of ecigs. If you need money, tax cigarettes higher but don't hurt something that is good for so many people, I beg of you.

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TOBACCO, Electronic cigarettes

BILL NUMBER: SB 2819; HB 2557 (Identical)

INTRODUCED BY: SB by Tsutsui by request; HB by Say by request

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 245-1 to amend the definition of tobacco products to include electronic cigarettes as defined under HRS section 709-908.

Amends HRS section 709-908 to define “tobacco” and “tobacco products” to include electronic cigarettes as any mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit, which can be used to deliver a vapor of nicotine or any other substances and the use or inhalation of which simulates smoking.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

STAFF COMMENTS: This is an administration measure submitted by the department of health HTH-08(12). While traditional cigarettes have been proven to be a health hazard, electronic cigarettes have appeared on the market in 2004. Even though electronic cigarettes do contain nicotine, they do not produce the other hazardous substances associated with a traditional cigarette. However, due to the novelty of this product, there have been no studies on whether these electronic cigarettes pose any health hazards. As a precaution, this measure proposes that such electronic cigarettes shall be taxed under the tobacco tax in the category of “other tobacco products” at 70% of its wholesale cost. The measure also restricts their sales to persons 18 years of age and older.

Given the fact that there is no tobacco being consumed with electronic cigarettes, it is questionable why this particular product should be placed under the tobacco tax. While it may be a substitute for a tobacco product, so are other products like gum which contains nicotine manufactured to satisfy the craving for nicotine. How should these latter products be taxed, if at all? As noted many times before, if the health department believes that products such as cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and other forms of tobacco consumption are bad for the community’s health, then those products should be banned altogether. Ironically, lawmakers do not want to give up the revenues they reap from the heavy taxes imposed on these products.

Digested 1/31/12

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ryane004@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:50:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Elizabeth Cabral
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ryane004@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: peckglenn55@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:57:21 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Glenn Peck
Organization: Individual
E-mail: peckglenn55@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kerrywg@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 6:55:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Kerry Green
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kerrywg@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: missniknic@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:06:30 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: nicole torres
Organization: Individual
E-mail: missniknic@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Halipinoysrx@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:52:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Adam Cadorna
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Halipinoysrx@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Volcano e cigs have helped me quit smoking !00%. I've even introduced this product to a number of people and they no longer use tobacco product too. i feel more healthy than before and strongly believe that this is not only an alternative way to smoke, but a product to help you quit smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: alecgintner@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:08:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: alec gintner
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alecgintner@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chrismuscara@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 3:58:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Chris Muscara
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chrismuscara@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cjvc808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:46:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Clifford Cabiles
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cjvc808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I've been a loyal customer for at least six months. Its been about 4 months since my last cigarette and i can honestly say my lifestyle has never been healthier in years.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: drew@drewbrown.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:33:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Drew Brown
Organization: Individual
E-mail: drew@drewbrown.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This product has saved my life and I'm sure lives of many others. You are supposed to work for the health and well being of the public. Your laws should be raising awareness of the dangers of smoking not restrict the benefits of those who are trying to stop. Shame on you if you tax this product. Wake up and help the people, not hurt them.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: gencygalarce@yhoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:39:20 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Gency Galarce
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gencygalarce@yhoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: honmag002@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 3:28:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Gerald Honma
Organization:
E-mail: honmag002@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Please give Hawaii people a choice to choose a alternate to cancer causing cigarettes (Tobacco). If you raise the tax to be the same as Tobacco cigarettes for Ecigs then the tens of thousands of Hawaii people who are vaping instead of smoking may go back to Tobacco cancer products. I am or was a heavy smoker and tried everything out there to quit, but the only thing that has helped was a electronic cigarette. Everyone knows that Ecigs are less hazardous than regular cigarettes even if is not completely tested yet. Even my doctor says it is common sense that if you light anything on fire and smoke it that it will do way more damage then if you vaporize it. Especially if it does not contain tobacco and only nicotine which is not a cancer causing carcinogen.

Much Mahalo,
Gerald Honma

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ikaikastrum@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:57:36 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: ikaika saito
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ikaikastrum@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mrchu1234@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:32:46 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jacob Chu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mrchu1234@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I have been an employee for volcano for a little over a year now. I have also quit smoking regular cigarettes for roughly around the same amount of time. Over the past year I have helped a number of people cut down on smoking and/or quit smoking all together. I personally have been smoking for 8 years and now have no desire to smoke a regular cigarette. So imposing this bill would not only make it harder for customers and myself to purchase products but would more than likely put me out of a job. So please do not pass this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sternbergj666@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 1:23:25 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: jake sternberg
Organization: Another Jewboy Production
E-mail: sternbergj666@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

smoking kills more than most controlled substances, this product has 2 chemicals opposed to the 4000 in regular ciggarettes so anyone that thinks this product is not beneficial is out of their fucken mind!!!!!!!!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: beastygedk@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:40:47 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: jerald balguna
Organization: Individual
E-mail: beastygedk@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: deversjohn@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:22:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: John Devers
Organization: Individual
E-mail: deversjohn@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: keonivex@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:10:04 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: john k. chang III
Organization: Individual
E-mail: keonivex@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jpvw808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:46:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: John Paul vonwiegandt
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jpvw808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jjumawan@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:55:29 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: johnadette jumawan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jjumawan@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: joshua.beauford@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:40:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: joshua beauford
Organization: Individual
E-mail: joshua.beauford@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: zsprinkles@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 3:57:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Katherine Bojarski
Organization: Individual
E-mail: zsprinkles@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: haruo39@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:58:09 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Ken Hashimoto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: haruo39@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

i ma currently a senior at Shidler college of business, I started smoking at the age of 18, and it wasn't since the volcano ecig inferno that got me to quit. I tried everything on the market but craved the physical aspect of smoking. Since i started smoking the ecig i noticed a huge improvement in my health and well as my physical fitness. Since i am in the army ROTC program at UH, physical fitness is top priority. I am now able to be a more efficient leader in the US Army.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kevinrichter@att.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:37:49 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Kevin Richter
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kevinrichter@att.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This bill is ridiculous and the premise on which it is based upon is false. This product cannot possibly be deemed a "tobacco product" when there is no tobacco in it. Nicotine liquid is not tobacco plain and simple thus this bill should be denied.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: adecadentsociety@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:09:44 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: kristina rice
Organization: Individual
E-mail: adecadentsociety@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I get the state wanting to prevent minors from being able to vape but this is already a concern to the local e cigarette vendors. N they are already helping that by carding everyone who visits the shop. Now taxing the product is ridiculous. People use vapor cigarettes to stop smoking. If u tax this product with how high the price will become will drive people back to smoking not to mention force people out of jobs. The legislature of Hawaii should know more then anyone how hard it is for thw people of Hawaii to find work. Forcing mark up on a good product helping people in more ways then one will shut down work spaces due to greed of the government causing losses in jobs and businesses. Not to mention restarting people on a habbit they r trying to quit. Its counter productive to the people against cigarettes any how. You need to rethink this bill and consider how it will negatively affect everyone not just people who smoke e-cigarettes. I personally don't use it, but my boyfriend who has been a smoker for 8yrs got an e-cigarette for Christmas and hasn't smoked a real one sense. I have the vendors of this product, the creators and our friend(and fellow vapor) to thank fir that. His health has improved tramendusly. I'd hate to see my fiancee turn back to that nasty habbit because of this taxation. Itd make it to exensive to purchase in Hawaii, and that's if thw local vendors aren't forced to shut down. I know he wouldn't want to order all his products online. This product is beneficial, please don't mistakenly force it down. Patches, nicorette gum any other non-tobacco products don't have this tax, don't place it on this wonderful and helpful quitting product! Thank you for your time. I know our legislature will do what best for its people once you understand the devastation this bill would produce if put into effect!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: giraphants@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:18:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: la aukai
Organization: Individual
E-mail: giraphants@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
it helps me getting off of cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kalae.akui@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 11:26:48 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: kalae akui
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kalae.akui@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

I love the electronic cigarettes and what they have done for me. They bettered my health and made me save lots of money!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lrehfeldt@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:40:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Leah Rehfeldt
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lrehfeldt@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

With the use of the Volcano electronic cigarette, myself and a number of my colleagues have quit using analog tobacco cigarettes, dramatically changing our lives, savings, and overall health. The heavy taxation of this product would essentially make it more expensive to 'vape' than to smoke tobacco cigarettes. I can't count on the rest of the local e-cig users to continue spending their money on such an expensive product, and if my supplier should lose their company due to the loss of their business, I'd be forced to do the same. Using e-cigs helped me quit the lifestyle I had, and knowing these products contain no tobacco at all, I'll do nothing but support the opposition of this taxation.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: l0lat@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:20:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Linda
Organization: Individual
E-mail: l0lat@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Electronic cigarettes are promoting healthier alternatives not just for us as smokers but also helps non smokers by ridding of the harmful effects of second hand smoke. If lighters and matches aren't being taxed, why should ecig products that don't contain nicotine be taxed.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lgamiao@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:45:53 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Lindsey Gamiao
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lgamiao@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rmpunky1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:00:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Madison Nikkola
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rmpunky1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Electronic cigarettes have helped my step-mother quit smoking cigarettes after thirty years. It should be a consumer's choice to decide whether to smoke a natural cigarette or an electronic cigarette; at a comparably reasonable price. A 70% tax on products is extravagant and manipulative.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: markoroots@hotmail.it
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:01:19 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Marco
Organization: Individual
E-mail: markoroots@hotmail.it
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Hello,

I read...

Why do you want call "tobacco product" if there isn' t tobacco.

The FDA loose all the attempts to stop this in tribunal.

Is ridiculous you want tax this.

Do you want make a buisness on the health of the people?

I hope not.

Best regards

Marco Migietta

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mwa1024@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 10:23:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Matthew Ahern
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mwa1024@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I was a 2 pack a day smoker for 30yrs, the electronic personal vaporizer (e-cigarrete was the only product that got me to quit smoking. Secondly it is so obvious that the politicians against this are being lobbied from Big tobacco and big pharma and getting kickbacks, I want the person who has initiated this bill to be fully investigated and I am going to b looking into this, this is unjust and the most crookedest thing I have ever heard of, these e-cigaretes are without a doubt the best thing on the market as an alternative to smoking real cigarettes which ARE KNOWN TO CAUSE CANCER, HEART DISEASE AND NUMEROUS OTHER HEALTH ISSUES , YET you dirty stinking politicians want to tax the hell out of them, only to make up the loss of income from people quitting the real cigarettes and get the money you all are losing from this new invention, this is a total disgrace and I have way more to say about it and will be there with other representation as well, in fact thousands of people will be there, they are flying in from all over the world, if you think you dirty stinking politicians will pass this kind of tax and try to ban this product you all have another thing coming, as well you will all be getting fully investigate so everyone can see exactly what you all do all day and who is kicking you kickbacks, what a dirty bunch of people we have representing us these days, it disgust me

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mike.sumida@clearwire.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:15:35 PM
Attachments: [Mike"s testimony.txt](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Mike Sumida
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mike.sumida@clearwire.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I was a smoker for 35+ yrs. and have tried every product from nicotine gums to nicotine patches with no success.

It was only after using electronic cigarettes was I able to stop my habit of smoking tobacco cigarettes.

I believe e-cigs are a healthy alternative for people like myself who want to quit smoking but are unable to using traditional methods.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mililanirivas@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:30:28 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Milta Rivas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mililanirivas@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I am extremely upset that now that I smoked cigarettes with it's second hand smoke I switched to Valcano E cigs the state legislature of Hawaii wants to impose a 70% tax on this fabulous company's products. Stop putting money before those of us that truly are in need of this service. Our government sucks.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: napalmer86@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 11:57:46 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: nick palmer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: napalmer86@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

This bill is ill advised it will just hurt hawaii as a whole taking the revenue here stores bring into mainland and foreign companies you are killing jobs and weaking the economy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nkbenzon@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:11:51 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Noah Benzon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nkbenzon@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: queverb@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:09:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Quinn R. Allen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: queverb@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

As a smoker of 15 years who has tried multiple means of quitting, all without success, it pains me to find out that the state I'm living in would do something so harmful as to rob its people of something that would enable them to live healthier. Electronic Cigarettes are NOT tobacco products. It is ridiculous that they would be classified as such. Electronic Cigarettes are a healthier means of delivering nicotine to the body, and research has proven that it is not only THOUSANDS of times healthier than tobacco, it has been shown to be healthier than some of the other smoking-cessation materials (such as patches or gums) and far more effective.

The proposed tax increase would literally mean the end of small business who provide these products not only to customers here in Hawaii (this being inclusive of all the islands) but also to customers across the nation. This would be the end of jobs in an already depressing job market, an increase in customers who have stopped smoking tobacco cigarettes to go back to them, and the loss of a chance for Hawaii to make a major move in the nation to actually support a health movement that has shown more promise than anything else in the past 20 years in helping people to stop using tobacco cigarettes.

Please, I urge you to think this through more carefully. These products have already saved thousands of lives. I've seen first hand smokers who have been addicted to tobacco cigarettes for 40+ years finally stop and solely use electronic cigarettes.

Zero tolerance for nicotine is years away, if ever. Harm reduction is the first step, and nothing on the market has been as effective as electronic cigarettes. The research is out there and its easy to find, even easier to ask for, and it all says the same thing; These aren't tobacco products, these are thousands of times healthier than tobacco products, and these have PROVEN themselves to be significantly more effective at helping people to stop smoking than any other treatment available.

Don't condemn your constituents to an unhealthy life when they've finally found something to help them quit. Dig deeper than the surface and see how amazing this technology is, and how many lives it can save.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: raeshanahan20@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 5:34:10 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: rachel shanahan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: raeshanahan20@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:
this is stupid

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: robyn.mateo@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:43:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Robyn Mateo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robyn.mateo@live.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Supasaqeb@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:45:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Saqeb
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Supasaqeb@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
There is no tabacoo in this product. This bill should not pass.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: moonnosun@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:50:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Sean Moon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: moonnosun@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

This is the last thing i have to quit smoking. I am moving away from tobacco products in an effort to be health concious. Might as well and start taxing other products that give simialr effects.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ainokeabs@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:46:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: sharece hardin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ainokeabs@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: spettis08@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:37:43 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: stacey austin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: spettis08@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tdkisaacs@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:57:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Tiffany Isaacs
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tdkisaacs@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I stand in support of Volcanoecigs and all other electronic cigarette providers. Finally a product has become available that many consumers are finding very helpful in achieving their goal to quit smoking. It is very upsetting that the state would consider putting an additional ridiculous tax on these products which would make it harder for consumers to be able to afford these products. Personally i was raised on a tobacco farm and started smoking cigarettes at age 7. I am now 25 years old with horrible smokers cough, I cant run long distances hike or swim like most my age. I have tried many different options to quitting - patches, gum, pills even tried being hypnotised. None of these methods have worked and i could not afford the cost. Electronic cigarettes have helped me cut back dramatically, hopefully within the next week i will be able to say that i have quit completely. If this bill passes i fear i will not be able to afford the products i will need to stay smoke free and live a healthier happy life. Please do not pass this bill and further jeopardize thousands of us consumers and our loved ones to not being able to afford a healthier life style.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: antb757@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:58:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Tony Batiste
Organization: Individual
E-mail: antb757@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This is just another way to squeeze more tax dollars out us! I have tried the Hawaii quit line, patches, gum, and nothing worked. After 2 weeks of using this product, I am now smoke free for over a year. How can you tax a battery or atomizer? Alone, they are not tobacco. Even when the entire unit is put together, you still have no tobacco. I promise to vote against anyone who votes for this "scheme," republican or democrat. This unit is already listed as for sale to only adults, and has survived the overreaching arm of the FDA. These units are not tobacco, under any definition. They are nicotine alternatives- least case, and life savers at best. Nicotine patches are given away for free with the support of this very same governing body(and they are proven not to work!). Spend your time, and my tax dollars on something else. This product is also available in a non nicotine formula- which for me helped with the suppression of oral fixation (a major component of smoking).

Hawaii is home to a major ecig company, which provides multiple jobs, I have no doubt that those job will leave this state. I also have no doubt that your tax scheme will fail. These products are readily available via other avenues, and I am easily able to avoid this maneuvering (I can all but guarantee that you reach can't compete with the world wide web! Learn to be content supporting small businesses (and collecting standard sales taxes), and stop trying to fleece us consumers (voters).

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: will.simpson@xerox.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:29:24 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: William Simpson III
Organization: Individual
E-mail: will.simpson@xerox.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Take electronic cigarretes OFF THIS BILL, where is the common sense? This is NOT TABACCO!! You've already taxed us out of smoking.This is not smoking it's vaporizing. In the last year I've cut down my nicotine and by next year i'll be free of it. my Dr. even recommended this as the patches did not work for me. I emprove you to use common sense. I am a veteran of war and I VOTE.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: williamthetailor@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:31:24 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: william
Organization: Individual
E-mail: williamthetailor@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
e cigs helped me give up tobaco. please dont pass

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: blazeakee@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:14:36 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: tiffany lota
Organization: Individual
E-mail: blazeakee@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I really enjoy my electronic cigarette. It is better than real cigarettes.

12 Individuals Support

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cg030308@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:59:25 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chadd Astronomo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cg030308@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: zeroxero247@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:16:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ivan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: zeroxero247@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Im not a smoker, i bought these for a friend and tried them and wernt that bad and i support this.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jikehara@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 10:25:10 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jo Ann Ikehara
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jikehara@lava.net
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Any measures that attempt to limit and prevent minors from accessing tobacco products should be supported. The long term effects of e-cigarette use has not yet been determined. Do not let the young and vulnerable go down this path with this device by allowing it to go unsanctioned. Lung health is not a replaceable commodity. Likewise, by placing this paraphernalia into a category that allows for increased taxation should also be supported, to deter access by adults. Many are stopping, because of the rising cost of tobacco products. The harmful effects of tobacco use are well documented. The cost of treating health problems caused by smoking are draining our coffers across our state and across the USA, in addition to contributing to the early disability and demise of those individuals who took up the activity. Please pass SB2819. Sincerely, Jo Ann Ikehara, RRT, LRT
(Registered and Licensed Respiratory Therapist)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kevin.a.schaefer@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:26:01 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kevin Schaefer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kevin.a.schaefer@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lchow628@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:32:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Louis Chow
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lchow628@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: matthewemartel@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:39:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: matthew martel
Organization: Individual
E-mail: matthewemartel@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: MICHAEL.JAMESON@ROCKETMAIL.COM
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 6:52:05 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: MICHAEL JAMESON
Organization: Individual
E-mail: MICHAEL.JAMESON@ROCKETMAIL.COM
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO FINALLY BEING ABLE TO QUIT SMOKING THROUGH THE HELP OF E CIGS. THIS PRODUCT HAS BEEN THE ONLY PRODUCT THAT HAS TRUELY HELPED ME. I HAVE TRIED BOTH THE GUM AND PATCH WITH NO SUCCESS.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mikegrandy.mobile@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:29:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mike grandy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mikegrandy.mobile@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nadimam@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:31:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: nadima melhem
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nadimam@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: RJHCues@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:10:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Richard Hsu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: RJHCues@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
Stop the sales of electronic cigarette products to minors

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tjs29@wpa.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 12:50:38 PM
Attachments: [SB2819-Testimonial.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Terry Stephenson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tjs29@wpa.net
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

Testimony Regarding SB2819
RELATING TO SALES OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Dear Elected Officials,

Hello and please consider the following on sales of electronic cigarette products. Without going into a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of electronic cigarettes or E-Cigs I would like to submit the following for your consideration in passing this or any related bill to the use and sale of these products.

Tobacco use has been on a steady decline because of these types of products. The industry has seen many changes to the way Americans smoke or chooses not to smoke. The health benefits of quitting are obvious and the public should have the choice to use these safer than cigarette type products if they wish. By levying such a bill this would put the cost of E-Cigs much out of the reach of people who have had success in decreasing and stopping the use of regular cigarette products. The E-Cig is an electronic device NOT a Tobacco product. Fair taxation on the e cigarette should be that of any electronic device. Being the electronic cigarette contains no Tobacco how can you justify the 70% taxation rate? Do you tax a room vaporizer at 70%? It is the same principle of operation and you breathe that also. Some people even use the room vaporizer in their infants and children's room with additives.

The electronic cigarette is as safe as the vaporizer and most times safer. With company's such as Volcano in Hawaii is leading the front on quality control and safer packaging not because they have too but because they are proactive with safety. Minors are not served and strict rules of engagement are enforced. This company along with many other E-Cig companies take the extra steps to insure a safe and quality non tobacco alternative is available.

Insane taxation will only hurt all in the end. Lower or No sales, No Employees, and guess what less tax revenue form the electronic cigarette sales. With other states looking at the get it taxed or get it out approach rather than educating themselves on the product can and may very well be politically detrimental. News Flash: The E-Cig is here to stay, I urge you to educate yourself on the benefits of this product, I believe that you will find that there are many more supporters and advocates than detractors.

Fair taxation as a product yes, unfair unreasonable taxation on any item is just plain crazy. Consider this; if you're Coffee you so grow and enjoy suddenly had a 70% Tax increase because it contains caffeine (a proven stimulant) how would that go over. Not so good I suspect.

How about you spend your elected time dealing with better ways to manage the budgets other than insane taxation, maybe the public would notice that more. But I guess you can always just raise the tax on something else to make up the ground instead of running you house like we have to run ours efficiently. The ultimate goal is to eventually quit smoking traditional over taxed cigarettes and many electronic cigarette users have done so. This newer technology holds promise and developments to a better future for all.

Please consider these issues while deciding the fate of many regular people who want to be able to afford such a great option to curb or quit their addiction. Thankfully we live in a free country where we can debate the risks and rewards of any product. This debate as far as most educated people who have used electronic cigarettes is over. They can and do help smokers quit or slow down without harming themselves or others around them.

Please drop this un-fair and un-just proposed bill. Educate yourself on the positive of electronic cigarettes. Just ask any Volcanoecig customer or employee. The advice, information and help are always FREE.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Terry Stephenson

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: yolandamyjr@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 4:49:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: yolanda reyes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: yolandamyjr@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

999 Individuals
Opposed

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: paledro@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:45:58 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Aaron Ching
Organization: Individual
E-mail: paledro@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ajp2186@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:06:25 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: aaron penn
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ajp2186@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: aaronv@haigprecision.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:48:32 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Aaron Valenta
Organization: Individual
E-mail: aaronv@haigprecision.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Seriously? Such narrow-mindedness, such ignorance, but mostly, Such Gluttony! And then, to publicly advertise such incompetence & greed? One should be ashamed!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: duckynoliky@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:20:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Aaron Winegardner
Organization: Individual
E-mail: duckynoliky@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

As everyone knows we are going through hard times. When people go through hard times they get stressed out. People have to release this stress. Some people have a glass of wine others have a cigaret.

As it already is e-cigs are really costly to start out on this is already a turn off to most people with little money wanting to quit/ find another healthier way of dealing with their stress.

Just think of how many people will be turned off by the price point of this product that they will just turn away from a healthier choice. This in fact in the long run will be giving cancer to America.

In regards to jobs. This will force Volcano ecig and other company's like in Hawaii to move their business elsewhere out of state or just to shut down. This means a loss of jobs that we need in these hard times. Also Volcano ecig stated in an email that went out to all its customers that they will do just that.

This is not a good way to start out making America healthier by showing other states that it's a good idea to tax this product. If this goes through I believe other states will follow and soon the jobs will be outsourced.

Now if this bill was just making ecigs unattainable to minors it would be fine but it's not.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: abbylapointe@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:36:30 PM
Attachments: [e-cigs.pdf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Abby Lapointe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: abbylapointe@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

February 6, 2012

Aloha,

I'm writing this testimony to strongly oppose Senate bill SB2819 which, if passed, will allow the state of Hawaii to tax the sale of electronic cigarettes and every accessory sold with them at a rate of 70%, effectively driving Volcanoecigs and every other in-state vendor out of business and forcing all of us here in the islands to purchase our supplies from out-of-state vendors on the internet.

I was a cigarette smoker for twenty years before I switched to electronic cigarettes. Now I've been smoke-free and off of tobacco for a year. Although e-cigarettes stimulate the act of tobacco smoking by bearing the same physical sensation, appearance, and possibly flavor, e-cigarettes should not be compared at all to traditional tobacco cigarettes.

The liquid solution in e-cigarettes contains very few ingredients, and doesn't have the thousands of dangerous compounds present in most tobacco cigarettes. Smoking an e-cigarette also doesn't adversely affect anyone around the smoker. On a personal level, I feel 1,000 times better than when I smoked tobacco cigarettes, my breath doesn't smell, my teeth aren't stained, and my complexion isn't dull like when I smoked normal cigarettes. Although the effects of electronic cigarettes on human health have not been extensively studied, the deadly effects of smoking tobacco cigarettes are well known and proven by extensive scientific evidence, and comparing e-cigs to regular cigarettes is inappropriate, like comparing "apples to oranges."

If this bill is passed, it will be extremely unfortunate for all of us who have successfully used e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation device and drastically improved our personal quality of life, as well as the air quality of those around us.

Thank you so much for your time,

Abby Lapointe
Kailua, Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ymcahonolulu@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:04:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Abigail Stanwood
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ymcahonolulu@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
To Whom it may concern,

Using Electronic Cigarettes helped me quit smoking cigarettes. My health has improved and also my quality of life. I don't use E-Cigs for fun, as much as I use them out of necessity.

Please Do not Pass SB2819.

Mahalo,
Abby

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: email.acachia@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:14:31 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Acachia Schriml
Organization: Individual
E-mail: email.acachia@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This is not a tobacco product! It's a nicotine product. Big business and government needs to stop capitalizing on products that can help people reduce usage of harmful tobacco products, and start promoting safer nicotine products instead. Passing this bill will prove that the State is interested in money over people's health.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tsynamis72@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 4:49:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: adam arruda
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tsynamis72@live.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: i.am.so.banned@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:24:58 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: adam blazewick
Organization: Individual
E-mail: i.am.so.banned@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

As a person who smoked since I was 16 I am apposed to these kind of measures to tax ecigs This is just insane. Would you rather i go back to smoking regular cigarettes and killing myself and my family. I was planning on taking a trip to Hawaii but if this passes I will never spend my money there and I will tell everyone I know to do the same. ecigs may have saved my life and the lives of many of the people I know who used to smoke as well. We need to keep these products out of the hands of minors yes, but not adults whose alternative is something that we know causes cancer. PLease do not do this vapers have enough to contend with.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: atombone1180@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:40:24 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Adam Bowen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: atombone1180@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This bill is absolutely ridiculous! Preventing children from purchasing these products is one thing but, adding an enormous tax under the guise of tobacco is absurd! You folks need to talk a good look at what the big picture is and stop being "persuaded" from cash in hand by big tobacco! Forcing people to pay large amounts of tax on a product based on tobacco laws is not the right thing to do! Taxing a product is OK and when done correctly is the right of our government. You know darn well that this is a ploy from our money hungry tobacco companies and by doing this shows that our government is as weak and money crazed as them! Let Americas have the greatest alternative to smoking ever been discovered! Let us live longer, enjoy our nicotine, pay fair prices while still supporting the government in the development of this great invention. I quit smoking 1 week ago today and am proud to say i can enjoy a much less harmful product than many other legal drugs and pay fair prices to boot! I support my country, I love my country! Please do the right thing!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ar.drew@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:24:31 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: adam drew
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ar.drew@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

That is why I switched from reg cigarettes. I am feeling a lot healthier.

Please do not hinder peoples chances of a healthier choice at significant cost savings, particularly during this economic time we live in.

Mahalo!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: banddude007@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:49:32 PM
Attachments: [Testimony - Bill HB2557.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Adam Dunn
Organization: Individual
E-mail: banddude007@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I would like to express my concern about the proposed bill HB2557, regarding electronic cigarettes.

I implore you to become educated about electronic cigarettes. They are a life-saving product that has helped thousands of people quit smoking, myself included. They are NOT tobacco products, and they do NOT cause any ill health effects to the users or others.

I quit a 28-year smoking habit, totally due to electronic cigarettes. I had tried to quit dozens of times, all unsuccessful. I tried the patch, gum, Chantix, cold turkey, you name it. Ecigs are the only thing that has allowed me to break the deadly habit of cigarette smoking.

If this preposterous tax is imposed on ecigs, I will likely go back to smoking cigarettes, as much as that breaks my heart. I will have a greatly increased risk of getting lung cancer as well. I would like you to think about that before deciding to pass this bill.

Volcano is a company based in Hawaii which has helped thousands of people like me worldwide. They contribute greatly to the state economy as well. In this time of economic recession, it seems that you would be doing all you could to encourage and support businesses like Volcano, not forcing them out of business.

I am TOTALLY in agreement that these products should not be sold to anyone under 18. I am TOTALLY AGAINST prohibitive taxation that will make these devices too expensive for the people that need them most to afford them.

I hope that you consider this legislation carefully, as you are in a position to blow out the flame that is a beacon of life for all of us EX-smokers who rely on electronic cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: adamgf@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:42:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: adam ferris
Organization: Individual
E-mail: adamgf@live.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: adam.horne2@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:04:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Adam Horne
Organization: Individual
E-mail: adam.horne2@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: meddlegroup@nyc.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:41:21 PM
Attachments: [Against e-cig classification as tobacco.rtf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Adam Velazquez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: meddlegroup@nyc.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I do not believe that electronic cigarettes should be classified as a tobacco product at all, for the simple reason that nicotine is not necessarily de-facto a product of tobacco, but is found in many plants. Secondly, even when tobacco is used for the extraction of nicotine, the end product is nicotine not tobacco. When we extract sugar from beets we do not call it beets we call it by its separate name, sugar, and it is not classified as a vegetable but a separate derivative.

The purpose of classifying electronic cigarettes as a tobacco product for the sake of taxation is entirely erroneous and opportunistic. The main reason why cigarettes have been taxed and at such a high rate is because of the health implications of smoking. It has been proven that cigarette smoking is dangerous to ones health. And to discourage people from doing so, and to possible offset public health costs, taxes have been levied and are condoned for these reasons. This is not the same for electronic cigarettes. In fact switching to electronic sources of nicotine should be encouraged for its health benefits, and taxing them would be discouraging of the whole point of electronic cigarettes. People are using the lower costs of the electronic nicotine delivery systems as a way to convince themselves to switch, even though it is a new and unfamiliar way to "smoke". Vaporizing of nicotine should be encouraged for these and many other reasons, not discouraged. Treating them the same simply doesn't make sense. Also keep in mind that many people such as myself who have never smoked cigarettes, like vaporizing non-nicotene flavors as a fun alternative, so these products should not in any way even be associated with nicotine or tobacco.

I understand that nicotine is a restricted substance and should be kept away from children. But taxing is not a way to do that. Electronic vaporizing systems should not be associated with tobacco since the two never meet. There is literally no way to put tobacco in an electronic vaporizer. Therefore this is just someone seeing a tax market and trying to get in on the ground floor. This is a disservice to our community where we have tried so hard to get people to quit smoking. My own mother after 50 years of smoking was finally able to quit using electronic cigarettes. And this would have never happened if she believed they were the same as cigarettes, and cost about the same.

I do not believe that electronic cigarettes should be classified as a tobacco product at all, for the simple reason that nicotine is not necessarily de-facto a product of tobacco, but is found in many plants. Secondly, even when tobacco is used for the extraction of nicotine, the end product is nicotine not tobacco. When we extract sugar from beets we do not call it beets we call it by its separate name, sugar, and it is not classified as a vegetable but a separate derivative.

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I understand that nicotine is a restricted substance and should be kept away from children. But taxing is not a way to do that. Electronic vaporizing systems should not be associated with tobacco since the two never meet. There is literally no way to put tobacco in an electronic vaporizer. Therefore this is just someone seeing a tax market and trying to get in on the ground floor. This is a disservice to our community where we have tried so hard to get people to quit smoking. My own mother after 50 years of smoking was finally able to quit using electronic cigarettes. And this would have never happened if she believed they were the same as cigarettes, and cost about the same.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dreamrunner282@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:40:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Adrian Pruitt
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dreamrunner282@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I strongly oppose this tax increase and this bill, other than the part about sales to minors. I quit smoking over 8 months ago, due to electronic Cigarettes. My health has increased and my family is no longer exposed to second hand smoke. We vacation in your great state about once every two years for abor 3 weeks with several other families. If this bill is passed we will have to find another state for our family vacations. Please take the time to seriously look at the effects this bill will have, thank You

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Aidalynn.kahuli@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 1:49:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: aidalynn kahuli
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Aidalynn.kahuli@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:
helped me save money with ecig.and i dont smell like smoke

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cyber@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:40:37 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alan Ibra
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cyber@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sixfeet47@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:27:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: alan ladines
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sixfeet47@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lanl87@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:23:34 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: alan lin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lanl87@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

There is no way e-cig is a tobacco product. In fact, e-cigs help me stop smoking. Now you want to categorize e-cig as a tobacco product? E-cig are not sold to minors whether or not the bill exists. You people just want to tax the e-cig products thats all. Don't we already pay enough taxes? We don't even know where all the money is going to. On top of that prices of e-cigs will go up and it will be that much harder for smokers to try a better alternative. I HAVE COMPLETELY GONE OFF SMOKING TOBACCO AND I FEEL MUCH BETTER. Don't the peoples testimonies count?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ac_pookie@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:18:37 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: albert cortez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ac_pookie@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Martinsbar1935@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:16:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Albert M King
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Martinsbar1935@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This product is saving my mothers life, she's so bad off that she has to smoke and this is letting her still do so in a heather way and I'm seeing her get betters every day. But I love most of all is that it's made in hawaii, gives me more confidence, don't want to smoke any ecigs from china so please don't hurt this great company that is saving Americans life's.

Thank you for your time
Albert King

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ajvisitacion@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:42:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Aldrich Visitacion
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ajvisitacion@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: alexjones777@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:49:30 AM
Attachments: [SB2819.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alex Jones
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alexjones777@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Alex Jones. I have been without cigarettes for over a year and a half. My first one was a Volcano e-cig from Volcano, a company based in Hawaii. I switched to electronic cigarettes b/c it was a cleaner and more cost effective alternative to traditional cigarettes. What I had not counted on was the health benefits. Not only was I not spending as much as I did on cigarettes, my clothing did not smell. There were no ashtrays or cigarette butts. After about 3 months I could breathe and taste and smell 100 times better than I could while smoking. SB2819 is trying to effectively take this away from me by increasing the cost by classifying this as a tobacco product, which I do not agree with.

Regards,

-Alexander Jones

-alexjones777@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: alexrobinson@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:44:29 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: alex robinson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alexrobinson@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
good flavor, everyone i know loves it

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Dr.durden13@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:21:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alex Tilton
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Dr.durden13@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I don't believe you have any right to tax a tobacco product that isn't tobacco. Sale to minors is very reasonable to dispute but taxation against something that is not tobacco is ridiculous. Find another way to take our money...

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: alexanderemerson@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 6:19:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: alexander emerson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alexanderemerson@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: slp79akamai@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:55:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ALEXIS SHELDON
Organization: Individual
E-mail: slp79akamai@msn.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
LEAVE US ALONE! WE ARE NOT PART OF THE PROBLEM. GO AWAY!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mystals1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:01:54 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alisa Miyasato
Organization: The Old Spaghetti Factory
E-mail: mystals1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: leash_uh@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 5:14:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alisha Kalua
Organization: Individual
E-mail: leash_uh@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: awcossey@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 11:56:03 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: allen cossey
Organization: Individual
E-mail: awcossey@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: allicarey59@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 5:39:28 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Allison Carey
Organization: Individual
E-mail: allicarey59@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

I cannot believe that you are doing this. You raise taxes on tobacco under the guise of getting us to quit smoking. So I quit smoking and started vaping. Now you want to tax my vape? You are incredible. I guess you didn't take into account the loss of tax revenue. Are you going to include all nicotine products? So our health means NOTHING to you only money. You should be applauding this product not trying to control and tax it. This is a hands down no brainer. Leave my vape ALONE.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: amandajkittle@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:54:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Amanda Kittle
Organization: Individual
E-mail: amandajkittle@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: amberandobie@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:07:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Amber Villanueva-Andaya
Organization: Individual
E-mail: amberandobie@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: amy.yokota@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 6:51:19 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Amy Yokota
Organization: Individual
E-mail: amy.yokota@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I am a huge supporter of the electronic cigarettes. Today is 2/6/12 and I haven't smoke an analog cigarette since 8/28/11. My lungs are clear and I feel beeter. My sense of smell is great and I don't smell like cigarettes. Since using the electronic cigarette I have also saved a ton of money. If you decide to add this tax, you will discourage analog cigarette smokers from switching to the electronic cigarette, which is obviously a better choice.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: papadre01@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 5:05:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: andre chung
Organization: Individual
E-mail: papadre01@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: vaperzecigs@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:51:50 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: andre perea
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vaperzecigs@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
i will noe visit no place that dont support a better way GREED

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: achamplin423@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:04:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea Champlin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: achamplin423@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rageam4@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 10:32:48 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rageam4@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ahaberer@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:22:07 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrew Haberer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ahaberer@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

The use of an electronic cigarette has allowed me to quit the use of Actual tobacco products. The change in my health and activity levels has been phenomenal. I am not opposed to the age restrictions of payment of tax on nicotine products, but a tax on USB chargers, atomizers, and batteries is an overstepping of the purpose of excise tax. To impose a 70 percent tax on one USB charger would mean a need to place that tax on all USB chargers for equality purposes. Bestbuy would go out of business under those circumstances. The electronic cigarette is a healthier alternative, and one that is available affordably. please do not make this responsible choice unaffordable.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Drewklaas@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:45:24 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrew Klaas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Drewklaas@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This amendment is a bad idea. I am under the age of 18 and I bought one of these ecigs because I wanted to help a good friend quit smoking. This has been the reason he was able to stop and he is now not having his problems with addiction. He would not have been able to quit without an E-Cig.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nojiri.andrew@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 10:34:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrew Nojiri
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nojiri.andrew@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: andrew@gnaservicesinc.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:15:09 PM
Attachments: [Testimony.pdf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrew Smith
Organization: Individual
E-mail: andrew@gnaservicesinc.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am a customer of Honolulu based Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes (Jocor Enterprises LLC).

I want to start off by saying that I fully support banning the sales of electronic cigarettes to minors, it makes good sense. What seems not to make any sense is Section 1, taxing e-cigarettes at the same rate as tobacco products.

Historically the increased tax on tobacco products has served as a tool for encouraging healthy behavior and in turn reducing the burden placed on the health system.

Sure, it would be ideal if we could get all smokers to quit. But such a black and white approach to things dose not work in the real world.

E-cigarettes are 98-99%^[1] safer and by not taxing them at the same rate, we can encourage smokers who would otherwise not quit, to use a much safer product.^[2]

A major factor in the switch to e-cigarettes for end users is not these health numbers but it is the cost savings. I say that from personal experience. I work a minimal wage job and the cost savings, not health, is the reason I switched.

I urge you to do the right thing here. Yes, ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors. But do keep the insensitive to reduce ones health risk by 98-99% by not taxing electronic cigarettes like tobacco products. By doing so you will not only encourage healthier lifestyles but you will reduce the future burdens placed on the health care system by these would be smokers, and because such costs ultimately come back on everyone you will be saving everyone money.

Thank you for your time.

[1] <http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/content/6/1/29>

[2] <http://www.healthnz.co.nz/RuyanCartridgeReport30-Oct-08.pdf>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: andrew@dapsen.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 5:30:19 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrew Young
Organization: Individual
E-mail: andrew@dapsen.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I am a vaporizer user, and I disagree with the assertion that these electronics should be classified as tobacco products. There is absolutely no physical relationship between electronic cigarettes and tobacco. The juice in these devices are either propylene glycol (PG), vegetable glycerine (VG), or a blend of the above. The nicotine contained in the juice is generally synthetic and is not derived from tobacco leaves, although it is able to be created from many clever mixtures and flavors.

Please do not levy an unfair taxation on these creative and cutting-edge products. They have helped me personally quit smoking and I happily use mine each day, completely free of all the side effects of tobacco I used to have as a daily smoker. I can assure you these are NOT the same as cigarettes and only share a common general physical shape. Vapor is not the same thing as smoke, no more than the steam that comes out of your teapot could be confused for cigarette smoke.

I urge you to please do your medical and economic investigation into these devices first before creating unfair laws that will restrict their use, negatively skew the public opinion, and cause many people to miss out on the opportunity to trade in their normal smoking habits for a much safer 'vaping' habit.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Young

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: andrey.rudnitsky@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 4:45:18 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrey Rudnitsky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: andrey.rudnitsky@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

The tax on electronic cigarette components is unfair and unjust. If this bill is passed, I will refrain from visiting Hawaii. I am a business man and will not go out of my way to vacation in a state that is this anti-capitalistic.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Katetof419@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:12:59 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Angie Campbell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Katetof419@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

If the taxation of cigarettes and other tobacco have increased taxes to deter people from smoking and potentially shortening their life, I do not believe it is reasonable to tax a safer smoking alternative, which if used properly could help an individual quit smoking, at the same rate as standard tobacco products. The raised tax would deter people from trying the safer alternative, and one day kick their habit.

Thank you
Angie Campbell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: amgold1@suddenlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:00:04 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anita Fields-Gold, Ph.D., RN
Organization: Individual
E-mail: amgold1@suddenlink.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

As a long time smoker, I began purchasing ecigarettes from a company in your state two years ago and found that I could reduce my habit by more than 70%. Please be aware that we of the ecigarette smoking community do not believe that ecigarettes are a tobacco product. Further, if the Legislature is visionary they will note that many people are able to stop smoking on an ecigarette regime which in turn reduces health care costs (reduces Medicaid and Medicare costs for smokers), reduces air pollution from second-hand smoke, and reduces litter as the ecigarette has no butt to drop on the ground. The cost of ecigarettes is comparable to a carton of cigarettes here in my state and the addition of the proposed tax would bring the cost of ecigarettes much higher than my brand of smokes. Thus, I would have to forgo ecigarettes since as a retiree, I am on a fixed income. Further, if the Legislature passes this bill, it will affect my decision to ever visit Hawaii again given that the state legislature is more concerned over getting money into their coffers than promoting a product which does reduce and/or promote stoppage of cigarette smoking. This bill is very short sighted and seems to want to promote tobacco smoking over saving money on health care costs, clean air and litter abatement. I have no problem restricting this product from minors but I do believe that long time smokers should have a reasonably cost alternative at hand. Placing a 70% tax is NOT REASONABLE.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: annebareng@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:17:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anne Bareng
Organization: Individual
E-mail: annebareng@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ashibal@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 5:53:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Acebo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ashibal@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: faithless17@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:37:58 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Casazza
Organization: volcano e cigs
E-mail: faithless17@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This would create unfair business situations and destroy small businesses that hire working class people. Stop helping the rich and hurting the poor you god damn greedy bastards. Also, you're a dirty fucking jew.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: joeyvanson2004@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:59:33 PM
Attachments: [Electronic Smoking Ban Letter.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony J. Van Son III
Organization: Individual
E-mail: joeyvanson2004@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

A. Joey Van Son III
4006 Ross Ave.
San Jose, CA 95124

31 January 2012

Subject: Testimony to delete bill SB2819

To whom it may concern,

I am asking that you delete the following proposed bill SB2819.

I started using tobacco products since the age of 18 in the form of cigarettes and cigars at the rate of a pack a day. I am now 34 years old and am addicted to tobacco products. I have consumed more than 5800 packs of cigarettes totaling almost 600,000 individual cigarettes since I began smoking 16 years ago. I do not have an account for how many cigars I have consumed since I began smoking. I have tried quitting this addiction 7 times in the past 10 years. I have tried the Zyban (Welbutrin) pills, Chantix pills, Nicotine patches and nicotine gum. All of these methods were paired each time with a smoking cessation program offered through my medical provider or employer. To date neither has worked in my individual case in stopping me from smoking for more than 30-60 days at a time. The fact is that though they have been proven to work for others, they do not work for me as an individual who enjoys the actual act of smoking. None of these cessation methods have addressed behavioral components of cigarette addiction.

Recently I found a safer alternative to my smoking addiction in the form of an electronic cigarette. The very first day I used the electronic cigarette I noticed it replaced more than one half of my consumption of cigarettes and by the end of the first week I was consuming only 3 traditional cigarettes a day down from 20+. At the end of two weeks using the electronic cigarette in conjunction with traditional cigarettes I made a conscious decision to cut out tobacco cigarettes altogether. My last cigarette was consumed on the 26th of October 2011. To date, more than 3 months later I have no desire to smoke. The electronic cigarette is a great alternative to combat my addiction to smoking, my nicotine cravings, and my behavioral comfort needs by the act of smoking itself. I do not find myself battling internal cravings for a traditional cigarette versus the electronic cigarette alternative.

Since my transition to the electronic cigarette, I have a greater sense of smell and taste. I experience virtually no shortness of breath as opposed to when I was smoking. My loved ones around me no longer complain of foul odors or the effects they encountered due to second hand smoke.

Using the electronic cigarette has been a blessing in our family's life. I honestly think I will never use another tobacco product in my lifetime so long as this alternative is available to me as a adult. I have encountered no ill side effects while using this device. Of those I associate with who are too using the electronic cigarette, none have mentioned any side effects and are experiencing the same results I have.

I am under the impression that smoking bans are enacted to protect the public from the harm of second-hand smoke, but electronic cigarettes have not been shown to cause harm to bystanders.

- In fact, all evidence to date shows that the low health risks associated with electronic cigarettes is comparable to other smokeless nicotine products.
- This is supported by research done by Dr. Siegel of Boston University, Dr. Eissenberg of Virginia Commonwealth and Dr. Laugesen of Health New Zealand and by the fact that the FDA testing, in spite of its press statement, failed to find harmful levels of carcinogens or toxic levels of any chemical in the vapor. See references listed below.

All research I have found to date indicates vapor does not behave in the same manner as smoke.

- There is no "side stream" vapor like the side stream smoke coming from the lit end of a cigarette and unlike cigarette smoke,
- The vapor is virtually odorless and dissipates quickly.
- Fire alarms do not sound due to exhaled vapor.
- There is also no ash or litter.
- With so little evidence of use, enforcing indoor use bans on electronic cigarettes would be nearly impossible.

In my opinion, the ability to use electronic cigarettes in public spaces will actually improve public health by inspiring other smokers to switch.

- Surveys of thousands of users indicate that the majority of those who switch very quickly completely replace tobacco cigarettes with the electronic cigarettes, reducing their health risks by 98-99%.
- So even if smokers think they are using electronic cigarettes just for indoor use, the chances are high that they will stop using tobacco cigarettes altogether

I am certain that by switching to a smokeless product, I have greatly reduced my health risks and if you truly deem second-hand smoke to be a danger, placing me back out in smoking areas simply puts me back in harm's way.

Because of Volcano's ecig products, I have been smoke free for over three months. My doctor is very happy about my switch and encourages me to stay away from traditional tobacco products.

If the HI taxes are raised, the only result will be to drive an excellent business out of state, as neither they, nor their customers can shoulder a 70% tax rate. No one in the ecig community supports underage use, and using the underage ban as justification for the tax is a transparent ploy, "think of the children" is overused to add moral validity to legislation that otherwise makes no sense.

This bill stinks of big tobacco lobby money at work.

Kindest regards,
An ex-smoker for the rest of my life - thanks to the electronic cigarette option,

Anthony J. Van Son III

References:

1. Boston University Study: Electronic cigarettes as a harm reduction strategy for tobacco control: Conclusion: The evidence reviewed in this article suggests that electronic cigarettes are a much safer alternative to tobacco cigarettes. They are likely to improve upon the efficacy of traditional pharmacotherapy for smoking cessation. - <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/centers-institutes/population-development/files/article.jphp.pdf>
2. The Consumer Advocates For Smoke-Free Alternative Association (CASAA): CASAA is a non-profit organization that works to ensure the availability of reduced harm alternatives to smoking and to provide smokers and non-smokers alike with truthful information about such alternatives. - <http://www.casaa.org/resources/>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: carnevaleaj@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 5:50:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: anthony
Organization: Individual
E-mail: carnevaleaj@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: t_degidio@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:42:46 AM
Attachments: [Oppose SB2819.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Antonio Degidio
Organization: Individual
E-mail: t_degidio@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Dear WAM,

Electronic cigarettes have helped myself, and many people around me quit smoking. One of the biggest selling points of the electronic cigarette over other cessation methods (gum, patches, etc) is the fact that it's cheaper in the long run than continuing to smoke. Never mind the health benefits of cutting out the 1000+ chemicals in your average cigarette, never mind removing the dangers of second hand smoke from the equation, they are cheaper. Electronic cigarettes should be sold as a cessation product, not a tobacco product, and therefore, should be taxed as such. The sale of electronic cigarettes should be prohibited to minors, however, taxing the industry will hurt the national effort to quit smoking. This isn't how we deal with financial crisis. A stressed out America, is a smoking America.

Sincerely,

Antonio Degidio

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: arthur.koja@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:43:48 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: arthur koja
Organization: Individual
E-mail: arthur.koja@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

That is why I switched from reg cigarettes. I am feeling a lot healthier.

Please do not hinder peoples chances of a healthier choice at significant cost savings, particularly during this economic time we live in.

Mahalo!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: wickedbusa@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:25:34 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Arvin Pasion
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wickedbusa@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

SB2819 is unfair to those of us who use/used electronic cigarettes to quit smoking. While I agree with the prohibition of sales to minors, the 70% proposed tax would do nothing more than cause my electronic cigarette supplier in Hawaii to close down and ultimately result in my leading back to smoking true tobacco products.

Electronic cigarettes are NOT tobacco products and thus should not be classified as being tobacco. Electronic cigarettes are nothing more than nicotine inhalers with zero carcinogens. Nicotine as a drug is no different than caffeine.

Please reconsider passing this bill as it appears to be ill conceived by people who are uneducated about electronic cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: PelletAR@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:46:02 PM
Attachments: [Hawaii bill.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ashlee Pelletier
Organization: Individual
E-mail: PelletAR@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I believe that bill SB2819 is outrageous. I had been a smoker for 10 years (starting when I was 12) at about a pack a day. I tried many times to quit. I NEVER succeeded, until I found e-cigarettes. I've been vaping for almost 2 years now. Cancer is very common in my family and I would prefer to not give my body any more means to get it. Whenever I would try to quit, I would get severe panic attacks and any medication to help those had WAY too many side effects (as do most quit smoking devices) Ecigs have given me NO problems since I started. I used to get sick EVERY winter....every single one. And it would last all winter. The past two winters I haven't gotten since once. (Besides the minor sniffles) The best company I have found (and now the only one I buy from) is located in HI. I had made plans to visit this location as I have made friends with many people there. I'm an employee of the USPS and make quite a bit of money, and planned on spending quite a bit of that IN HI but I can assure you that if this bill passes I will NOT be going to. Putting a tax on ecigs (and not just nic...batteries? Cases???) is sad in and of itself, but 70%? That will raise the prices to MORE than smoking, which is WORSE than e-cigarettes. The logic behind this is beyond me. You don't want people to be healthy? If this were to happen, I would no longer be able to order from this place (as they would surely go out of business...costing MANY jobs...which in this economy is just horrid) and would then probably go back to smoking...which I really don't want to do since I know it would ultimately kill me, though I'm not strong enough on my own to go without. I just fail to see the logic in this...I really do. Money? You don't have enough therefor you must outrageously tax people just trying to save lives??

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Asleymith55@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:48:06 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ashley smith
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Asleymith55@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I think that this product should not be sold to minors... But I don't believe it's in the same category as tobacco at all... There should be no tax on it. This product is an amazing alternative to smoking. Why make it harder for people to quit??? I am going to have an easier time quitting this instead of a cigarette. Leave volcano Ecigg alone!!! Let them continue to change lives... They have changed mine any many many others....

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Ashley.waterstradt@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:04:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ashley Waterstradt
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Ashley.waterstradt@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: prizedstud@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 6:25:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ashley
Organization: Individual
E-mail: prizedstud@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ashliemayomahoe@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 2:09:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ashlie
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ashliemayomahoe@live.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

i oppose this because my mother would go back to smoking tobacco cigarettes since this bill would cause local vendors to close.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ashraf200196732@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 7:07:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ashraf
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ashraf200196732@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: fabmom75@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 3:24:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Aretta
Organization: Individual
E-mail: fabmom75@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bambig574@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:41:25 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: barbakra gonzales
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bambig574@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ninja.doll@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:59:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Barbara Saito
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ninja.doll@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

For the first time in 38 years there is a system that is helping me quit smoking. The cost is reasonable and the system certainly promotes a healthier lifestyle for me and those around me. Taxing a terrific alternative to cigarettes merely strikes me as trading tobacco tax for another kind of tax because many of us find electronic cigarettes a viable gateway to a smoke-free environment. You wouldn't tax clean air. I do not support any effort to tax a system that could do so much to improve the health of Hawaii residents.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bmlkfan@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:54:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bassam Al-Sahan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bmlkfan@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I guess by going forward with this request, the government is advocating that smokers should keep smoking the unhealthy tobacco. E-Cigs should not be tagged as one of the tobacco product. I am sending this testimony from Saudi Arabia, where i have quit inhaling tobacco that contains tar, CO1, and other dangerous constituencies with vapor, that is far away from being as harmful as the traditional tobacco. I really resent this request of adding taxation on the E-Cigs. It only reflects how capitalism is based on money making rather than health.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cbrbikerboy600@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 6:49:53 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ben Libby
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cbrbikerboy600@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

There are, no second hand and it leave no after smells , not harsh chemicals, also theres no tobacco in it causing no tar build up

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lucke808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 9:02:25 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ben
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lucke808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bpuccett@my.hpu.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:54:49 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Benjamin Puccetti
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bpuccett@my.hpu.edu
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I smoked for 8 years before I found vapor. My health has improved dramatically and I now have greater lung capacity. It's more affordable and doesn't smell bad. I love E-cigs and am appaled that they are being regulated.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bavisser1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 11:37:50 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Benjamin Visser
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bavisser1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS: My name is Ben Visser and I live in the State of Georgia. My wife and I discovered electronic cigarettes 2 years ago so we decided to try them. The vendor we use is in Hawaii so we've already been paying taxes to your state for 2 years, therefore I feel entitled to voice my concerns regarding the proposed legislation. After using electronic cigarettes for 1 week my sense of taste and smell returned to that of my days before becoming a tobacco smoker. As a matter of fact, upon tasting a strawberry, it was like my first time tasting one. Also the congestion in my chest and sinuses that I had become so used to as a smoker disappeared altogether within a few weeks. Without the tar of cigarettes, nicotine raises blood pressure only as much as caffeine does, according to my family Dr. Patsy Mitchell of the Southeast Georgia Health System. Although nicotine is addictive, it is NOT mind altering as other drugs and I think most adults are equipped to choose whether or not they use it. Taxing electronic cigarettes at a rate of 70% could only be a method to eradicate it from the market. In any case no reasonable person who has studied or used electronic cigarettes could honestly say that they are a tobacco product. Does the State of Hawaii consider nicotine patches or inhalers to be tobacco products as well? For taxation purposes? If so, then your state is engaged in the exploitation of the victims of addiction and you should all be ashamed. In summary, unless you prefer that Americans purchase their electronic cigarettes from Chinese vendors without quality controls, environmental protections, or concern for the safety of their workers, then DO NOT PASS THIS LEGISLATION INTO LAW. Electronic cigarettes are also currently cheaper than tobacco cigarettes, so unless you would rather have people go back to tobacco cigarettes and the health problems associated with them, then DO NOT PASS THIS LEGISLATION INTO LAW. Unless you want to eradicate a new 21st century, vibrant American industry during these very difficult economic times, then DO NOT PASS THIS LEGISLATION INTO LAW. Thank you very much for your time and consideration regarding the testimony of this Georgia resident who is happy to be tobacco free for 2 years because of a Hawaiian electronic cigarette vendor. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOUR DECISIONS AFFECT MANY MORE PEOPLE THAN JUST THOSE OF YOUR STATE. MAHALO!

From the desk of
Bennett Chan
1247 Kailua Rd. Ste. F-1
Kailua, HI 96734-4364

January 30, 2012

RE: Senate Bill SB2819 and House Bill HB2557

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to Senate Bill SB2819 and House Bill HB2557 because electronic cigarettes do not contain tobacco and therefore cannot be considered tobacco products.

I have found electronic cigarettes an effective replacement for tobacco-type cigarettes in my effort to cut down on tobacco use. As we all know, tobacco use is harmful to everyone including the user and anyone exposed to second-hand smoke. The electronic cigarette contains no smoke and therefore no second-hand smoke.

I strongly urge you to reject Senate Bill SB2819 and House Bill HB2557.

Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennett Chan", written in a cursive style.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: FIRSTHAG@MSN.COM
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:40:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: BERNAL HAGMOC
Organization: Individual
E-mail: FIRSTHAG@MSN.COM
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Bernard.vargas187@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 3:03:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: bernardo Vargas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Bernard.vargas187@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:
don't pass this bill its retarded.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bernd.reuter@rynoenterprises.us
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:27:40 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bernd Reuter
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bernd.reuter@rynoenterprises.us
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

The electronic cigarette is the single best product to help people quit using tobacco / smoking. I have tried many times before with many different means, but none have worked. I finally quite smoking beginning of 2012 by using e-cigs. They don't contain tobacco of any kind and should not be treated as such. Taxing e-cigs like tobacco products would make them very expensive and put them out of reach for many people trying to quit. Since e-cigs may contain nicotine, if so desired, they should not be available to minors. I say NO to SB2819 in its present form. Help us smokers to a working alternative for a reasonable dollar amount.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bigdonfresh@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 7:28:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Big Don
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bigdonfresh@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bill.gunkel@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:26:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bill Gunkel
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bill.gunkel@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

This is a single bill that addresses two separate issues which should remain separate. This product is not tobacco, and should not be considered as such any more than Aspirin is a drug and should be considered a controlled substance. The sale of this product is already being liberally taxed under state sales tax. If state legislation feels they do not receive enough funding from the sale of this product they should draft a bill addressing that alone. However, a single ingredient sold with this product does warrant the control of the sale to minor children. I propose you separate these two important concerns and draft individual bills. The concern is legit, however a hammer is not the tool to be used here - try using a screwdriver for better public support.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bharris1960@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:18:12 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bill Harris
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bharris1960@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: billy_fitzgerald18@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 4:52:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: billy fitzgerald
Organization: Individual
E-mail: billy_fitzgerald18@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tomimatsB001@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:14:30 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Blake Tomimatsu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tomimatsB001@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I like the Ecig. because I don't smoke tobacco cigs anymore. I feel better and I save more money.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: proax9@verizon.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 9:45:08 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bob Brown
Organization: Individual
E-mail: proax9@verizon.net
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

A 70% tax.....really.

Why? You'd rather have people go back to smoking a proven killer that effects not only themselves but also the people around them.

- would destroy existing e-cigarette companies in HI, and prevent future e-cig businesses in HI in the future.

- would prompt most/all e-cigarette consumers in HI (now and in the future) to purchase e-cigarette products online or by mail order from out-of-state,

- won't be economically feasible for HI Rev Dept to collect taxes from out-of-state online and mail order purchases, and legislation could cost the HI Revenue Dept more trying to collect taxes owed than the resulting revenue would generate.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bslvrn@gmail.co
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:53:31 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bobbie Silvernail
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bslvrn@gmail.co
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Ecigarettes are not tobacco, they are not smoked and should not be treated or Taxed as such. If you lit a ecigarette it would not burn it would melt, and I have yet to see anyone throw it on the ground or out their window. You have backed smokers into a corner with laws taxes and restrictions, we gave in and now you want the tax dollar you are missing. We have been lied to punished and demoralized, so now that their is a lesser evil you want to punish us for that as well? I have been buying my supplies from a Hawaii based company but will stop doing that if it is taxed like tobacco. I will also mention that ecigarettes have been the only method of smoking cessation that has worked for me, I will also mention it has been the only nicotine cessation method that has worked for me. I started with high nicotine levels and decreased it to 0mg nicotine and have sustained non smoking status for 19 months.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: prometheus1961@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:54:08 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bobby Baker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: prometheus1961@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Taxing these devices, and therefore raising the cost, will remove one incentive that currently exists to get people to quit smoking cigarettes. It has been proven that tar causes lung cancer, and while cigarettes contain tar, these devices do not. By taxing these devices, you will be encouraging people to continue to smoke cigarettes, rather than making the change to these relatively safer products based on the lesser cost compared to cigarettes. I can agree with not selling these devices to minors, but not when that legislation is attached to taxes that are detrimental to the effort to reduce cigarette smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bonniea15@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:39:47 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bonnie Andrian
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bonniea15@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
Without my e-Cig I never would have quit smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bonnie1313@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:34:30 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bonnie Sullivan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bonnie1313@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Talk about an unfair tax! Just call it the "Maybe, Could Be, Somewhat related Tax." The effect it would have on individuals would be deadly, back to real tobacco. Oh, I forgot, there is no difference! It would also put a wonderful company out of business. I would hope they would come to the mainland and continue. What a sad statement that would say about Hawaii. The state government there must have a lot in common with the federal government or maybe California. Enough said!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: wakwashbosha@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 6:24:06 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bosha Green
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wakwashbosha@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

If you pass this as is, you will force a good business out of the state of Hawaii. Minors should not be allowed to purchase their products, everyone agrees on that, but if you tax them as tobacco products WHICH IT IS NOT, you will either kill the business or force them out-of-state. Neither will benefit the State of Hawaii so I respectfully request you vote down this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kuaialii001@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 7:56:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bowman K. Jeremiah
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kuaialii001@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bradlybaker@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 4:10:50 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brad Baker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bradlybaker@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Potterb33@optimum.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:57:20 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brad Potter
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Potterb33@optimum.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bblood@psomas.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:51:32 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: brad
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bblood@psomas.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am opposed this bill. My wife and I have fianlly quit smoking after many years of trying. e-cigs have us off cigarettes. We could not have quit without them. We had tried gum, inhalers, lozanges and medications. Nothing helped until we found e-cigs. We are now happily non-smokers and support e-cigs. We are against minors and nicotine and tobacco.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: stratthatup@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:55:25 PM
Attachments: [E CIG.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bradley Haskins
Organization: Individual
E-mail: stratthatup@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I have been a smoker since the age of 16. I strongly support a bill that keeps minors from buying any nicotine products. I on the other hand think that it is wrong to tax e cigs and/or products pertaining to them, and classify them with tobacco products. I purchased an e cig from volcano e cigs about 1 month ago. I have not had a real cigarette since then. I can breath better, I feel better, and I would think that our state governments would support a more healthy America, not shoot it down with unfair taxes. For the first time in my life I can say I am smoke free. If there is anyone out there that has ears to hear, please oppose this bill. This technology is far from a tobacco product. I know tobacco products and all the nastiness that comes with them. Tax them more please!! But let a good thing be a good thing and support a healthier alternative. Go against those that sell nicotine products to minors I support you 100%. But let a good thing be a good thing, and support healthier alternatives. Thanks a lot,

Brad

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bdphotog@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:44:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: brandon dugan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bdphotog@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

i have been smoking cigs since i was 14. ever since i started smoking volcano i have stopped smoking for the last 3 months. please don't pass the bill i really needed help breaking this habit.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kamb00@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 12:48:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: brandon kam
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kamb00@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: brandonkatano@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:53:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brandon Katano
Organization: Individual
E-mail: brandonkatano@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: SUNGSKIM75@HOTMAIL.COM
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:08:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: BRANDON KIM
Organization: Individual
E-mail: SUNGSKIM75@HOTMAIL.COM
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Brandyzito@optonline.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 2:37:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brandy Zito
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Brandyzito@optonline.net
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

i thought the reason cigarettes were taxed so heavily is because the gov wants to encourage us to quit smoking. I do not agree with taxing ecigs more than they already are. i finally quit smoking cigarettes because of the ecig. Are you going to tax the nicotine gum and patch too?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bkrc08@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:44:31 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brenda Walker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bkrc08@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Here is another example of government and tobacco industry trying to get more dollars by taxing. It has also been brought to my attention that other states are trying to ban the ecig because it is a deterrent for those that are trying to quit smoking. Give me a break I believe that is brought on by the tobacco industry and government because of the small reduction of their trillion dollar profits are being affected. I think the government is playing both sides of the fence. "Quit smoking for your health and others around you but don't use other methods of tobacco i.e. ecig that are not as harmful to your health and others around you". They need to stop infringing on My Rights and My Choices.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Bpugh24@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:48:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brendan Pugh
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Bpugh24@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I am writing this evening to oppose the proposed bill. I fear that any good intentions of this measure would be significantly overcome by endangering the freedom of adults to have an alternative to tobacco products. That is particularly true for a non-tobacco alternative made in the United States. It seems to me that this bill would go much farther in protecting tobacco company interests than simply preventing minors from using nicotine. Why are taxation and a minimum user age linked together? How does imposing a tax protect minors. If anything, imposing such a punitive tax will push minors to buy tobacco products rather than an electronic cigarette because of the cost.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: trepe_2000@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:39:53 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brent Michael Swift Ryan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: trepe_2000@msn.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Electronic cigarettes are void of any tobacco. Classifying them as a tobacco product is morally and ethically wrong. I have used electronic cigarettes for half a year now and my body reacts completely differently to it than tobacco products.

Hawaii should adopt a taxation model similar to the "fair tax act" in the federal legislature. Trying to lie, cheat, and steal just to get revenue from new technology is immoral and unethical.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: buddabrent20@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:12:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: brenton haynes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: buddabrent20@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: brettc198@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:27:29 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brett Clark
Organization: Individual
E-mail: brettc198@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Please don't do this it already cost us so much . This is the only way I have been able to get away from tobacco . I know everyone is looking for tax dollars. Please give us ex smokers a break. I feel so much better with this product. Thank you for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: brettcoppolo@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:51:57 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brett Coppolo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: brettcoppolo@msn.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

If this is passed, I will refuse to visit Hawaii in the future and will refer my money elsewhere. I highly believe that passing this with electronic cigarettes involved in the bill will cause some of the major income that comes into Hawaii to cease as customers like myself will not be willing to pay the extra 70% tax which is ridiculous to begin with. Your proposal to tax every item in which is involved with electronic cigarettes is uncalled for. Do you put a 70% tax on lighters for smoking regular cigarettes. Not to mention that electronic cigarettes aren't classified as smoking, but rather an alternative means. You should really consider what you will be doing if this bill is passed.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: brettkacerek@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:14:27 PM
Attachments: [Electronic Cigarettes.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brett Kacerek
Organization: Individual
E-mail: brettkacerek@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Electronic Cigarettes

Hello,

My name is Brett Kacerek, and I have been using electronic cigarettes for around a year now, and I have not smoked a tobacco cigarette since. Besides the health benefits from e-cigarettes, their price comparison in relation to traditional cigarettes is a key factor in making the switch from tobacco to e-cigs. If they are taxed as a tobacco product (which they are not), chances are that less people will make the transition over to this less harmful alternative. I am supporting the idea that they should not be available to minors, because nicotine is an addictive chemical, but I think that it is wrong to tax electronic cigarettes as tobacco products.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ksidecruzin@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 1:12:50 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brian H. Jones
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ksidecruzin@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:
It's helped me quit smoking today!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: raidershawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 1:57:29 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brian Kadooka
Organization: Individual
E-mail: raidershawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: fyasko_808@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:54:28 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brian Kawamoto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: fyasko_808@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bkm3732@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 8:57:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: brian magenis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bkm3732@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bwatase@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:57:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brian Watase
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bwatase@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bryanmb1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:17:36 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bryan Baker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bryanmb1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I would like to state that classifying portable electronic vaporizers (they are not e-cigs or e-cigarretes, there is nothing cigarette about them) with tobacco products is like comparing an apple to a automobile. There is no comparison. Applying a 70% tax to them is just thievery at best. If this is passed, I will not visit Hawaii and I will encourage everyone I know to stay away and not support a state that engages in taxation without representation. Levying a tax on these products will leave people without the ability to purchase these currently affordable and healthy alternatives to cigarettes. Big tobacco of course hates these things. You see as an opportunity to make money, albeit unfairly and unjustly. I have been cigarette free for a month because of my portable vaporizer. My health is much better and I look forward to a long life. I can tell you this, if I had to pay a 70% tax on these units, I would have not purchased one.

Wouldn't you like to see a world free of toxic carcinogens from cigarettes? Imagine how wonderful that would be! I urge you to defeat this legislation. You will surely make up for in volume sales what you would with an unjust tax.

Think about it, this is like taxing a toy because it is popular, only bullies do that.

I hope you have a great day, and imagine what good you can do by defeating this .

Thank you for reading and "listening"

Bryan Baker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bglover14@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:46:39 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bryan Glover
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bglover14@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: panther@catlover.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:20:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bryan Knight
Organization: Individual
E-mail: panther@catlover.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bryan.moore31@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:42:18 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bryan Moore
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bryan.moore31@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
To whom it may concern:

I am not a resident of the great state of Hawaii (however I have spent many fabulous weeks and thousands of tourist's dollars in your beautiful state as a child). I am only a tourist. I have no right to tell you what to do with your state's laws and customs, and I write to you only as an observer. SB2819, which would tax electronic cigs and e-juice is a bad idea. I live in Lakewood, Washington (where tobacco taxes are near tops in the nation... my 2 pack-a-day habit costed \$19.00 a day). I am 34 years old. I have smoked cigarettes since I was 16 years old... over half my life. I am a lower-middle-class citizen and I work in the service industry (just as I believe most of your state's lower-middle-class workers are employed. They may work in restaurants and resorts.... I deliver pizzas). Over the last 18 years, I have tried, many times, to quit smoking. I tried the patch, it didn't work. I tried Nicorette, it didn't work. Because of my lack of health care-insurance, I was never able to try the Cantix or other prescription drug, because I can not afford to go see a doctor.

4 months ago, I switched to electronic cigs. Since my switch, my lungs feel much healthier. While delivering pizzas, I can now climb 4+ flights of stairs without becoming winded. I can smell the ocean from a mile away (yes, I live near the Pacific Ocean too... but our waters aren't as warm or inviting, unless you are a crab :)). Within those 4 months, I smoked one cigarette, on my birthday, and the smell on my hand bothered my for 36 hours! I have saved hundreds of dollars (almost a thousand), and my savings account is swelling!

But, I am still addicted to nicotine. That hasn't changed. I agree with some parts of SB2819. These products should NOT be sold to minors; the same way that traditional cigs shouldn't be sold to minors. No 14-year-old should be exposed to any type of cig (by the way, I smoked the first cigarette in my life while on vacation at Napili Bay in Maui at age 14) . No one would ever claim that any type of cig is "healthy." However, it is undeniable that e-cigs do less damage than conventional cigs.

A 70% tax on e-cigs and e-juices will NOT reduce nicotine consumption. All it will do is to encourage us addicted to keep smoking regular cigs!

Again, I cannot tell you what to do. I have no power in the great state of Hawaii, I can only offer my testimonial. I hope that you will accept it for what it is, and I hope that you do not pass SB2819.

Bryan Moore
Lakewood, Washington
USA

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bryanth@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 5:36:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bryant Higa
Organization:
E-mail: bryanth@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: BNaauao@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:18:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bryce Naauao
Organization: Individual
E-mail: BNaauao@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bry2010son@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 2:28:39 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bryson Pau
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bry2010son@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: byronmmc@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 1:30:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Byron Mosca-Camara
Organization: Individual
E-mail: byronmmc@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: blanco_caesar@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:26:10 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Caesar M. Blanco
Organization: Individual
E-mail: blanco_caesar@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I do not believe that the bill to tax ecigs is fair! I have been cigarette free for well over six months now through the use of the ecig; however, a big part of this is the cost! If you all decide to RAISE the tax to a tobacco tax, I will not continue to purchase my products from Hawaii; I will look else ware! Anyhow, ecigs are not tobacco,as for not selling to minors, I am okay with that; but to tax something as one thing when it is not should be illegal! That would be like getting a DUI for driving under the influence of caffeine! Come on!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chadogata@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 11:39:56 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chad Ogata
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chadogata@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cenglish211@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:42:17 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cameron J English
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cenglish211@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
Testimony Regarding SB2819
RELATING TO SALES OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES
Tuesday, January 31st, 2012

]I write in opposition to this measure. SB2819 is based on spurious claims about the health risks associated with e-cigarettes, and should be killed in committee as a result.

Currently, the available scientific evidence unequivocally supports the use of e-cigarettes as a means to reduce tobacco consumption and related disease and death. The first clinical trial that looked at e-cigarettes, published in BMC Public Health, concluded that "the e-Cigarette can help smokers to remain abstinent or reduce their cigarette consumption. By replacing tobacco cigarettes, the e-cigarette can only save lives. Here we show for the first time that e-Cigarettes can substantially decrease cigarette consumption without causing significant side effects in smokers not intending to quit."

The FDA's initial analysis two years ago of 18 e-cig cartridges found that the devices contain far fewer "tobacco specific nitrosamines and tobacco specific impurities" and "... at very low levels." To provide a standard to measure this by, the chemicals found in e-cigs are comparable to those found in approved smoking cessation products, like nicotine gum and patches.

Furthermore, the justification for SB2819 attempts to associate the risks of tobacco use with e-cigarettes, which do not contain tobacco. The justification also claims that e-cigarettes could serve as a "gateway" to the use of other more dangerous tobacco products, even though the overwhelming effect of e-cigs has been to reduce tobacco use.

The pending legislation hurts the cause of public health in other ways as well. With smokers incentivized to stick to traditional cigarettes because of higher e-cigarette prices, everybody else will be forced to endure more secondhand smoke, and continue covering the health care costs associated with smoking. Both are externalities that public health advocates have pointed to for many years in their fight against the tobacco industry. These spillover effects could be avoided by embracing smoking alternatives like e-cigarettes. But as it stands, your state is poised to block a simple solution to important health problems just like cigarette manufacturers did for so long.

Oppose this measure and help promote public health.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: comeshakim@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:19:24 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: comesh Kim
Organization: Individual
E-mail: comeshakim@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: candacedamuth@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 4:18:24 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Candace Damuth
Organization: Individual
E-mail: candacedamuth@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dido3769@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:19:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: candido manatad iii
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dido3769@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
why tax when you oppose SMOKING?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lbarber@wepfermarine.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:50:30 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Capt. J. Larry Barber Sr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lbarber@wepfermarine.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I started purchasing electronic cigarettes from Volcano about 8 months ago. They have been extremely helpful in my quitting smoking. I have gone from 2 packs of cigarettes a day to zero. They are a great product. Please do not do anything to make them more expensive or cause the company to go out of business.

Just leave them alone. They are doing great job now.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: caren.hofer@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:46:07 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Caren Hofer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: caren.hofer@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I agree with not selling to minors. I do not agree that the government should be taxing the electronic cigarettes, or be involved in any way. They try to act like they are concerned with peoples health, but then try to stop people from finding a more healthy way to smoke. I feel that they are just trying to find sneaky ways to get more money from the people so that they can waste it like they always do. The government needs to stay out of our personal life decisions!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: car2959@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:36:25 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carie Jones
Organization: Individual
E-mail: car2959@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I strongly urge you not to pass this bill. First of all, electric cigarettes and all related products are NOT tobacco products and should not be taxed as such. What you will do is ensure that people like me will go back to smoking harmful, cancer-causing cigarettes and I am sure that is not what you would want to do. The electric cigarette has saved my lungs, my health, and my children's health as well. The best thing this legislature can do is to make sure that that in fact is the case and then to pat this industry on the back and leave them alone.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,

Carie Jones

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: TUTUAMORE@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:10:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carol Sayson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: TUTUAMORE@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: carole.osgood@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:44:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carole Osgood
Organization: Individual
E-mail: carole.osgood@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I agree with the age limit for purchase of electronic cigarettes, however, taxing them as a tobacco product is unjustified. Often, people choose an electronic cigarette to assist them with the difficult withdrawal from tobacco. To redefine tobacco products is unjust and harms companies upon whom this newly created 'tax' is imposed. Redefining a non-tobacco product as one for taxation purposes will create an unfair tax on the purchaser and unfair business loss to honest businesses. (Lost income, lost customers and jobs.) It seems a rather dishonest endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Very Sincerely,
Carole Osgood

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jaceyh@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:26:50 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carrie Herrmann
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jaceyh@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: shockerturbo13@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:21:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Casey Bieniek
Organization: Individual
E-mail: shockerturbo13@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I support the restriction of e-cig sales to minors but strongly oppose classifying the electronic cigarette as a tobacco product. I am a resident of Kansas and have spent hundreds of dollars with a Hawaiian company for my e-cig products. Would you rather that money not be spent in your state due to increased TAXES?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: difinitive@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:50:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Casey Kimura
Organization: Individual
E-mail: difinitive@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Stop big government. Start doing what's good for Hawaii and wasting our tax money on things like this.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Cfrankie14@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:11:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cassidy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Cfrankie14@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ladyburg@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:49:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Catherine Richardson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ladyburg@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chatony11@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:31:12 AM
Attachments: [SB2819.rtf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Catherine Salomone
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chatony11@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

01/31/2012

To Whom It May Concern;

It is incorrect to pass a bill that states that electronic cigarettes are a tobacco product, when they are not. Passing SB2819 would make electronic cigarettes unaffordable for me and would force me to return to smoking real tobacco again. The bill restricts my constitutional rights to freedom of choice, and my inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I urge you to ban SB2819.

Catherine Salomone

Joseph Salomone

(970) 274-1688

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cathisquire@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:07:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cathi Squire
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cathisquire@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: neakybird@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 6:04:30 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cathy Proctor
Organization: Individual
E-mail: neakybird@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

I am in complete agreement with the proposal to stop the sale of any and all tobacco or tobacco type products to all minors however, I disagree with the ridiculous tax that would be imposed with this bill. This amount of tax could send those who have finally found a means of stopping smoking through the use of e cigarettes back to the hazards and dangers of smoking tobacco as well as driving the suppliers out of business due to the unbearable amount of tax imposed by this bill.

Please rethink, and then rewrite, this bill to do the good that was intended and stop the harm that is surely going to be done by the bill as it stands.

Sincerely,
Cathy Proctor

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: geocatwin@tds.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:13:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cathy Winston
Organization: Individual
E-mail: geocatwin@tds.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I was a smoker for 40 years. The ecigarette is the only way that I was able to quit. I am in my 8th month smoke free. Please do not throw this in with tobacco products. It is an alternative to tobacco and is much better for an individuals health than cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cbenson@queens.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:27:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chad Benson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cbenson@queens.org
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

e-cigarettes are the only thing that have successfully gotten me off of tobacco. I am able to avoid over 4,000 harmful chemicals with this product. If taxes are raised so drastically I'll either go back to smoking or figure out a way to obtain the products without your vampiric tax measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chadbravo21@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 8:52:34 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chad Bravo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chadbravo21@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: c3131j@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:26:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chad Johnson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: c3131j@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I will not purchase electronic cigarettes or anything taxed by the state of Hawaii when I can purchase from another state. They are safer than real cigarettes and only emit water vapor. I am opposed to any taxing of electronic cigarettes.

Chad Johnson
Alaska Resident

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: c.m.shishido@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:46:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chad Shishido
Organization: Individual
E-mail: c.m.shishido@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: thechad8082011@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 12:26:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chad stewart
Organization: Individual
E-mail: thechad8082011@live.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:
this has helped me quit smoking for a month it helped change my health

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Charlenea.hi.dr@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:24:02 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charlene
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Charlenea.hi.dr@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I completely oppose this bill. I have been analog cigarette free for over 4 months after 10 years of smoking, and I plan to keep it that way. Electric cigarettes have been nothing but my salvation as well as my family's, since they have been behind me to quit for a long time. E-cigs a Tobacco product?! Really? Has any one done enough research to know that many of the liquids used for this device have 0 nicotine, just fruit and other flavors!! ..I do not mind the banning for minors, but the greediness of some people by trying to collect taxes on this?? What a way to reward non analog smokers/ past analog smokers. Ridiculous!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: charlesbritt1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 7:07:35 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charles Britt
Organization: Individual
E-mail: charlesbritt1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This is a wrong direction. We need to get people off of tobacco. I understand a sin tax on tobacco to help with the medical problems it causes. If you tax alternatives that are healthier than tobacco than people will stay with tobacco because of ease of use. I am a ex smoker that smoked for 35 years. Dont tax my nicotine juice and vaping equipment that allows me to be a ex smoker.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: afrazier5@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:17:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charles Frazier
Organization: Individual
E-mail: afrazier5@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
Aloha Representative,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen in regards to bill HB2557. I converted to electronic cigarettes 1 year ago after smoking tobacco for over 24 years. I feel good, don't stink any more, can run, swim and keep up with my children. Most importantly I am No longer a smoker!

Some of the products I use come from a Hawaiian local company, Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes. Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes is a locally owned and operated Electronic Cigarette and Accessories retailer/supplier with 5 current retail locations and one warehouse/shipping center located in Honolulu. They have been in business for nearly three years and currently employ over 30 full-time employees locally and are one of the fastest growing businesses in the state. Bill HB2557, introduced by Speaker Say as a package put together for Governor Abercrombie, directly affects their local operation and jeopardizes their ability to continue operations in the State of Hawaii and I wanted to contact you to voice our concerns and ask for your help in getting this bill defeated.

The electronic cigarette, also known as an "e-cig", "an e-cigarette", "a personal vaporizer", a "PV", a "nicotine vaporizer" and many other things is a device used to vaporize liquid that can optionally contain varying levels of nicotine (and in many cases no nicotine at all). It is used currently by thousands of people locally and millions of people nationally everyday as an alternative to cigarettes and in situations where cigarettes are not permitted. This product is intended for smokers and others addicted to nicotine who are looking for a less hazardous way to maintain, decrease, or otherwise eliminate their nicotine usage and avoid known risks to their own health caused by smoking and the health and safety of those around them.

Bill HB2557 aims to classify electronic cigarettes as a tobacco product, restrict the sale of the product to minors under the age of 18, and subject the sale of all electronic cigarette related products to a 70% tobacco tax regardless of whether the product actually contains tobacco. While I agree that products should be restricted from being sold to minors, the bill in its current form has many unintended negative consequences that will effectively end all future sales of the product in the state by local vendors and force thousands of users of the product to buy from out of state vendors via the internet or return to smoking altogether which has already been proven to be an eventual death sentence.

The bill as it is written shows a fundamental lack of knowledge of electronic cigarettes, how they are made, what it does, and how it is sold. An electronic cigarette is an electronic device made up of many different common electronic components such as batteries, buttons, metal tips, charging components, plastic bottles,...etc. All of these item are sold separately or as a kit and many of the components can actually be used in conjunction with many other standard electronic devices such as cellphones. In fact nicotine, which may or may not be derived from a tobacco source, only makes up about 2% of all the products sold. I think we can all agree that if I buy a battery from Volcano, that can in no way be perceived as retailing a "tobacco product". However the current bill proposes to classify all of the products as electronic cigarette related tobacco products and subject us to the standing 70%

tobacco tax which was enacted with traditional tobacco products in mind.

The general cost of a fully functioning electronic cigarette kit is upwards of \$70, much higher than that of a pack of cigarettes. Levying a 70% tax on every component and accessory of an electronic cigarette would effectively make it much more expensive than a traditional tobacco cigarette and would effectively force locals to buy from out-of-state and international suppliers (who are not subject to this tax) via the internet or return to smoking altogether. Furthermore, this tax would ultimately make it impossible for Volcano to compete and would force them to either move out of state or close the business altogether. This means a loss of jobs, a loss of tax revenues that the state is already collecting, and ultimately forcing the will of the state on its smoking population by forcing them to purchase their products out-of-state or return to smoking.

I implore you to reexamine Bill HB2557 and modify it to reflect age based restrictions only!

Sincerely
Charles Frazier
Utah Vapers Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chaznatr@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 2:03:04 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charles Harbison
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chaznatr@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cinerehanohano@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:11:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: charles inere-hanohano
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cinerehanohano@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: saitocharles@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:07:53 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charles Saito
Organization: Individual
E-mail: saitocharles@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: isian59@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:52:07 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charles Shepherd
Organization: Individual
E-mail: isian59@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I do agree with making it illegal to sell electronic cigarettes to minors, as everyone should, along with anything containing nicotine.

As I understand it, there are also things that do not make sense as far as the taxation aspect of this bill.

"These bills would unfairly tax the sale of electronic cigarettes and every electronic cigarette accessory in Hawaii, regardless of whether or not it contains tobacco/nicotine, at a rate of 70% of the wholesale price."

If this is indeed true, then that is extremely high and unfair; unconstitutional.

I have been using electronic cigarettes for over two years, after 35 years of smoking traditional cigarettes. My lungs have cleared up, my breathing and energy levels are normal. I am also proud of the fact that I do not subject my family to second hand smoke.

So while I do agree with the part of not allowing sales to minors, I strongly disagree with the extreme taxation aspect of the bill. Making the cost to the legal businesses in Hawaii so high will cause many people to return to traditional cigarettes and the 4000+ chemicals and high levels of carcinogens contained within.

I urge you to revise the bill to keep the primary focus on sales to minors, as they should not be using any nicotine product. It is a well known fact that minors have been smoking traditional cigarettes for decades, and will continue to do so, regardless of what laws are in place. As long as there are tobacco cigarettes, minors will be able to get them, a sad fact.

My Father in Law is dying from COPD, due to many years of smoking. His doctor advised him to use electronic cigarettes. My doctor is very pleased with the improvements in my health and lungs since I have switched, and encourages me to continue using them. Outrageous taxes, such as the ones presented in this bill, need to be removed or modified to a fair tax that will allow Hawaii businesses to continue to sell electronic cigarettes. These companies pay their business taxes and as stated before, piling an unrealistic tax on every component of an electronic cigarette is unfair. The only part of an electronic cigarette that may contain nicotine is in the juice and pre filled cartomizers. Many people do not even use nicotine in their electronic cigarettes. This is very unfair to them as well. High taxes on components that do not contain nicotine under this bill is unethical. I will be watching the outcome of this bill, and if passed as is, I know I will never be coming back to Hawaii again, nor doing any business there as I have done in the past.

Please do not pass this ill planned bill into law!

Regards,

Charles Shepherd

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mia_salvacion@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:06:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charlston
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mia_salvacion@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: CKIILANI@YAHOO.COM
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:17:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: CHARMAINE GABIN
Organization: Individual
E-mail: CKIILANI@YAHOO.COM
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: CDEAR21@YAHOO.COM
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:31:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chase Dear
Organization: Individual
E-mail: CDEAR21@YAHOO.COM
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I am an e-cigarette user not residing in HI. Since beginning the use of my e-cigarette, I have completely quit smoking and feel 100's of times better. You refer to e-cigarettes as a tobacco product. There is NO tobacco in them. As stated, there is virtually no evidence supporting potential danger. I agree that the product should not be sold to anyone under the age of 18, but that does not make it a tobacco product. By all means, increase taxes on tobacco if you must, but leave the e-cigarette users alone. Thousands upon thousands of people feel better and benefit daily from the e-cigarette. Don't punish people for trying to improve their lives. As much as I would like to visit Hawaii, I don't believe I ever will if this is how the state government treats its residents.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chacity.rosa@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 4:27:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chacity cusimano
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chacity.rosa@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

please don't start taxing it i have been smoking for 12 year and i finally quit thanks to volcano if you want a healthy hawaii don't make it hard!!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: vid.hawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:47:09 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chayanin dreblow
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vid.hawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I was a smoker for about 25 years and after using a Volcano Ecig I quit smoking cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chacha_d808@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:23:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chelyssa Delapenia
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chacha_d808@live.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Aloha,

I Chelyssa Delapenia say that taxes shouldn't be put on these "Electronic Cigarettes" it should be put more towards regular tobacco cigarettes because, (1)It does not promote Lung Cancer (2)It does not cause second hand smoking (3)There is no smell of tobacco, because it is a water vapor. It is legal, and even though it will lower cigarette tobacco sales it will not lower the deaths in the world. So I hear by supporting this bill and not have taxes to be put forth the Electronic Cigarettes.

Thanks and Mahalo,
Chelyssa Delapenia, Kauai

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Carnation_7777@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:16:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cherie
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Carnation_7777@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cdardeen3025@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:44:20 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cheryl Dardeen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cdardeen3025@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

As much as society is becoming unfriendly to "tax-paying" smokers, with the claims of how "unhealthy" it is. Not only for the smoker, but also for the non-smokers who have to breathe in the second-hand smoke. I am appalled that when a HEALTHY alternative for smoker AND non-smoker alike is provided, then the government wants to put some tax on it. You claim you want a healthier America, then stop giving smokers a reason to stop using the healthier alternative of electronic cigarettes. It seems that on one hand you don't want us to smoke, yet you enjoy the benefits of the taxes you get off of them. For the record, the electronic cigarette term is not "smoking" it is "vaping." Maybe you need a clearer understanding of the service provided by them. They use vapors that allow smokers to have a similar feeling to smoking WITHOUT the harmful effects to those vaping or anyone around them. I use Volcano Ecigs regularly and have encouraged many to switch, for their health and their family. I am able to vape around my parents, who are non-smokers and very sensitive smells...as well as asthmatic. They cannot even smell the vapors. To tax these ecigs would be detrimental to the goal of creating a cleaner environment and healthier citizens, because the taxes that you are proposing will only result in people choosing the cheaper route of returning to smoking. You would be causing companies such as Volcano that is located in your very state to go out of business. Aren't you suppose to be working to create and secure jobs...not tear down the small businesses that are right there in your backyard! If this bill passes, you can be certain that everyone I know will be advised to steer clear of your state for any reason...to boycott if necessary to prove how important having an affordable alternative to smoking is to those of us that are "VAPERS"!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: csh3323@hanmail.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:09:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: choi seungho
Organization: Individual
E-mail: csh3323@hanmail.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ccasiple@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:17:10 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chris casiple
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ccasiple@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: gsmcryptic@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 1:27:46 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris Char
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gsmcryptic@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Wiz6947@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:38:36 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris DeOcampo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Wiz6947@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Nyteen27@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:10:20 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris guglielmo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Nyteen27@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

How dare you guys try and make more money off of a tool that helps people from smoking real cigarettes. Who ever in congress came up with this should also tax everything else that helps us people quit other things that are not healthy. You people in congress and the government are absolutely rediculous and should all be voted out. Think before you speak whoever made this bill.

Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: larryboy808@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:25:36 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris Hashimoto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: larryboy808@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Ive personally been a tobacco smoker for about 20 years. I feel this to be a alternative to tobacco that doesn't have the tar and other harmful chemicals. please do not give in to pressure from tobacco companies.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chris_iyoki@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 11:43:49 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chris iyoki
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chris_iyoki@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: alaska44@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 10:29:14 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chris kirkman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alaska44@live.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ckuanoni57@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 3:00:11 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chris kuanoni
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ckuanoni57@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: achristianmeyer@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:05:51 AM
Attachments: [Hawaiian Bill SB2819.rtf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris Meyer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: achristianmeyer@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Please reject this bill and amend it to enable the fair collection of normal state and local sales taxes on e-cigs and related accessories, from either internet or "brick and mortar" retailers. I am in favor of the collection of sales taxes on retail purchases, but the proposed tax is unfair and excessive. I do support the banning of sales of e-cigs and related accessories to minors.

January 31, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to ask you not to pass proposed legislation SB-2819, which relates to the taxation on the sale of electronic cigarettes and related accessories, when it comes up for a vote. This is an unfair law that is intended only to increase tax revenues through an excessive tax that will negatively impact on the livelihood of many in these difficult economic times, and which will also lead many former smokers away from the lower-risk alternative provided them by electronic cigarettes.

As a long-time smoker, I spent many years, and a good deal of money, trying various smoking cessation products. I tried the patch, the nicotine gum, and Chantix. None of these products worked for me, as none of them addressed what was as much of a psychological addiction as it was a nicotine addiction. So in an effort to reduce the harm tobacco was doing to my body, I tried electronic cigarettes (e-cigs).

Electronic smoking, or "vaping", is similar to smoking traditional cigarettes, or "analogs". With an e-cig, a battery is connected to a device called an atomizer, which is, in turn, connected to a cartridge or bottle with a liquid (e-juice) that contains nicotine, flavorings, and either propylene glycol (PG) or vegetable glycerin (VG). The design of e-cigs can vary greatly, but the general concept is the same. You activate the battery by either drawing on it or by pushing a button. As you take a drag, the e-juice is pulled onto the heating element of the atomizer, which turns the e-juice into a vapor that can be inhaled. The process is like smoking, in that you get a "throat hit" from it. When you exhale, you produce a cloud of vapor that is essentially odorless and quickly dissipates into the air. There is no secondhand smoke and no combustion.

E-cig manufacturers claim that their products are safer than smoking analogs because of the lack of combustion and the fact that they do not contain sufficient levels of carcinogens to be considered dangerous to humans. According to many medical professionals, it's not the nicotine in analogs that causes cancer, but the other chemicals and the combustion of them that is the problem. In addition, PG is "generally recognized as safe for human consumption (GRAS)" by the FDA, and most e-juice manufacturers only use flavorings that the FDA also considers to be GRAS.

Current estimates have the e-cig industry generating approximately \$100 million in sales worldwide. An estimated 30,000 people pick up vaping every year. After a recent appearance on "The David Letterman Show" by e-cig user and actress Katherine Heigl, one e-cig vendor claimed a 10% jump in website hits.

Currently, many state and local governments are proposing bans on e-cigs. However, none of the legislative movements so far have been based on anything close to scientific research, but rather have been quite possibly driven by the economic need to continue generating tax revenue on sales of cigarettes. This is a legitimate concern, but the tax rate this bill proposes is grossly excessive. And if this proposed legislation is also intended to remove e-cigs from the marketplace under some misguided sense of protecting the health of your constituents, then this law is even more wrong.

Many studies have shown that e-cigs are indeed a much safer alternative to smoking and are, in fact, less more dangerous than existing smoking cessation products. The most detailed study to date is one by I

New Zealand, which confirmed the claims of the industry that e-cigs are a relatively safe alternative to smoking. The Boston University School of Public Health also released findings that e-cigs are considered less harmful than traditional cigarettes and are no more harmful than currently approved nicotine replacement therapies. Conversely, a “quick and dirty” 2009 study by the FDA found “carcinogens and chemicals such as diethylene glycol, an ingredient used in antifreeze” in samples of e-juice. However, findings of the FDA have been called into question by the c-cig industry and many in the medical community. One concern about the FDA study is their claim that carcinogens, called nitrosamines, were discovered in e-juice. These are also present in FDA approved smoking cessation aids, such as Nicorette gum, and are not believed to be of sufficient concentrations to be harmful. You can learn more about electronic cigarettes by visiting <http://www.e-cigarette-forum.com>.

As I hope you can see, applying this proposed legislation would have terrible, far-reaching effects on the e-cig industry, not only in Hawaii, but all throughout the United States. It would set a precedent that other states and local legislative bodies would follow, and it would effectively kill the industry entirely in the U.S., put many out of work, and leading many others to return to the practice of smoking cigarettes or using other forms of tobacco.

I implore you, on behalf of countless former smokers, to reject this law as it is currently worded and propose alternative legislation that requires normal state and local sales taxes to be levied on e-cigs and related accessories, regardless of whether they are purchased online or in retail stores. I am not against the collection of sales tax on these items, but I am very much against the excessive 70% of retail value tax that is being proposed.

I also understand that part of this legislation is intended to ban the sale of e-cigs to minors. I wholeheartedly support this element of the legislation and I believe any form of this bill needs to include it. Minors should not be allowed to purchase any product that contains nicotine, and punishment for those who sell e-cigs to children should be harsh.

For the record, I am neither a manufacturer nor a vendor of e-cigs or any products associated with the industry. I am simply a consumer who is concerned about my health and that of the many millions of e-cig users, worldwide. By rejecting this bill as it is currently worded, you would be doing a valuable service for millions of people around the world.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Chris Meyer

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: blades_06_2006@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:49:50 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris Milan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: blades_06_2006@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chris.oberle@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:46:21 AM
Attachments: [SB2819_testimony.txt](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris Oberle
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chris.oberle@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

SB2819_testimony

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an ex-smoker with nearly 2 years of smoke free living behind me. I can safely say that it simply would not have been possible without the use of electronic cigarettes. I simply cannot fathom the logic surrounding this proposed legislation especially when one considers that I no longer use nicotine in my 'e-juice' of choice.

What is the justification for implementing a special tax on what essentially amounts to a battery and an atomizer? Will a similar tax be considered for other delivery devices such as inhalers? Where does one draw the line? Who is behind this...the tobacco lobby?

I know this isn't much of a testimony. I'm happy to provide more detail but quite honestly, I am busy and am prepared to get my e-cigarette equipment elsewhere if it means paying 70% less for it as opposed to my favorite Hawaiian-based vendor.

Thanks,

Chris Oberle

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chrispski@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:46:49 PM
Attachments: [testimony_against_eciq_taxes.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris Sebelski
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chrispski@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

To the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors I say, whole heartedly, NO!

To the taxation or classification of electronic cigarettes as tobacco products, I say NO!

Please do not penalize people for switching to a more healthy approach to a habit that has killed so many. I smoked tobacco for thirty-five years. The physical damage to me and those around me was becoming more and more evident. I knew I had to do something.

I found electronic cigarettes by chance in a news article and did some research. I found that the electronic cigarette poses no real health threats to the individual using them and no side effects at all to those in contact with the user.

There is absolutely no reason for these devices to be classified as “tobacco products” or “tobacco use paraphernalia”. Please do not impose the “sin” tax on these products. There is no sin involved in using a product that may/ may not give the user a stimulant that is no more harmful than caffeine. If anything the user should be given some kind of incentive for not using tobacco.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris Sebelski

St. Louis, MO

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Chrisatighe@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:17:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris Tighe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Chrisatighe@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
Electronic cigs are not tobacco products. Period.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lyons682@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:40:49 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chris
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lyons682@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

i do not think that this is fair. there are many reasons that e cigarettes are not the same thing as tobacco cigarettes. in fact the only thing that they have in common is nicotine. they eliminate the chemicals that are known in tobacco cigarettes (4000+), they eliminate the tar, ash, second hand smoke, cigarette butt litter, and many other things. if this bill is passed, it is just a tragedy on the american peoples rights. this will cause many people choosing a safer alternative to go back to the deadly risk of smoking real cigarettes and that is worth a lot more than the 70% tax increase that is in no way justifiable. please i encourage you to the the proper research before imposing a bogus bill into legislature.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cryptorchild311@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:10:10 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chris
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cryptorchild311@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Rather than conducting the necessary research to create a specific classification of the product and applying a fair tax policy for it, Hawaii's state legislature is merely attempting to classify the product as tobacco and apply the egregious tax rates that are applied to tobacco to electronic cigarettes too. Levying this hefty of a tax on the product would virtually wipe out any local vendors as they would not be able to compete with their out-of-state and international counterparts that are not subject to this unfair tax.

Customers would then be forced to buy their products from vendors out-of-state on the internet, or put down their ecigs and return to smoking again. Any and all local vendors would either be forced to relocate their operations to another state or face closure due to the competitive disadvantage that would be placed on them.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Christian.maestas@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:11:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christian Maestas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Christian.maestas@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lilc4585@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:33:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christie Saoit
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lilc4585@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cpd9468@netzero.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 3:59:37 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christine Dodson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cpd9468@netzero.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I smoked tobacco cigarettes for 30 years and was on my way down the road to COPD, emphysema, or even lung cancer. Tobacco-FREE e-cigs from companies such as Hawaii's own "Volcano" brand literally saved my life by assisting me to become a non-smoker. A 70% tax on these products is not only unfair, but will force persons like myself to resort back to "rollie" style tobacco products due to the additional cost.

The components that make up an e-cig are found in many other products, such as cell phones and other technology products and do NOT contain tobacco. Therefore, a tobacco tax is unfair and simply a greedy action by the Hawaii state government.

The Volcano brand is currently one of the fastest growing companies in your state, but if this measure were to pass they surely will be forced to leave the state or close their doors. I, for one, would seriously not visit Hawaii and would encourage others to stay away as well if this measure were to pass and potentially take away the one device that finally allowed me to become tobacco-free!
Please rethink this measure!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kaweihi1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:25:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: christine kaaloa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kaweihi1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I would recommend every one that smokes and trying to quit to purchase this product. it works for me

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: c_haw1981@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 7:55:28 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christopher Hawthorn
Organization: Individual
E-mail: c_haw1981@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cheebo13@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:13:15 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christopher Herrick
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cheebo13@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: crismendez1576@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 5:22:46 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: christopher Mendez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: crismendez1576@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: christopher_s_morgan@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:32:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christopher Morgan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: christopher_s_morgan@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jivefly@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:51:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christopher
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jivefly@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

As an individual who considers electronic cigarettes to have saved my life I must oppose the bill being considered for the extreme tax prices being placed on the electronic cigarette itself as well as the accessories needed to use electronic cigarettes.

Tobacco taxes are not applied to cigarette lighters, butane, matches, etc. as they are being proposed to be applied to the accessories that are needed for the use of electronic cigarettes.

Electronic cigarettes have saved my life, as I began developing the initial stages of throat, mouth, and paranasal and nasal cancers. Having begun using electronic cigarettes and receiving treatment for cancer, I am cancer free, and my health has improved tremendously.

If this bill were to be passed, I would be forced to stock up on my electronic cigarette supplies and accessories before ever travelling to Hawaii to visit family or for vacation, and it would greatly hinder my ability to enjoy my stay in beautiful Hawaii as I would feel that being taxed for maintaining my health is a something that the state of Hawaii considers something that they should quite outrageously charge visitors and citizens for.

Please consider the consequences of this tax and try to account for the many people that you may be quite literally forcing to return to smoking analog cigarettes, and the health concerns therein.

Thank you for your consideration,
Christopher Paul Carles

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cnpkdp@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:14:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christopher Potter
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cnpkdp@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Electronic cigarettes were the only method that allowed me to stop smoking tobacco cigarettes after more than 12 years. Volcanoecigs.com, a vendor from Hawaii, makes the only brand of electronic cigarette that works to fully replace tobacco with a healthier alternative at a reasonable cost. Should their products be taxed at the proposed rate, it would drive the cost beyond what I would be able to afford and likely result in my switching back to smoking. If tax revenue lost from smokers switching to electronic cigarettes is the motivation for this legislation, I recommend considering the astronomical tax revenue gains that would result in legalizing marijuana for public use with restrictions similar to alcohol.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cricafort58@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 5:21:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christopher Ricafort
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cricafort58@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

This product helped me quit cigs... it should be promoted and praised instead of taxed. DONT DO IT

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chuck.swank@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:43:04 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chuck Swank
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chuck.swank@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Using e-Cigarettes are an economically sound way to quit smoking. I used this specific method to lower my nicotine dosage to where I didn't need nicotine any longer.

I had tried the nightmarish and suicidal concoction (I obviously survived) known as Chantix to no avail. I had tried Nicoderm CQ to no avail. I had tried Commit Lozenges to no avail. e-Cigarettes worked for me and a number of my colleagues.

I full-heartedly agree on banning the sale to minors, but strongly oppose the taxation of the product found in tobacco leaves, eggplant, and tomatoes.

Quitting smoking should not be punishing to current smokers by excessive taxation but encouraged as a less harmful means of working out of the smoking habit. If e-Cigarettes were twice the price, I, financially would not have been able to use the products that made me nicotine free.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Ally@allysavage.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:04:25 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cindy savage
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Ally@allysavage.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Selling to minors may be inappropriate , but to control the rights
Of adults that are trying to stop smoking is at best unethical.

Finally we have on smoke being omitted into spaces, etc we all
Want that even if we are addicts.

To tax people who are contenders of such a hard addiction to kick
Is beyond insensitive. It's time we stand up to sane legislation
That hide ear marks like taxation on products that do not harm anybody
And actually help in the aid of kicking the smoking habit.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: poketako808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:06:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: clarence Ortiz
Organization: Individual
E-mail: poketako808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
It help me quit smoking since 2010

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cpwood07@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:37:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Clarissa wood
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cpwood07@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: clay.longneck@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:36:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Clay Young
Organization: Individual
E-mail: clay.longneck@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I am opposed to taxing e-cigarettes like other tobacco products at a rate of 70%. This is a positively horrible idea from people who do not understand what these products offer.

And what they offer is a chance for people like me--that is, people who have tried to quit smoking and failed numerous times--to get out of the cycle of quit and relapse and maintain their habit in the healthiest way possible. Nicotine doesn't kill, it's smoking and tar that kill. To the best of our current knowledge, using an ecig should impact the user's health about as much as a heavy coffee habit.

That users could get away from traditional cigarettes and use ecigs, improve their health, and stop hurting others and stinking up the place is something to be encouraged. NOT punished with taxes that were meant for other quite different products.

Go ahead and keep them from children--that's a good thing. But adults should be able to freely choose an imperfect but healthier alternative without being punished for it.

Thank you,
CY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rev.cwarren@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:10:43 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Clayton Warren
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rev.cwarren@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

As I do agree that E-cigarettes should not be sold to minors, I do not agree to the additional taxation of said product. Currently, revenue is being generated in state by individuals purchasing the product within your state. If additional taxation occurs, it will force customer to purchase the product out of state, thus losing the state additional revenue. It may also force long time smokers to resort back to smoking traditional cigarettes, thus increasing their chance to smoking related diseases, such as emphysema and cancer, which will also end up costing the state more money in the long run. I urge you to prohibit the sales of e-cigarettes to minors, but revoke the additional taxation of e-cigarettes, and labeling them as a tobacco product, which by all definitions they are not. Passing the taxation bill will only end up costing the state more in the long run than you would ever get out of taxation.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Silveradori77@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:52:30 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Clifford Andres
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Silveradori77@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Kiddeedo75@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:49:54 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Clint c
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Kiddeedo75@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I am an e-cigarette consumer and feel this bill is very unfair to me n all those who is a consumer of electronic cigarettes. I found it fair with the no-smoking within 20ft law, but to ban and classify e-cigarette products as tobacco products unfair. I have been smoking for many years and on a mission of quitting smoking real tobacco products by being a consumer of e-cigarette products so I can care for my health and being a father of 6 to care for their health and those around me by not allowing them second hand smoke. I have used these electronic products over a year now and have drastically cut down smoking tobacco and with e-cigarettes I can suppress that urge of lighting up a real cigarette by using an e-cigarette when ever and where ever without harming myself or others around me. Yes I feel if this ban goes into effect, pricings will skyrocket making it more expensive and difficult to quit because prices will be higher than real tobacco products thus forcing all to go back and consume harmful tobacco products once again. If u feel money is more important than health of everyone, then go ahead and send us and our families and those around us to our graves. Please show care and sympathy for te people who value health.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dub151@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:39:37 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Clint Pettee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dub151@live.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

It seems quite unfair to include Electronic Cigarettes in this Bill. First, these devices are not using any tobacco at all. Second, with tobacco as prominent in our society as it is, why would a less dangerous option to people who already use tobacco be subjected to such a tax. Vaporizing nicotine has become quite popular as a way to stop using tobacco. I know this from experience. Tobacco free for almost a year, I give all the credit to this new technology. Also, I have experienced all the benefits of quitting ie; increased senses of smell and taste, no hacking up brown gunk from throat, and of course not smelling like a tobacco smoker. Please give this Bill another look. I wouldnt have been able to get off Cigarettes without the vaporizing option. I believe in taxes, however, 70% on this is just foolish. Tobacco is horrible and costs government tremendous amounts of money and time. Vaporizers(e-cigs) arent tobacco and shouldnt be treated as such .

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dub151@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:44:51 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Clint Pettee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dub151@live.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

It seems quite unfair to include Electronic Cigarettes in this Bill. First, these devices are not using any tobacco at all. Second, with tobacco as prominent in our society as it is, why would a less dangerous option to people who already use tobacco be subjected to such a tax. Vaporizing nicotine has become quite popular as a way to stop using tobacco. I know this from experience. Tobacco free for almost a year, I give all the credit to this new technology. Also, I have experienced all the benefits of quitting ie; increased senses of smell and taste, no hacking up brown gunk from throat, and of course not smelling like a tobacco smoker. Please give this Bill another look. I wouldnt have been able to get off Cigarettes without the vaporizing option. I believe in taxes, however, 70% on this is just outrageous when tobacco smokers health issues cost governments tremendous amounts of money and time, and we've yet to see that with Electronic Cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: clintfreyeisen@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:47:52 PM
Attachments: [Relating To Sales of Electronic Cigarettes.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Clinton Freyeisen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: clintfreyeisen@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Relating To Sales of Electronic Cigarettes

Clinton Freyeisen

As a former cigarette smoker of five years, I strongly oppose the introduction and the potential passing of SB No. 2819. To directly relate Electronic cigarettes and Tobacco suggests to me a lack of research and a hastened attempt to classify two completely different materials as one. While I cannot deny that recent studies have shown that certain "E-Juices" contain substances that are questionable and potentially harmful to humans, this is largely due in part to unregulated industries in the country of China, where most, if not all Electronic Cigarette components are sourced. The solution to this problem has already been found, and hundreds of Electronic Cigarette vendors are making their own "E-juices" right here in the United States with responsibility. I also cannot deny that Electronic Cigarettes are very new, and the effects of inhaling vapors produced by these devices are not entirely known. But what I do know, is that after eleven months of not having a single cigarette, and replacing them with a device that while still delivering a brain altering chemical, but still maintaining its status as being non-carcinogenic and has been proven to support addiction, Nicotine, I have never felt better.

While my addiction to cigarettes was fueled by nicotine, it was also influenced by one, if not many other chemicals found in cigarettes. Which is another reason why classifying Electronic Cigarettes as a tobacco product is unreasonable. Electronic Cigarette "E-Juice" solution should only contain ISP Propylene Glycol and/or Vegetable Glycerin, Nicotine, and Artificial Flavoring. Cigarettes contain Nicotine which is NON-Carcinogenic, but also around 5000+ other chemicals that have been proven to be carcinogenic. There are no carcinogenic chemicals found in Electronic Cigarettes.

I strongly support the passing of a bill that prohibits minors from possessing or purchasing Electronic Cigarettes. But to relate these two products is irresponsible, overlooked, and offensive.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: puakahea@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:11:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Clyde Kaluahine
Organization: Individual
E-mail: puakahea@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Spiffy121@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:04:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cody
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Spiffy121@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This is doing nothing but making it harder on citizens in this economy!!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cody15hunstad@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:44:11 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cody
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cody15hunstad@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cody.y456@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:28:01 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cody
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cody.y456@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
Stick it to the man while you suck a fat one!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: colbywalls@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:22:23 PM
Attachments: [Senate bill opposition testimony.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Colby Walls
Organization: Individual
E-mail: colbywalls@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Legislators,

This testimony is in opposition of the proposed Senate bill SB2819 as it stands.

I am a 44 year old female who uses an electronic cigarette. My husband is a 49 year old who also uses the device. While I am in favor of keeping all tobacco products out of the hands of our youth, and for taxing those who use this product with a "sin tax", this bill is over-reaching it's objective.

I will specifically speak on the taxation of ever single article used in an electronic cigarette, and how it is incompatible with the current tax on traditional cigarettes.

My husband and I are both previous smokers of traditional cigarettes and we were happy to pay our "sin tax" for that habit. The cigarette was taxed as a whole. When I purchased a filtered cigarette I did not pay a tax on the cigarette and another on the filter, just the cigarette. Traditional cigarettes need to be lit, but if I purchased a lighter or a match, I did not pay a higher tax on those items.

Taxing every single piece of an electronic cigarette's elements if very much like taxing a traditional cigarette, then it's filter, then it's lighting device.

If this bill were re-introduced to tax only the nicotine, or "juice" I would be in favor of it and would again, gladly pay a sin tax on that object.

But as the bill stands, I have already signed a petition and feel strongly enough about this issue to provide testimony in opposition to Senate bill SB2819.

I respectfully submit my opposition and hope for only my voice to be heard, listened to, and to make an impact on the decision of this bill.

Thank you,

Colby Walls

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: colleenkreusling@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:54:58 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: colleen kreusling
Organization: Individual
E-mail: colleenkreusling@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
no more taxes!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dewatson@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 10:55:42 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: colleen mitsuya
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dewatson@hawaiiintel.net
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

smoked for 40 yrs smelled bad cost sky rocket better alternative for me please do not tamper with the law

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tilsoncorey@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:08:39 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Corey Tilson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tilsoncorey@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Enough is enough, this is why businesses can't survive. I won't go on and on. You should get it, quit running everything into the ground. Let businesses succeed and you will get plenty of your precious tax money.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: 808june.bug@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:45:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: cornelio D. bumanglag jr.
Organization: Individual
E-mail: 808june.bug@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cory9@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:44:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cory Brown
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cory9@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: flychik33@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:45:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Courtney Sexton
Organization: Individual
E-mail: flychik33@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: c7c@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:04:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Craig A Coon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: c7c@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: wwwdotcar@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 11:35:50 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Craig Ganiko
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wwwdotcar@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: phatboiracing@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:43:47 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: craig jumawan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: phatboiracing@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mirafuentes1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:26:12 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Craig Mirafuentes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mirafuentes1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: 10secnova@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:13:10 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: craig nakamura
Organization: Individual
E-mail: 10secnova@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cfuzziebear@verizon.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:10:01 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: craiog taylor
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cfuzziebear@verizon.net
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jupitercwelch@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:08:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Crystal
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jupitercwelch@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Rather than conducting the necessary research to create a specific classification of the product and applying a fair tax policy for it, Hawaii's state legislature is merely attempting to classify the product as tobacco and apply the egregious tax rates that are applied to tobacco to electronic cigarettes too. Levying this hefty of a tax on the product would virtually wipe out any local vendors as they would not be able to compete with their out-of-state and international counterparts that are not subject to this unfair tax.

Customers would then be forced to buy their products from vendors out-of-state on the internet, or put down their ecigs and return to smoking again. Any and all local vendors would either be forced to relocate their operations to another state or face closure due to the competitive disadvantage that would be placed on them.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: c.day0422@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:03:09 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Curtice Bryant
Organization: Individual
E-mail: c.day0422@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cay3175@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 12:27:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: cy yoshikawa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cay3175@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: silverstreakjeep@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 8:01:40 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cyndy Harden
Organization: Individual
E-mail: silverstreakjeep@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

I use eCigs because I like smoking and didn't want to quit. eCigs made it possible to quit by allowing me to keep on doing what I like to do. I didn't have to worry about total upheaval of my life by changing my routines or going through the withdrawals of nicotine. I think one of the biggest fears of quitting is the drastic change to a habit that has been part of life for years. I'm now a vaper instead! The step down in nicotine levels has made getting off nicotine so easy too. I can't say enough about how wonderful these products are!

If you pass this bill I will never order from a Hawaii e-cigarette company. This bill would harm the public health by discouraging people like me from quitting smoking as I couldn't have done it without eCigs.

Smokers are backed into every corner, made us pay enormous amounts of taxes for a pack, got us sick, lied to us for years... and now you want to tax something that is BARELY associated with tobacco and has helped literally thousands of smokers quit. And not to forget, us smokers are now ex smokers and making the world a better place for all non smokers.

eCigs are a much safer alternative to smoking and have helped a lot of people quit as well. It isn't harmful to anyone around it. Because some do contain nicotine if you're banning/taxing the use of e-cigs than you should also ban/tax the use of nicotine gum, lozenges, patches, and the sort because that's all that is in the e-cig, and some options have no nicotine what so ever!

eCigs are not smoked, as they are not lit, thus they are in a different category than tobacco. People who oppose their use need to know WHAT they are opposing, if they oppose smoking they should support ecig use, if they oppose second hand smoke they should support ecigs also. No smoke is emitted from an eCig.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cadillacdreams82@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:16:06 AM
Attachments: [January 31.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cynthia Smith
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cadillacdreams82@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

January 31, 2012

Hawaii State legislator,

I am submitting my testimony in the case of SB2819, in which I am strongly opposed to. I am disappointed in the states idea to do something that first of all changes a lot of people's minds (including mine) to spend any or more time in the beautiful state, considering in these hard economic times and the effect it already has had on all of the countries wallets. Not to mention the idea of raising taxes on the electronic cigarettes that has helped countless citizens to stop smoking those poisonous sticks big tobacco sell. While I agree to not allow the sale to minors, it seems to be a slippery tactic to get something you want done while using minors as a shield. I am going to forward this issue to all of my friends and family to get involved and stop this from happening, or change it so it really helps the cause instead of just lining pockets.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Elizabeth Smith

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Voyager57@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:42:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: D. Janowitz
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Voyager57@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Greetings. I wish to oppose this bill and any restrictions on ECiggs and related products. I smoked for 35 yrs and tried all traditional stop smoking aids without success until Ecigs came along. I was able to quit the first time I tried and have stayed quit for the last 1.5 yrs. I know many others who have also been able to quit using Ecigs. If these are restricted I see no alternative but to resume smoking. In addition, I am in better health now than I can ever remember being while smoking. Ecigs are truly a Godsend...pls. don't restrict them. Thank you. D. Janowitz

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: deekasi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 4:28:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: D. Kasi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: deekasi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

If you are looking for a way to bring in more revenue to the state of Hawaii, then perhaps you should tax the things that are extremely damaging. This product is being used by many people to mitigate the hazardous effects from smoking tobacco cigarettes. These products have much less nicotine and no tar in them and provide a useful service to the community .

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bakes75402@mypacks.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:37:32 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dale Dallman Jr.
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bakes75402@mypacks.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I dont want e-cigs sold to minors, however, they are not a tobacco product and are not another income source for your bloated and expanding government. If you need more money, cut some of the social programs, e-cigs are not tobacco! I smoked tobacco for 30 years. I tried to quit a dozen times and failed. I tried using e-cigs and haven't smoked tobacco in 11 months. It worked because they are not tobacco and breaks the hold of that drug!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: d_ake1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:59:40 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: dale
Organization: Individual
E-mail: d_ake1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dalianeduarte@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 6:39:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daliane Duarte Rocha
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dalianeduarte@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: thevwall@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:28:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dan Ludeman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: thevwall@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I view the passing of this bill as an excuse for Hawaii to support major tobacco companies rather than embracing the MUCH SAFER SMOKING ALTERNATIVE that is e-cigarettes. Why would you try to cripple a company that not only stimulates your economy but also provides a safe alternative to the use of tobacco? If you are about to tax these companies %70 of wholesale than why not tax Zyban and Champix for the same reason? I believe the passing of this bill will only help tobacco companies. My life has only been helped by this wonderful company and there products. I've been a non smoker for one year and counting because of this company. If you care about my health, the health of others, and the economy of your state you will oppose this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: danijones2006@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:31:55 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: dani jones
Organization: Individual
E-mail: danijones2006@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dano1000000@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:35:15 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daniel Bertuleit
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dano1000000@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I broke a 30 year cigarette and nicotine habit through the use of electronic cigarettes, and have remained tobacco free for over a year. I continue to use these products in a nicotine free form in the hope that it is "less harmful" than my chosen alternative of returning to cigarettes. Numerous studies from several Universities support the conclusion that these are a "less harmful" alternative.

While I support the legislation with regard to restricting sales to all minors, the provisions of this bill classifying electronic cigarettes as "tobacco products" is unfounded. Electronic cigarettes in and by themselves contain no nicotine, although cartridges and liquid may or may not contain nicotine. Based on this, it is clearly unfair to categorize "all" electronic vaporizers as "tobacco products", as the classification is provably inaccurate. Enactment of this bill as written would unfairly penalize those adults who chose to use these devices as a less harmful alternative, even if they contain no nicotine.

To my knowledge there has not been a single conclusive study showing these products cause harm, therefore it would misguided to classify them as a tobacco product, as they have been proven to cause harm.

Dan Bertuleit

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: danspiral@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:39:44 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daniel Dreyer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: danspiral@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Testimony:

I have used e-cigarette products for three years. I have suffered no negative side-effects, not a cough no shortness of breath. The money that I've saved by using these products has helped me through these difficult years.

My Opinion:

1. Not all e-cigs even contain nicotine let alone tobacco. That fact alone should end this bill out-of-hand.
2. There are a wide variety of e-cigs. Many of them are bought as separate parts. There is only one part of an e-cig that is capable of containing nicotine. The rest of the instrument could be used for a wide array of other things. An e-cigarette has more in common with a humidifier than a cigarette. This means that the bill is wrong to classify them the way it does and furthermore, that the bill will NOT be enforceable. It will shut down local e-cig businesses, but people will be able to easily avoid the tax.
3. Why prohibit sales to minors? Nicotine is not conclusively dangerous. Studies show that it is not dissimilar to caffeine which is perfectly legal to sell to minors. We can't ban e-cigs because they "look like cigarettes". Soda looks like beer. Powdered sugar looks like cocaine. Candy cigarettes look like cigarettes. There may be good long term results from letting teens smoke e-cigs, results that we should not write off without conclusive study.
4. This bill is obviously not designed with the well-being of the people in mind. Anyone who has used these products knows it is born of ignorance. Most people who have read more than three sentences on the subject agree. It will cause great resentment from the people against the state government of Hawaii.
5. Introducing this product to a harsh new tax reeks of usury. By which I mean that people will be able to accurately assert that the government is taxing an addictive chemical (nicotine - not a controlled substance) and is chasing down it's users. This would look bad for obvious reasons.
6. This bill will remove Hawaii, and pave the way for removing the U.S., from this emergent market.

Please don't overreact to a new technology that you don't understand by signing this bill.
Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: djfoxymaui@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 1:45:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daniel Johnson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: djfoxymaui@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

All the reasons that were used to tax tobacco do not apply to this new product

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Netsyphen@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:21:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daniel Johnson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Netsyphen@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This bill would affect many people who are now healthier due to electronic cigarettes. I used to smoke 2 packs of cigarettes a day and constantly felt bad. I switched to electronic cigarettes and feel better, can breathe better and my house, car and clothes no longer smell like smoke. If the price of this product increases by nearly 70%, as this bill would do, I would be forced to switch back to regular cigarettes. Increasing my risk of cancer and severely degrading my quality of life. Please oppose this legislation and allow an excellent alternative to smoking to continue to better the lives and the lives of the families of smokers who may in the future switch to this incredible product.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: awakenist@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:41:10 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daniel Mattes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: awakenist@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I've become aware of this proposed legislation and the repercussions of said bill, intended or otherwise. I am wholeheartedly opposed to this bill as it may make these life-saving implements unavailable to the people who need them to lead better, healthier lives.

I first ordered an electronic cigarette from Volcano ECigs (a Hawaiian-based company that should be held in the highest regard) over 2 years ago. Before that moment, I was smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. When my first package from said company arrived, that was the last day I ever smoked a cigarette. The health benefits of the electronic cigarette are truly amazing from my experience. My lung capacity has returned to normal. I can now bicycle 50+ mile treks with no trouble. I used to have difficulties walking down the street to drop off my mail. I would be winded just living my everyday life. I would wake up wheezing, my house reeking of smoke, and have to be concerned about where I'd get the money to buy a pack of smokes. (Cigarettes are around \$8 a pack locally.) Instead of food, I'd buy smokes. These sacrifices seemed worthwhile despite the fact that I was slowly poisoning and killing myself.

Then, I discovered electronic cigarettes! My life has changed in so many wonderful ways! I can actually taste my food again. I have gotten myself back in shape and am quite healthy and athletic again. My loved ones no longer have to suffer the effects of second hand smoke, nor does my dog! I don't smell like an ashtray, and simply, I and those around me live a much better life. The cost of the electronic cigarette is quite expensive for a normal, poor person, but the fluid to refill them is affordable and within reach of those trying to stamp out the plague that are cigarettes.

By imposing this tax, you are not simply gaining a small amount of revenue; you are directly, negatively impacting the lives of not only the citizens of Hawaii, but of all the citizens of this great nation.

I understand that in these times of economic uncertainty that added revenue seems like a brilliant idea. However, take into consideration the long-term healthcare impacts that come along with this little money. Try to remember the citizens of this country who will NOT get cancer; who will live healthier, longer lives; who will pay taxes longer and contribute more to this society by not smoking cigarettes. The state of Hawaii should not only forget about this bill but also fully embrace the economy of electronic cigarettes. Companies such as Volcano ECigs should be lauded for their efforts to create American jobs with American made products that make the lives of their fellow Americans more positive, more enjoyable, and more healthy. By over taxing these products, Americans will be forced to purchase these life-changing products from overseas companies. I'm hesitant to say that China is going to have the same, strict quality control over these products. They have had melamine in their baby formula!

Let's not outsource another emerging market to China. Let's keep these products American! A short term cash injection is a pittance compared to the long term healthcare costs that will have to be endured by the general populace.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: danjm58@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:47:21 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daniel Millisor
Organization: Individual
E-mail: danjm58@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dsully1976@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 2:40:43 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daniel Sullivan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dsully1976@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:
It's not tobacco!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: DWalki9215@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:38:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Darrell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: DWalki9215@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I do not see the reason to classify something that is tech. a novelty in all classes. I do agree that selling cigs. to minor should be against the law and selling nicotine is part of the addictive process. I do not agree that e-cigs are a tobacco product. I do not agree with the huge burden you will put on me and my family if you begin to go after this industry to get government taxation like that...in fact, i am not even sure the nicotine i get in this liquid is even natural. Tax something else like air that is abused by terrorists or killers. These e-cigs are saving my life by weening me off real cigs and now you want your hand in that?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Darren.mckinney@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:24:05 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Darren McKinney
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Darren.mckinney@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This bill is truly ridiculous! To even suggest e-cigs are even comparable to traditional tobacco cigarettes is a farce! Obviously you as a group have been misinformed! I'm beginning to question the mental compacity of any individual in this "committee"! The e-cig market has helped myself along with thousands of other individuals quit smoking/ breath easier while still maintaining nessacery nicotine intake. To impose a 70% tax increase on the e-cig vendors in Hawaii will definantely effect future traveling decisions not only from my household but many others as well. I truly hope this "committee" can see the impact an outrageous tax increase like this will truly effect your great state!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Mdarylpat@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:01:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daryl Patlingrao
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Mdarylpat@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: davemurdoch1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:54:50 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dave
Organization: Individual
E-mail: davemurdoch1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This product is the only reason I am smoke free now the product works and with it use of nicotine only I believe does not make it a tobacco product also its shape and size doesn't remind u of smoking therefore after I eliminated the smoking of cigarettes a few monthes later I was able to stop using the volcano cig also this is a product america needs for its health

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: davida.fwler@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:50:59 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David A. Fowler
Organization: Individual
E-mail: davida.fwler@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I have been looking forward to doing business with a company in Hawaii for some time now but if this measure passes I will not be doing ANY business with anyone in Hawaii. This is absolutely unfair and I believe it is unconstitutional.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: david.allen@pcehawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:28:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: david allen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: david.allen@pcehawaii.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This got me and at a least 20 plus people to quit smoking, your a fool to make something this helpful less available.

FIGURE IT OUT KOOKS!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: david.barlow@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 11:32:25 PM
Attachments: [sb2819-testimony.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Barlow
Organization: Individual
E-mail: david.barlow@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Testimony Regarding SB2819
RELATING TO SALES OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES
Tuesday, January 31st, 2012

My name is David Barlow. I am a resident of North Carolina and a customer of VolcanoECigs.com which is based in Honolulu, Hawaii. I am a former smoker of 1 1/4 pack a day for 17 years. I could not say "former" smoker due if it had not been for the electronic cigarette products sold by Volcano. I have been tobacco free for almost 23 months now which is the longest I have been able to do so since I began smoking. I have tried numerous times to quit, but have been met with failure each time despite using several types of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) including nicotine gum, patches and lozenges.

My father began smoking cigarettes in his early 20's. He passed away when he was 49 during an emergency bypass operation due to coronary heart disease. He tried numerous methods to quit smoking before his death but was unable to do so. I wish that electronic cigarettes had been available before he passed away as I believe they would have worked for him and he would likely still be with us. This tax would take this option away from many people, myself included.

My goal is to eventually ween myself off of nicotine completely as many other electronic cigarette users have already done. I have already come a long way toward doing so. This is something that I could not do with cigarettes.

The National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health prepared and continues to update a report entitled, "Cigarette Smoking: Health Risks and How to Quit (PDQ®)" which can be read in full at [Cigarette Smoking: Health Risks and How to Quit \(PDQ®\) - National Cancer Institute](#). There are many significant quotations contained therein related to the negative health effects of smoking both to the smoker and nonsmokers via second hand smoke. It also contains findings related to the use of NRTs for the cessation of smoking.

It is obvious even to those who are smoking years off of their lives that the harmful effects of tobacco use can be devastating and highly common. As the report states, nearly 443,000 Americans die each year from smoking related illness. It is in the best interest of all Americans that the number of people who smoke tobacco products be reduced as much as possible, as soon as possible and by whatever means necessary within the bounds of common sense and the United States Constitution.

Nicotine is a powerfully addictive drug. Time Magazine reported in a June 24, 2001 article by Christine Gorman entitled, "Why It's So Hard to Quit Smoking" that the relapse rate for those who attempt to quit smoking is 75% which is similar to that of recovering alcoholics and addicts. US Senator Bill Bradley (D) of New Jersey proposed legislation that would require cigarette packages to have a warning label that states, "Smoking is addictive. Once you start you may not be able to stop." Those of us who have tried to quit unsuccessfully regret the day we ever smoked our first cigarette. If the friend who gave me my first cigarette had said to me, "Not only will these things slowly kill you and reduce your quality of life, but you will know that they are doing so and will be unable to stop yourself," I would have handed it right back.

Tobacco smoke contains over 4000 chemicals including 43 known human carcinogens. The vapor produced while using an electronic cigarette contains only 4 main ingredients: United States

Pharmacopeia (USP) grade propylene glycol, USP grade vegetable glycerin, USP grade pure nicotine and food grade flavoring agents including many of the same chemicals used to flavor common food products. None of the preceding chemicals are known human carcinogens. Electronic cigarettes contain no organic particulates (smoke) or tar. They do not produce a lingering cloud of foul smelling and eye, nose, throat and lung irritating smoke. They do not cause bad breath and they do not cause staining of the teeth. They do not cause cancer, emphysema or tooth and gum disease. There is no “smoker's cough” associated with the use of electronic cigarettes because there is no particulate matter that collects in the lungs.

Many people, including medical professionals, postulate that the addiction to nicotine is only one of the components of the addiction to smoking. Smokers are also psychologically addicted to the act of smoking itself. This is where electronic cigarettes differ from other NRTs. NRTs such as Nicorette, Nicoderm, lozenges and even inhalers have an unusually high relapse rate. Conversely, anecdotal evidence and some limited scientific studies have shown that the use of electronic cigarettes as a cessation tool has a significantly higher success rate than other NRTs. A smoker feels at ease by the movements of bringing the cigarette to his mouth, taking a puff, feeling the warmth and seeing the smoke exhaled. Electronic cigarettes provide a means of NRT that also meets the criteria of the psychological addiction in addition to the chemical addiction. Many people who use electronic cigarettes are able to reduce the number of cigarettes they smoke per day or even quit tobacco entirely immediately after switching to electronic cigarettes. The liquid used in electronic cigarettes can be purchased with varying doses of nicotine or no nicotine at all. This allows a new user to start at the same dose that they would be receiving from tobacco products and gradually reduce the dose over time until they no longer feel as though they need the nicotine at all. After that, they may begin to break themselves of the psychological addiction by reducing the number of times per day they use the electronic cigarette until they no longer feel the need to use it at all.

Even if a person is unable or unwilling to work toward complete cessation of nicotine use or break the psychological addiction to the act of using the device, the important thing to realize is that they are no longer using a product that is known to cause nearly 443,000 deaths per year in America and is a significant risk to public health at large.

I fully support the measure to prohibit the sale of any nicotine containing product to minors. The vast majority of electronic cigarette retailers require age verification prior to purchase and refuse to sell their products, even those products that are nicotine free, to those under the age of 18. I applaud this practice and the show of responsibility those retailers have voluntarily displayed. I do not think any electronic cigarette retailer or consumer would be opposed to a measure that wrote into law a practice that is already being followed. However, I am in strong opposition to the classifying of electronic cigarettes as “tobacco products” for the purposes of taxation. Electronic cigarettes are in no way, shape or form a tobacco product. They are more closely related to other smoking cessation aids and NRTs such as Nicoderm patches and Nicorette gum. The nicotine delivery system used by electronic cigarettes does in no way involve the burning of chemical laden organic tobacco leaves for the purposes of producing tar which collects in the lungs and transfers nicotine to the bloodstream. Instead, USP grade, hygroscopic, propylene glycol is used to collect water vapor which is inhaled into the lungs or held in the mouth to transfer nicotine into the bloodstream.

It is my opinion that the State of Hawaii and all other States should view the use of electronic cigarettes as a useful tool to help those who are addicted to nicotine discontinue smoking tobacco products. Doing

so could indeed lead to a reduction in the number of smoking related illnesses and deaths which would in turn put less strain on the medical industry, health insurance industry and demonstrate that the State takes the basic principles of the inalienable right of all People to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. It could result in the citizens of Hawaii leading longer, higher quality lives free of the dangers associated with inhaling tobacco smoke including those who do not smoke themselves, but rather are exposed to the smoke second hand.

I am unaware of any State or National laws that classify Nicorette, Nicoderm or other NRTs as tobacco products for the purposes of taxation and I see no reason that electronic cigarettes should be singled out in this regard. Doing so will certainly be devastating to the electronic cigarette industry. Due to the nature of electronic cigarette, many users view them as a gadget and thus purchase their supplies via the internet. With a tax on electronic cigarettes equal to that of tobacco cigarettes, Hawaii based electronic cigarette retailers and producers such as Volcano would have absolutely no chance of competing in the marketplace. Customers of Volcano and other Hawaii based retailers would easily switch to a retailer based in another State or even in another country where no such restrictive taxation were present if the cost of electronic cigarette products were to drastically increase as proposed by this measure. Hawaii based retailers would be forced to relocate to other states in order to continue business. The jobs that this new industry has created would be lost and gone from Hawaii. The property, income and sales taxes associated with these companies would be lost to Hawaii.

Most importantly, the State of Hawaii legislature would appear to be making an announcement to the people who call Hawaii home that their representatives do not care that the smokers of Hawaii have found a method to help them discontinue slowly killing themselves and harming their bodies. The measure as presented would declare that the State of Hawaii only wants its residents to put dollars in the treasury whether it be from destroying their health or improving it. I believe that treating the two as equals is not in the best interest of the State or its citizens.

My wife and I have vacationed in the beautiful state of Hawaii several times, but passage of this bill will ensure that we do not again. You have sent the message that we are not welcome and if we do visit, you are going to bleed every cent you can from us. I hope and will encourage the citizens of Hawaii to voice similar opposition with their votes during upcoming elections.

I implore each and every one of you to put the lives and well being of your citizens first and the need or desire to collect taxes on a potentially life saving, extending and improving product far behind. Please be brave enough to set the standard for the rest of the Country in showing that you are not willing to allow taxation to prevent people who wish to better themselves from doing so. There is certainly a need to keep nicotine products out of the hands of children and I applaud you for taking steps toward that goal. However, doing so by taxing electronic cigarettes into extinction is not the most prudent way of going about it.

I thank you for your time and sincerely hope you take my words to heart.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: boman_david@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:34:39 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Boman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: boman_david@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: davidciastko@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:01:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: david ciastko
Organization: Individual
E-mail: davidciastko@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: djedmondson@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:35:04 AM
Attachments: [ElectronicCigarettes.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Edmondson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: djedmondson@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the law that you are intending to pass regarding the sale of electronic cigarette products. While I am all for the concept of not selling this product to minors and I believe that those that violate this law should be held responsible and accountable for their actions. I smoked for 22 years and started when I was 12. I have been using an electronic cigarette for over 2 months now have NO DESIRE to ever touch a cigarette, cigar, pipe, or chewing tobacco. Furthermore, I wanted to state the majority of the electronic cigarettes I purchase are not tobacco flavored, do not contain tobacco and do not contain nicotine. To classify them in the same category as tobacco products would be a gross generalization. By passing this bill you are in essence taking away an economical source for those that are finally finding an alternative to tobacco addictions.

Thank you for your time in reading this,

David J. Edmondson

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bigbird.edu@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:48:15 AM
Attachments: [Testimony AGAINST Bill to classify e.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Eleidjian
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bigbird.edu@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Testimony AGAINST Bill to classify e-cigarettes as a “tobacco product.”

I have used the electronic cigarette and I used it to quit smoking. The reasons why I like the electronic cigarette are this; they taste better, I feel healthier, I save more money buying refillable cartridges and flavored liquids than I do buying packs of cigarettes. Excess taxation is unfair and unconstitutional, and to classify a product that does not contain a fraction of the chemicals that are found in cigarettes, is ridiculous and downright childish. Instead of being open minded to a product that could save thousands of lives, put tobacco companies out of business, and reduce the risk of CHILDREN breathing in second hand smoke, our government wants to drive out the e-cig community by creating unnecessary tax.

Why should there be a tax in the first place? If you're going to classify it as a tobacco product that's fine, but taxation under what the tobacco companies get taxed is just another way our trusty “government” cares about the PEOPLES well-being. Allowing this Bill to pass will instill that our government doesn't care, and that they just want more money. Instead tax tobacco companies MORE, provide government funding to R&D departments within the ecig companies so they can do the research necessary and provide a product that CAN be classified as a smoking cessation, AND provide a healthier alternative for those who actually DO enjoy smoking and who prefer to continue.

Allowing the Bill to pass will drive the e-cig companies out of business and provoke people to smoke real cigarettes again, and guess what? THAT would lead to HIGHER death rates, HIGHER tobacco sales, and guess who wins? The tobacco companies and our corrupt government for allowing TAXATION that is unfair, and unconstitutional.

The product already restricts sales to minors, yes the argument stands that the kids can still get them, but the same applies to tobacco products. A kid can sneak a cigarette from the parents or have someone else buy them, but what if the one thing that they are trying to sneak doesn't kill them? A teen still has access to alcohol TO THIS DAY, and taxing alcohol reduces underage drinking? Taxing something doesn't mean the underlying issue is solved, it just causes more issues. LAYOFFS, BUSINESSES SHUTTING DOWN, AND A BREAKTHROUGH SMOKING CESSATION NEVER GET CONSIDERED OR REFINED.

A “gateway product”? Might as well say chocolate cake is a “gateway product” that leads to consumption of other sugar products, which leads to obesity related death and other illnesses, so maybe we should start taxing Hostess more, or Pepperidge Farm, or other candy products.

STOP THE NONSENSE THERE IS NO NEED FOR TAXATION, we see through the smoke and mirrors.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ddembrey@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 9:22:12 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Embrey
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ddembrey@mac.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

As a person who has used an electronic cigarette for almost 2 years as a safer alternative to smoking tobacco cigarettes; I strongly request that you vote against Measure SB2819. And here's why;

While I agree that nicotine products should not be sold to minors, exorbitant tax provisions would not only destroy existing e-cigarette companies in HI, but would prevent businesses from developing there in the future, and would prompt most/all e-cigarette consumers in HI (now and in the future) to purchase e-cigarette products online or by mail order from out-of-state, making it infeasible for the HI Rev Dept to collect taxes on these purchases.

Bottom line, it could cost the HI Revenue Dept more to try collecting the tax than the revenue it would bring in.

Electronic cigarettes only contain nicotine, a base, and flavoring. They do not contain tobacco, do not cause cancer and emphysema, and do not affect others with second hand "smoke" because they produce vapor, not smoke.

The reason for high taxation on cigarettes and other tobacco products is to offset the cost of health-care accrued from the damage caused by those products. Since electronic cigarettes do not cause the diseases that traditional tobacco products cause, it makes no sense to raise taxes on them to offset non-existent costs to society.

The goal of the electronic cigarette community is to help smokers find a healthier alternative to smoking which saves lives and reduces the financial and human cost that traditional tobacco consumption causes. The pharmaceutical industry has failed to produce an effective product for smokers who have trouble quitting. Curtailing the purchase and use of healthier alternatives by informed adults will only drive those smokers back to tobacco use and eventual death.

MY STORY

I personally switched to e-cigarettes on March 29, 2010 (my daughter's 8th birthday). I'd been smoking analog cigarettes since I was 14, I'm now 48. I'd gotten to the point that I was smoking a pack a day. I'd tried other means of quitting; the gum, the patch, cold turkey, and hypnosis, nothing worked.

One day, a couple weeks before my daughters birthday, I walked into a smoke shop here in west San Jose, CA to pick up a carton of smokes, and as I was opening the door I noticed a small sign I hadn't seen before. It simply stated, "Ask us about our new Electronic Cigarette." So I did just that, and the store owner explained what it was, and how it worked. I asked quite a few questions, i.e., "Would it help me to stop smoking?" His response was, "It's not meant to, it's meant to be a safer alternative." That's what sold me, SAFER! Within those two weeks, my daughter asked me

again, "Will you quit 'smoking' for my birthday?". She's asked this multiple times before. But this time my response was different, "YES", I said. The look on her face was priceless, then she turned away slightly and put her hands to her face. I asked what's wrong as I turned her back toward me, she had tears rolling down her cheeks. All she said was "Daddy...Thank You!...Thank You!" Being a dad, I couldn't help but get a bit emotional too.

Being able to say that to her, effected me on multiple levels. All of which are positives;. Knowing that I'd overcome something that has been a burden for 3/4 of my life
Not subjecting my friends and family to second-hand smoke
Not smelling like cigarette smoke
Being able to smell all the wonderful, and not so wonderful smells around me
Being able to taste the food that now tastes even better
Being able to run/walk up a set of stairs and not be winded
Saving money (since quitting, 675 days ago, I've saved over \$4,046.00)
Giving my daughter a kiss good-night and having her say, "You smell like wintergreen Lifesaver", then giggling!

In closing, please do the right thing. Completely understand the full ramifications of Measure SB2819, then vote against it!

Sincerely,

David Embrey
ddembrey@mac.com
San Jose, CA

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dguianen@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:36:20 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Guianen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dguianen@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: i1digiboy@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 5:09:05 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Hess
Organization: Individual
E-mail: i1digiboy@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

There are, no second hand and it leave no after smells , not harsh chemicals, also theres no tobacco in it causing no tar build up

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: d1mura@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:32:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: david ichimura
Organization: Individual
E-mail: d1mura@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: drjfoxy Maui@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 1:43:37 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Johnson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: drjfoxy Maui@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:
Because e-cigs are better for my health

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: davelivingston50@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:07:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Livingston
Organization: Individual
E-mail: davelivingston50@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

If this Bill passes it will have various side effects on Hawaii. Some of these effects are....Less tourist visiting Hawaii. I personally would think twice about going to Hawaii if I knew there was going to be a Tax on Electronic Cigs. Here in Las Vegas there is no such tax. Also, local business such as Volcano E Cigs will suffer because I would NOT pay a tax on the E Cigs they sell, therefore they would lose my business. Please take this into consideration before voting on this Bill. Thank you!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dlowmiller@mail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:53:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Lowmiller
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dlowmiller@mail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

E-cigarettes are a safer and healthier alternative to tobacco cigarettes that many individuals are using to live longer and healthier lives these days. A number of people have switched to this alternative simply because the cost of manufacture for these products is lower than tobacco cigarettes and, as a result, they are more affordable. To tax them as a "tobacco product" will surely deter a number of future individuals from making this switch for that purpose and it will be at the cost of these unfortunate individuals' health, or more likely, their very lives. Passing a bill to falsely label e-cigarettes as "tobacco products" for taxation purposes could very well send a message to the people that the government is more concerned with taxing them for products that they are, in fact, not purchasing than they are with the quality of their lives. Furthermore, considering that these products contain no tobacco, to knowingly falsify the labels as "tobacco products" makes me question just how concerned the government is with the well-being of minors when they clearly have no issues with reinforcing for them the idea that lying to others to get what they want is acceptable and has their stamp of approval on it.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: david.mckeehen@usmc.mil
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:57:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: david mckeehen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: david.mckeehen@usmc.mil
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: davidsouza3@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:34:13 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Souza III
Organization: Individual
E-mail: davidsouza3@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

What you government officials are doing is wrong. you can't just make up your own conclusions about something you don't know about if you can prove that this ecigs are indeed tobacco then you would have all rights to impose a tax upon this product . you conduct the test and research the product or just leave us ecig vapors alone . stop digging your hands into the publics pockets . you all tax the hell out of everything take from the people who have deep pockets and leave us people who are just getting bye alone think about us who are taking the next step to getting the real cigarettes out of this country and want to puff on water vapor instead of chemicals that will kill you, oh wait the tobacco companies are probably pushing you government people to do this bribe cheat and lie. PONO do what is right Aloha a concerned e-cig vapor have a nice day

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: d.a.taitano@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:51:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: david taitano
Organization: Individual
E-mail: d.a.taitano@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
don't pass this....

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dwrobo@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 9:05:19 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Wroblewski
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dwrobo@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: davidkreece@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:58:43 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David
Organization: Individual
E-mail: davidkreece@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I quit smoking several years ago, have tried multiple electronic cigarette brands. Volcano E-Cigs is the only brand that works the way I want it to, and this bill could force them to close down. This will negatively impact my life severely, please do not let it pass.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mrpolebenda@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 3:55:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: davin chung
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mrpolebenda@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: daburtons74@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:58:22 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: dawn burton
Organization: Individual
E-mail: daburtons74@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
leave us alone already!!!! stop taxing us for every god damn thing!!!!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dawningo@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:27:19 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dawningo McGinnis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dawningo@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I started vaping to stop smoking cigarettes and it has worked. I am unable to afford more than I pay for this healthier alternative. Taxing vaporizing would make people who are struggling to quit smoking and using vaporizing as an alternative start smoking again. If it is more expensive and it takes actual will power to not smoke even with vaporizing then why wouldn't people just go back to cigarettes? Cigarettes will kill me if I go back to them but states that see dollar signs at a new product to tax make me realize that they do not care about the individual who is trying to better themselves and their way of life and in addition to the individual states who tax a business like this also do not care about their states successful small businesses. Please do not make me smoke cigarettes and die! Please do not force a small business out of business. Think about the people you will be hurting with this tax.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dmkaluahine@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 10:19:55 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: dayna kaluahine
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dmkaluahine@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dino454@clearwire.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:44:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: dean kobayashi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dino454@clearwire.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
best product that helped me kick my pack and a half cigarette habit!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mscapri7@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:37:19 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: debbie smith
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mscapri7@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: debbieduffy6969@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 5:31:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: deborah duffy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: debbieduffy6969@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

unfair to adults who are trying to quit smoking. many people will not be able to afford to buy supplies if this Bill is passed

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: blondebitch5825@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:44:36 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Deborah Forsythe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: blondebitch5825@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I support all efforts to prevent minors from smoking however this bill is unfair to those of us who have quit smoking using electronic cigarettes. It will also deter others from quitting due to the higher cost if they are unfairly taxed as a tabbacco product. They are not and there is no reason for them to be taxed as such.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: debi_Konopka@Comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:00:57 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Deborah Konopka
Organization: Individual
E-mail: debi_Konopka@Comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dougdebbelcher@bellsouth.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:36:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Debra Belcher
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dougdebbelcher@bellsouth.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

It seems like legislation would support a non-tobacco product instead of trying to tax it. A tobacco product should contain tobacco. Electronic cigs do not contain tobacco.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sailor54@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:16:18 PM
Attachments: [Letter of Opposing e-cig tax.odt](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Del Ackels
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sailor54@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

1/30/2012

I am absolutely apposed to this bill. I can understand restricting e-cigarettes to adults but not taxing e-cigarette supply and devices. The e-cigarette for me has helped immensely with quitting smoking. My nicotine consumption has been significantly reduced as well. Perhaps tax only the nicotine additive would be a viable alternative?

Thank you for listening

Sincerely, Del Ackels

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: della760@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:09:20 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Della Kirtley
Organization: Individual
E-mail: della760@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
I strongly oppose this bill

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dkaehu@hetinc.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:51:39 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: denise kaehu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dkaehu@hetinc.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

Really!!

Why can't you people support something that is better than regular cigarettes. You block us anyway you can and it needs to STOP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: denniskjkim@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:32:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: dennis kim
Organization: Individual
E-mail: denniskjkim@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: denniskjkim@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:32:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: dennis kim
Organization: Individual
E-mail: denniskjkim@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cobled@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:49:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Derek Coble
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cobled@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kochi@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:50:05 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Derek Kochi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kochi@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: derekt210@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:01:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Derek Teruya
Organization: Individual
E-mail: derekt210@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: changdman65@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 12:44:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: derrick chang
Organization: Individual
E-mail: changdman65@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: puakahea@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:01:04 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Desiree Kaluahine
Organization: Individual
E-mail: puakahea@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hi_girl182@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:06:47 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Desiree Weingartner
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hi_girl182@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: destrynaparan@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 10:48:55 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: destry naparan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: destrynaparan@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dbroome96734808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:43:34 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Devon Broome
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dbroome96734808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: devon.cogswell@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:11:19 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: devon cogswell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: devon.cogswell@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

As an electronic cigarette user and a citizen of the united states I feel it is grossly unfair to tax electronic cigarettes as if they were actually tobacco related which by the FDA's standards they are not. This is a terrible attempt to hide a tax for a product behind the noble deed of prohibiting nicotine products to minors and the legislators behind this bill should be ashamed of themselves for thinking they could manipulate the system in such a manner. I oppose this bill strongly.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: emaledex@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 1:04:55 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: dexter burns
Organization: Individual
E-mail: emaledex@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: balooly1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:57:49 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diane Gregurich
Organization: Individual
E-mail: balooly1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I agree it should not be sold to minors because of the nicotine but this ecig does not contain any tobacco at all and therefore should not be taxed as such. I have used ecigs for 2 years now and have quit smoking real cigarettes. In fact I can't stand the smell of the real ones. This could cause unintended consequences meaning that alot of people will go back to smoking real cigarettes with the 1000+ chemicals

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jly1193@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 3:47:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diane Horowitz
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jly1193@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I do not live in Hawaii. However, should this bill get passed, it will only be a matter of time before it affects other states. There is no reason whatsoever to treat electronic cigarettes and any related accessories as a tobacco product. I see no difference with these electronic units to using nicotine gum, lozenges, patches, etc. It is just a different delivery system. I can't help but wonder if the government and pharmaceutical companies are threatened by the success rate of e-cigarettes; smokers are quitting smoking analog cigarettes by the hundreds, if not thousands, by using these electronic devices. I am one of the many who have successfully stopped smoking because of electronic cigarettes. No other method has worked for me. Do not punish these companies by taxing these units like tobacco products. They are NOT tobacco products!!!! Stop being so greedy!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dlu@mrwlaw.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:59:25 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diane Uwekoolani
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dlu@mrwlaw.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: c195068@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:22:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diego Corrales
Organization: Individual
E-mail: c195068@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dfariaudo@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:15:20 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Domenic Ariaudo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dfariaudo@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: DomLewis1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:10:09 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dominique Lewis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: DomLewis1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kapolei8082000@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:59:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: dominique Topinio
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kapolei8082000@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

Really!!

Why can't you people support something that is better than regular cigarettes. You block us anyway you can and it needs to STOP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: donkona64@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:20:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: donald izumigawa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: donkona64@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: don.johnson@united.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:12:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Donald Johnson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: don.johnson@united.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: msquacker@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:11:55 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Donna
Organization: Individual
E-mail: msquacker@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Thanks to Volcano e-cigs, I have been smoke-free for a year this month. I feel better, no more coughing, & I can breath much more easily. If it weren't for these e-cigs, I know I would still be smoking tobacco because I loved to smoke. Now I don't have to. I can vape instead.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: donovan.brianna@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 5:55:53 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: donovan agustin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: donovan.brianna@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tatlidat@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:39:27 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: doug torres
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tatlidat@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

That is why I switched from reg cigarettes. I am feeling a lot healthier.

Please do not hinder peoples chances of a healthier choice at significant cost savings, particularly during this economic time we live in.

Mahalo!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: drjprescott@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:39:20 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. Jack Prescott
Organization: Individual
E-mail: drjprescott@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am a practicing Psychiatrist and am currently in the process of conducting a study on electronic cigarettes. I have found nothing harmful in them and find it ludicrous to add tax that would encourage people to resume the old habit of smoking. Smoking cause litter (cigarette butts), lung cancer, heart disease and a variety of other primary and secondary issues both to the user and those present. Electronic cigarettes cause none of these. It is logical to encourage a transition to Electronic Cigarettes rather than make it more difficult. The bill should only state that Electronic Cigarettes no longer go by that name. Perhaps Electronic Vapors would be more appropriate and also require a warning label stating that nicotine is a highly addictive substance. Of course, underage sale to minors should be fined heavily

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ncd243@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:53:41 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. Nathan C. Davis, II
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ncd243@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Honorable Gentlemen:

This critical bill has come to my attention both as a user and recommender of the electronic cigarette (ES). I personally am more aware than most regarding the hazards of smoking in ANY form and am professionally against it. Having said that, I am also personally aware that smoking is most addictive; some believe as much as cocaine. In the Army, I was more concerned of dying from a "lead" overdose than nicotine, and the cigarettes helped me far more than hurt. Yes, I survived the Army but not without a 100% physical disability. I knew I had to quit for how could I honestly counsel others to do what I could not? I "found" a better solution: use an ALTERNATE device that gives ME the control big tobacco could or would not. I tapered down using "Volcano" brand to no nicotine, just the flavor! In our symposiums, alternatives were simply never discussed-with tobacco reps there, we were always given. Status report, but never a VICTORY report! E-cigs ARE a victory; against fires, secondhand smoke, allergenic responses and so forth, Taxing this success story is big government at its best-this is not broken and needs no meddling. People WILL return to smoking, they will continue all the destructive behaviors if it just is no longer a prosperous event. I believe a vote for taxation is one against the winners and people who model after them. To me, this is an issue of checkbook versus health. What will the future legacy say of your courage? Would it not be grand to say logic was a simple choice?

Blessings,
A Concerned Doctor,

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: themudgod@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:33:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dustin Johnson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: themudgod@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

This is not a Tobacco product and helps people quit killing themselves, SHAME ON YOU.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dustinmercerc189@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:59:49 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: dustin mercer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dustinmercerc189@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This is not tobacco this is nicotine and should be treated as such. If taxation is passed on this so should it be passed on nicotine patches, gum and etc that are being sold. Electronic cigarettes are a way to have a sensation of smoking without all the chemicals that can cause cancer. Viewing this as tobacco, in my opinion, and taxing it as such would mean it is grown in a field; sprayed with many chemicals; collected then processed with even more chemicals than cause even more harm.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: megamule126@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 7:02:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: dwayne shimizu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: megamule126@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
nah, man.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dylan299@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:45:12 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dylan R
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dylan299@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
Allow sale of electronic cigarettes but not to minors.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dyron.mack@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:27:12 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dyron Mack
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dyron.mack@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
please do not tax the ecigs. the are a safer than then regular cigs.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: eddie@portabletubes.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:26:20 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eddie Willers
Organization: Individual
E-mail: eddie@portabletubes.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Ladies & Gentlemen of the Hawaii Legislature.

This is an ill-conceived bill that will do much damage to the cause of 'harm reduction' as it relates to tobacco.

It will deny tobacco users a safer alternative to burning and inhaling tobacco leaf - something that causes many known health and environmental issues.

The e-cigarette has the potential to offer a demonstrably safer method of nicotine delivery and may be also used as a tobacco cessation aid.

The e-cigarette industry provides an urgently needed economic boost to the US economy, and could see manufacturing being moved back from China to the USA.

I do not support the sale of these products to minors - but existing legislation already covers the prohibition of such sales.

However, placing such a heavy burden of taxation on the nascent e-cigarette industry will cause users to switch back to tobacco (which is patently undesirable from a health and environmental perspective) and severely damage a growing industry.

As an e-cigarette user (and former smoker), I can personally testify to the efficacy of these devices.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: eddien22@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:23:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: eddie
Organization: Individual
E-mail: eddien22@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Taxing electronic cigarettes is completely unfair. We should be proud that ecigs are around now and creating healthier lives to those who smoked. We should be supporting companies that help to build a healthier USA not punishing them with government regulated taxes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: drd.sngn@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:20:52 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Edouard P. Sanguin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: drd.sngn@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

That is why I switched from reg cigarettes. I am feeling a lot healthier.

Please do not hinder peoples chances of a healthier choice at significant cost savings, particularly during this economic time we live in.

Mahalo!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: edwardriveraone@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:14:47 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Edward Rivera
Organization: Individual
E-mail: edwardriveraone@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Thank you for your time. I have been a smoker of tobacco products for thirty-five years. In 2008 I started on the product Chantix to stop smoking. This product (I later found out) had caused me to have six heart attacks. Seeing that I had to quit immediately, and knowing that I could not go "cold turkey", I needed to find an alternative way of stopping smoking. I had tried acupuncture, patches, hypnosis, gums. But nothing would help. I started on the Volcano e-cig which I had to purchase from Hawaii. Seeing that the mainland did not have it at this time, I bought the kit. It has been a blessing. I have stopped smoking tobacco based carcinogen filled and am extremely happy with the full feeling I get when I take a full drag from the vaper cigarette. My mind sees the smoke, my lungs feel the smoke and the urge to have an oral fixation is satisfied. I am no longer needing to buy cigarettes and my heart feels a lot better. Also I am getting my taste buds back and now I can taste the food again. Please do not place taxation on this product. Would you rather have a bunch of people die from the Carcinogen tobacco products or would you prefer people dying from natural products. The only reason that this is up for voting is because someone up at the top does not want to lose money. But let's face it, not all people will buy the e-cig and so there for most people will still continue buying the cancer sticks. If left alone all win. You can still tell the stores and levy the stores who allow the children to buy them, or you can allow the stores to sell it to the minors who will only become more healthy like me. Just to let you also know my friend smoked three packs a day for most of his life. He was the one that has stopped buying tobacco cigs and introduced me to the e-cig, he has now been on e-cig for 1.5 years and to this day refuses to put down the e-cig. He smokes in the car with the children and wife and he hears only praises of how much cleaner he smells and the car as well. Please don't take the only chance we have of stopping smoking. It is hard for me to completely stop tobacco but this product has helped me tremendously. I have been smoking for 35 years, but I have only smoked 15 cigs a day, you do the math. That is $365 \times 15 \text{cigs} = 5475$ per year. $5475 \times 35 \text{ years} = 191,625$ cigs. How many vapes can I have in one day, I take six to eight drags a day. Why because I don't want to smoke at all, but this e-cig gives me what I need. It fools my brain into thinking that I have smoked tobacco all day when in fact I had one the whole day. See no tobacco smell, no smelly clothes, house, ash trays hands, people looking at you with disgust etc etc. please vote against this law. We smokers need it to become non-smokers if you take this away by taxing, then these sellers of these e-cigs will have to go out of business. And we might as well tell the same tobacco companies who put up the don't smoke ads that it is okay to continue to smoke as long as you promise to buy only theirs, think about this carefully. Are we helping the people or are we helping the tobacco Carcinogen cancer companies, you decided.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Manuyag1980@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:05:02 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: El manuyag
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Manuyag1980@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

In support of volcanoecigs, I would like to share my success story about how I was able to put the away the cigarettes for good.

I am a 31 year old male who has been smoking since the age of 13. In my mid 20's, I tried the gum, patch, and lozenge with no success. Up until this past Christmas, I was smoking a pack a day. After one month of discovering e cigarettes and volcano, I was able to ween myself off real cigarettes until I absolutely grew disgusted of the taste and smell of them. My wife is ecstatic that she doesnt smell or taste cigarettes on me anymore and most importantly, my baby wont have to grow up wondering why daddy stinks when he comes back inside the house.

The cost of cigarettes made smoking a drag, literally. I was burning \$60 a week on cigarettes which was ridiculous. Vaping on the other hand costs me \$12 a week or even less since a bottle of eliquid lasts me quite awhile. Im currently on the lowest nicotine liquid available and will soon be winding down to 0 nicotine liquid.

Aside from being a smoking alternative that honestly works. It's a hobby and one that supports a local business. I really had no intention of completely quitting, but to just lower my smoking habit. After only one month of trying it out, Ive been smoke free since 12-22-2011 and have no intention of going back, as long as my local ecig shop is there to supply my needs.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: elizabeth.lmsw@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:05:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elizabeth Ostolozaga
Organization: Individual
E-mail: elizabeth.lmsw@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I oppose this measure on the grounds that it will impede persons from being able to take steps to prevent harms caused by tobacco by switching to electronic cigarette due to the punitive cost increase imposed by this tax. Considering the social costs incurred as a result of tobacco use, the measure is short sighted. For many, an existing alternative to smoking tobacco will become unaffordable, which is a poor public health choice for Hawaiians, as well as the U.S. in general. Additionally, the products in question are not tobacco products. There is no tobacco present in electronic cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: liz_juan_g@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:30:53 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: elizabeth
Organization: Individual
E-mail: liz_juan_g@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ellagirl8876@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 1:37:46 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ella Requilman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ellagirl8876@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ellaliu703@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:00:59 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ella
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ellaliu703@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: etola92@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:10:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ellis Toler
Organization: Individual
E-mail: etola92@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

It is wrong to put so much of a tax increase on electronic cigarettes. although i am all for reducing the possibility of selling to minors, electronic cigarettes are a truly wonderful thing. the technology allows you to have your cake and eat it too in a sense. you can have nicotine intake without harmful tobacco smoke. im 19 years old and smoked cigarettes for about 3 and a half years. electronic cigarettes have changed my life for the better, particularly Volcano electric cigarettes. originally i purchased an electronic cigarette because it appealed to me to be able to intake nicotine while in-doors. within a year, Volcano cigarettes made analogue cigarettes nigh un-smokeable for me. im in much better shape and health because of Volcano. the prices are in my opinion exactly as they should be and i worry that an increase in the taxing of said electronic cigarettes would discourage/prevent others from experiencing the wonders of these products. I am not affiliated with Volcano in anyway other than being an extremely satisfied consumer of their products. By passing this Bill you will only be harming humanity and the well being of others. I am proud to be rid of the affliction that is smoking cigarettes. I feel lucky to have found out about Volcano before i could have done more serious harm on my body in the long run. I would hate to see others unable to break free analogue cigarette smoke.

-Ellis Toler, TX

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mejharris@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:19:35 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elton Harris
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mejharris@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Electronic devices should not be considered a tobacco product because there is no tobacco in them, they are designed to help people quit tobacco products!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: emily.quarberg@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:36:25 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Emily Quarberg
Organization: Individual
E-mail: emily.quarberg@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

E-Cigs are NOT tobacco products. they contain no tobacco. They are a safe alternative to smoking and have helped a lot of people quit as well. It isn't harmful to anyone around it. It is water vapor and if your going to ban that then you should also ban the use of fog machines at parties because that's the same thing. Also, because it does contain nicotine if your banning the use of e-cigs than you should also ban the use of nicotine gum, lozenges, patches, and the sort because that's all that is in the e-cig (if you choose to have nicotine in it. there are options with no nicotine)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ebotulan@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 6:59:40 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ephraim Botulan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ebotulan@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

If this bill comes to pass, one of Hawaii's best local vendors of electronic cigarettes cannot stay in business. The taxation would make their business model unsustainable and drive up the costs.

I will attest that though these products are not advertised as smoking cessation products, they've certainly helped me quit smoking real cigarettes. I've noticed great improvements to my health, as these e-cigs do not have carcinogens and contain natural mixed flavors along with fda-grade base materials (propylene glycol & glycerine). Also, all ingredients are revealed (which are only 3 or so), as opposed to the unknown toxic items found in traditional cigarettes.

I submit that additional taxes NOT be imposed on e-cigarettes because there is a choice as to whether or not to include nicotine, and they are safer than traditional cigarettes. The fact of the matter is, a tax was imposed on traditional cigarettes (along with banning smoking in facilities) in order to curb smoking traditional cigarettes.

I strongly urge that this bill not pass, because I fear a lot of people who have tossed away their traditional cigarettes in place of a safer alternative may revert back to the unhealthier cigarettes, as the local vendor will no longer be readily available.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: eric_hiromoto@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:15:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eric Hiromoto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: eric_hiromoto@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hekilli@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:28:58 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eric Holt
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hekilli@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

This is a good way to quit smoking...taxing it will only discourage others.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: elekrite@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:56:15 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eric Marine
Organization: Individual
E-mail: elekrite@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Electronic cigarettes are a stop smoking aid. To tax them as tobacco could hinder government's faith for public health and safety.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tollison@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:31:54 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eric Tollison
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tollison@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I oppose this due to the fact that e-cigarettes are not tobacco and this legislation is unfounded. This will only drive smokers back to real cigarettes rather than away, as e-cigs help many to do. Please recognize this and drop this change.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: strongenterprises@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 11:58:17 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: erick strong
Organization: Individual
E-mail: strongenterprises@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: eracer08@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:52:47 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ericson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: eracer08@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ehalsey@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:46:12 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: erin holder
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ehalsey@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kennebell5o@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 6:18:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ethan brown
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kennebell5o@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

this product should in no way be considered a tobacco product. there is no tobacco in this product therefore there is no factual evidence that this product should be classified in the same category. i do believe that one should have to be 18 years old to purchase, but in no way be taxed for trying to quit smoking with this product.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: wange@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:05:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ethan Wang
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wange@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Best way to quit smoking tobacco cigarettes. There should be no tax on these products that will save lives.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ecasanta@windstream.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:39:24 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eugene Casasanta
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ecasanta@windstream.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Dear Legislature,

Cigarette smoking kills about 500,000 people a year. Electronic cigarettes in the past 5 years has killed no one. My doctor even recommended for me to use them instead of cigarettes. On June 12, 2010 my wife and I tried electronic cigarettes, and God as my witness, we hae not smoked a traditional cigarette since. I was a 50 year smoker, and for the first time in many, many years I can breathe again. By your unfair taxing of this product you will force people to return to the killer cigarettes. Please don't do this to your citizens, it is not only unfair, but it will be a "Death Sentence" for many people. I currently purchse many of my electronic e cigs from "Volcano ecigs in Honolulu, Hawaii and if you do unfairly tax this product, I will be forced to buy elsewhere. My wife & I have been considering moving to Hawaii when she retires in 1 year, and we would also have to reconsider that decision. Do the right thing and vote "NO". God Bless you and thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bluenalo59@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:53:05 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eugene Garcia
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bluenalo59@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Government taxation and over regulating electronic cigarettes must be stopped. To tax those who use them to escape the poisons of real cigarette smoking should not be taxed for this. I've used electronic cigarettes for 6 months now after a bout with cancer which my doctor says was due to smoking. I had been smoking for 47 years and my addiction started at 12 years old. the Tobacco companys addicted us when we were children.

To allow Government to now tax electronic cigarette users like analog or regular cigarettes users is insane. You thereby make it inaffordable. government Has no business doing this,along with gas tax,income tax and on and on and on.....I hereby oppose this bill and you should too

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: moolele13@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 5:31:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: eugene suzuki
Organization: Individual
E-mail: moolele13@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: everett.cooke@usmc.mil
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:56:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Everett Cooke
Organization: Individual
E-mail: everett.cooke@usmc.mil
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: favicate@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 12:35:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Faviola Ridgway
Organization: Individual
E-mail: favicate@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: perryf001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 2:24:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: faye perry
Organization: Individual
E-mail: perryf001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

this is the only thing thats worked for me. you should make it harder for people to quit.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: faye42106467@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:40:07 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Fayette Durrett
Organization: Individual
E-mail: faye42106467@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

As you might imagine I strongly support any measure that would ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors. However, the bill has many unintended consequences that endangers suppliers, supporters and users of electronic cigarettes in Hawaii and nationwide.

These bills would unfairly tax the sale of electronic cigarettes and every electronic cigarette accessory in Hawaii, regardless of whether or not it contains tobacco/nicotine, at a rate of 70% of the wholesale price. This tax in turn would force companies to move out-of-state or close down due to the tremendous competitive disadvantage that would be placed on them.

These bills would also force local Hawaii electronic cigarette users to either purchase supplies from out-of-state and international vendors (who are not hampered by this unfair tax) or force those users to resort to smoking again. I will not purchase these products though Hawaiian companies in this is enacted.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: yanayaya@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:43:45 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Felipe Stoker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: yanayaya@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I have been successful in quitting smoking of Tobacco for over 2 months by switching to this non-tobacco alternative of the e-cig. Since it is non-tobacco, I cannot understand it being taxed as such. I feel the cost of this alternative is already prohibitive to many who might wish to quit smoking and feel we should find ways to make it more affordable, certainly not less so.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: fdossantos@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 5:59:45 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Fernando dos Santos
Organization: Individual
E-mail: fdossantos@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

This legislation is absurd. As the state of Hawaii collects enough tax revenue from tobacco, stay OUT OF OUR POCKETS and drop this attempt to collect taxes on electronic cigarettes! Greed is all I can see in bill!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: fholly04@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:32:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Florence Holly
Organization: Individual
E-mail: fholly04@live.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I was a cigarette smoker for 38 years. I have tried nicotine patches, nicotine gum, and nicotine mints but have been unable to quit smoking. I found the e-cigarette several months ago and have been smoke free since that time. My health is improving and I am not taking in all the tar and chemicals into my body. The taxation of the e-cig products will leave me no choice but to go back to regular cigarettes due to the cost. I support limiting the use of these products to people over the age of 18. If this taxation is passed I will also cancel my plans for my vacation to your beautiful state. Our family and friends will not spend our money to support your tourism.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dabus3719@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:16:29 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: francis boucher
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dabus3719@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: choir26@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:51:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Francis Hall
Organization: Individual
E-mail: choir26@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: frank.kuamoo@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:10:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Frank K Kuamoo II
Organization: Individual
E-mail: frank.kuamoo@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bensonhurst26@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:15:39 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Frankie
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bensonhurst26@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
quit cigs after 24 years of smoking, been on it for 10 mod and will never go back.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ulyssesvalerio@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 4:32:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: fujiyama shell-scott
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ulyssesvalerio@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Sglee442@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:31:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Garrett Lee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Sglee442@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Personally, I agree with the prohibition of sales to minors. However, I do not agree with the large tax associated with the sale of e-cigarettes. The e-cigarette industry has not been around long enough to survive such a tax. A less steep tax should be considered.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dreadlocke619@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:07:39 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gary Allen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dreadlocke619@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: gdog05@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:01:46 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gary Mitchell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gdog05@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

While I understand the Legislature's wanting to pass legislation on electronic cigarettes and inhaled nicotine, I worry that the proposed legislation is on the wrong side of the issue. This seems like it is meant to be a revenue generation measure, or a measure to stymie a tobacco alternative, and not a means to prevent children from accessing a possibly addictive substance. Which should be the primary goal.

It seems wise to promote e-cigarettes or PVs (personal vaporizers) to adults for smoking and other tobacco product cessation. The health risks involved with tobacco products are a huge cost to society. I know first-hand the risks and consequences with smoking myself, and found I very easily migrated to nicotine vaporizers. Since then, I have not only improved my own life, but the life of those around me. My story is similar to other vaporizer users.

I would recommend a requirement that sales of nicotine liquid be restricted to minors under the age of 18. But I really have no problem with someone under the age of 18 vaping (slang for using a vaporizer) a no-nicotine liquid. There are no known health risks associated with it, the nicotine alone would be my sole contention for allowing use by minors.

There is a bit of stigma associated with vaping, stemming from years of social change toward smoking. While I understand the stigma, I have to say it is completely unfounded, and simply based on ignorance. The more I learn about the topic, and experience first-hand for myself, the more I realize that the negative feelings of e-cigarettes and vaporizers is from social change gone too far. People have been working to prevent and reduce smoking for so long, they forgot why they wanted it to happen in the first place. That goal at one time was to create a healthier populace. Well, PVs do just that, with no harm to users or those around them.

There are very few real studies on this issue, one of the most thorough coming from New Zealand (the study is linked to and mentioned on Wikipedia for e-cigarettes). This PDF from Harvard gave me most of my initial information, and was partially responsible for me moving to inhaled nicotine in the first place: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/centers-institutes/population-development/files/article.jphp.pdf>

I do hope you read it, as the information is pretty clear. With that, I invite more studies on the subject before legislation such as this comes to pass. Knowledge is required to pass proper legislation, and I fear that enough of this knowledge is lost or ignored before such measures come to pass.

I urge you to consider the facts clearly, and I firmly believe promoting vaporized nicotine will be a decision of positive health and monetary consequences. If nothing else, I urge you to wait until further studies have been completed. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: halfaznxhalfamazn808@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:51:49 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gary Reynolds
Organization: Individual
E-mail: halfaznxhalfamazn808@live.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: g.yokota76@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:31:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: gary
Organization: Individual
E-mail: g.yokota76@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bestboi86@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 3:22:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Geoffrey Best
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bestboi86@mac.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: gf13827@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 11:53:22 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: George Ferguson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gf13827@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I can see banning the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors, but to do so for taxation purposes would be unfair and unjust. I used my electronic cigarette to quit conventional tobacco cigarettes. If electronic cigarettes are taxed as a tobacco product, then EVERY smoking cessation aid containing nicotine should to be taxed the same.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Georgerees1956@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:31:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: George Rees
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Georgerees1956@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I was able to use electronic cigarettes to stop smoking. I feel that anything that would prevent that would be detrimental to people finding way to stop. Vaping is not smoking. Taxing is a way to generate revenue but it may cause the person that wants to stop smoking to not be able to afford to . You should encourage people to quit not make it harder by taxing it.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: golson@hopeint.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:08:19 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Georgine Olson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: golson@hopeint.org
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I'm e mailing my opposition to this bill because if these products are listed in the same category as regular tobacco products and tax accordingly I would not be able to afford to buy them. I have quit smoking as of August 13, 2011!!!! I had been a smoker for over 30 years. I had tried every product and program that there is to no avail. I am so thankful that I found the Volcano electronic cigarettes! They have made it possible for me to quit the analog cigarettes that were killing me!!!! To classify these products in the same category as tobacco products is just not fair. They are not the same at all. I just want to make my voice heard on this subject. I pray that this bill does not get voted through, especially in these economic times. We don't need any more taxes!!

Respectfully,

Georgine Olson

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: passionlove4382@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 5:08:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: georgianna siamani
Organization: Individual
E-mail: passionlove4382@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
you try and stop smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: islanddodoboib@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:15:26 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: gilbert silva
Organization: Individual
E-mail: islanddodoboib@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

i feel this is an unfair tax. that i agree the nicotine should be taxed but not all the parts.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: alyssa.gillstrom@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 12:01:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gina Gillstrom
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alyssa.gillstrom@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

i feel this product is so much healthier than a normal cigarette, and can also help people quit smoking real tobacco. Its beneficial for those around babies and for themselves.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nealg08@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:24:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: greg neal
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nealg08@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I have successfully quit smoking using a vaporizing e cig device. It is so beneficial to my health and wellness that taxing it would be terrible because of the cost to me and others.
You are taxing something that helps people become better healthier people!
Please DO NOT pass this tax.
Greg Neal

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Gregmaximus11@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:35:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gregory Moad
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Gregmaximus11@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am against this bill because it has helped me quit smoking cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: halgibert@bellsouth.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:04:20 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hal gibert
Organization: Individual
E-mail: halgibert@bellsouth.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Please do not do this. I wish someday to visit Hawaii and stop by the volcano showroom. This only discourages me to do so. It would be beneficial to your islands commerce to shoot down this bill. Also more people will be will g to spend more of their money on these products.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: halbert@bellsouth.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:27:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hal Gibert
Organization: Individual
E-mail: halbert@bellsouth.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hparkis76@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 8:13:24 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Harold Parkis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hparkis76@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

Why is it every time something comes along that actually helps smokers actually quit, in comes the government trying to reclassify it so they can tax it to death. Why isnt there a 70% tax on Beer? I mean the govt. let cigs stay legal while knowing they would kill anyone who uses them. Now, when people are trying to get off them with a replacement to "the most addictive scientifically engineered product in the world" You people want to tax it. As yourself, how many Ecig users beat their wife or start a fight or go and rape, hurt, kill someone because the nicotine impaired their judgment? So, ecigs need to be tax'd to become as expensive, or even more expensive than real ones? Typical. But lets let the beer keep flowing like water.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hkaleleiki@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:46:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hauoli Kaleleiki
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hkaleleiki@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: fortuneteller30@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 11:10:43 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Heather Blanton
Organization: Individual
E-mail: fortuneteller30@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: heathab88@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 3:12:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: heather hughson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: heathab88@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hkmalone@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:46:30 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Heather Malone
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hkmalone@comcast.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I purchase items from Volcanoecigs, and I purchase them without nicotine because my husband and I are quitting smoking. We have successfully been quit for over one month now with the help of the ecig and no nicotine. Please don't tax this product as it is not a cigarette and does not contain nicotine.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hwhiteseal2@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:13:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Heather Nichols
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hwhiteseal2@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Ecigs help people to stop smoking. We can get liquid with no nicotine in it. The ecigs/liquid don't have all of the other bad stuff in it, and are healthier.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dandreaHD@me.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:15:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Heidi Dandre
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dandreaHD@me.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hex1158@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:28:31 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Henry Galdones
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hex1158@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Herbvsafford@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:13:52 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Herb Safford
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Herbvsafford@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Please don't tax this product at 70%. This is a product that I use to avoid exposing my child to all the harmful fumes and smoke from an actual cigarette. If you place this horrible excessive tax on this product it will limit my able to purchase this tool that makes my son's life clean and smoke free. Don't let the tobacco industry choke out this great product.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dickyoh51@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:08:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hock Huat Oh
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dickyoh51@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

cigarettes kills..electronic cigarette is a saviour for smokers..wise decision if it is only about taxes & \$\$\$ but dont ever ban the usage of electronic cigarette

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hohta@aim.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:15:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: howard tarvit
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hohta@aim.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This is not in any way a tobacco product. I have been smoke free since october 2009 due to this product. Don't ruin something you obviously know nothing about

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: igarrod@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 11:54:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ian Garrod
Organization: Individual
E-mail: igarrod@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This bill would be very bad for people trying to quit smoking. I have managed to completely stop smoking cigarettes with the help of Volcano E-Cigs. My primary reasons for quitting was for health and cost. If this bill were to pass, and the tax is implemented, then I would be forced to convert back to smoking tobacco cigarettes at the cost of my health.

I agree that minors should not be allowed to purchase tobacco or nicotine products. However, this is NOT a tobacco product and it should not suffer the same 70% tax.

Please do not pass this bill, my mother is so proud of me for finding a healthy alternative to cigarettes. I would hate to disappoint her.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: encswianmoore@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:39:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ian Moore
Organization: Individual
E-mail: encswianmoore@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This bill does not need to pass in its current form. Electronic cigarettes are not a tobacco product and do not need to be taxed as such. They are "alternative to tobacco" products that can be used for people to quit smoking. Electronic Cigarettes liquid are made with varying levels of nicotine (i.e. 16mg, 8mg, and 0mg) to assist people in "weening" themselves off of tobacco products without the use of expensive medications. They do not contain the same harmful chemicals consumed when using tobacco products. This leads to considerably less health risks to their consumers. Increasing the tax on these products will drive consumers to make their purchases on the internet, thus mitigating any tax revenue generated for the state of Hawaii. Additionally it will drive several small businesses out of business.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ianward2010@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:03:28 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ian Ward
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ianward2010@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: deadpocketss@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:18:29 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ian Wilson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: deadpocketss@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

In reference to the electronic cigarettes, they have no tobacco in them, therefore they are not a tobacco product. This is being placed purely for revenue and we know it. It's unfair and oppressive to people who want a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: maryclk@centurytel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:29:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ida M. Clark
Organization: Individual
E-mail: maryclk@centurytel.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I have stopped smoking on these and I am against anymore taxes on them.Or to tax e-liquid that has no tobacco on top of it. They are the best thing that happen for us ex smokers. I never thought i could say I have stopped smoking. Please don't hurt the e-cig companies. They help health and that is a big plus and it gives job and America needs jobs.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: isaac_torkelson@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:36:59 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Isaac A. Torkelson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: isaac_torkelson@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

First, the only part of this Bill I can agree with is making it illegal to sell these products to someone under 18.

Otherwise...

This would be like charging a 70% sales tax on lighters, ashtrays, and cigarette cases. ECig products are actually personal vaporizers and not directly a tobacco related product. You can even choose to vapo liquid that doesn't have any nicotine in it so charging a tax on all the components is ill advised. Now regarding the nicotine itself... nicotine is actually found naturally in fruits and vegetables just in much lower quantities than tobacco which is why companies CHOOSE to get it from tobacco. But what this points out is that we don't actually need a tobacco plant for eCig products, they are not tobacco products they are nicotine products. A tobacco cigarette on the other hand is in-fact a tobacco product. If we got the Nicotine from fruits and vegetables would it still be considered a tobacco product. Nicotine is actually also relatively safe and does not have many health risks, when used in moderate amounts and carefully measured, other than the chemical addiction to the liking of caffeine. Most of the health risks you face with traditional tobacco smoking comes from all the other crap that is put into it by the manufactures along with just the simple fact that you are in-haling smoke which would be like standing over a camp fire and continuously inhaling the smoke from it. No matter what type of smoke you inhale you would face health problems from it. But eCigs or Vaporizers, as they would be better called and maybe not targeted like this, vaporize a safe liquid that carries the nicotine to you while inhaling. And when it comes down to just the vaporizer itself I can purchase other vaporizers for my home that are not designed for eCigs and choose to put nicotine liquid into it, would it be right to charge a 70% tax on that device as well, I don't think so. Then let's look at the purpose and reasoning behind the tax for tobacco products. Health officials are in favor of the taxes because they decrease smoking rates, well so do eCigs, they allow those who wish to smoke to do it safer for themselves and the people around them with the elimination of second hand smoke, this tax would go directly against that. History of tobacco product taxation has shown its just been a way to drive major amounts of money for the Federal, State, and local governments, most recently for the Childrens Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 under the Obama Administration simply taking advantage of how much someone will pay to be able to smoke, something normally the manufacture is able to take advantage of in good products like cars or a book. The fact that people are looking for new and safe ways doesn't automatically put it into the same targeting field. This in-fact could point some people back to traditional smoking while the supporters of the tax on tobacco products say that it would encourage them to quit. Taxing the safer eCig products goes directly against that as well. Its absurd that a tax that is in part suppose to be in the better health interest of the people would be used against a product that is better for their health. At minimum this tax should not go against any of the devices and possibly only apply to the liquid but as you can see from above that doesn't even make sense. Please reconsider this Bill based on more detailed information as the millions of people that are now saving significant amounts of money and their health will be dramatically affected by this distortion of the purpose of the tax.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: romanisaac69@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:06:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Isaac Roman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: romanisaac69@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nikki.root@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 12:06:28 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ivy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nikki.root@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jdgranneman@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:26:48 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: J. David Granneman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jdgranneman@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Please reconsider this as a smoke of over 40 years this has been the only way I have been able to quit. Taxing tobacco is one thing but taxing ecigs should not be allowed as it helps people to quit smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jrjiho@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 5:33:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: J. Ramon Jiho
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jrjiho@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

unfair to adults who are trying to quit smoking. many people will not be able to afford to buy supplies if this Bill is passed

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: j.theno@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:20:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jack Theno
Organization: Individual
E-mail: j.theno@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jackybeertje@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 11:42:15 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jacky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jackybeertje@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: JacobACardoza@Gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:52:21 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jacob Cardoza
Organization: Individual
E-mail: JacobACardoza@Gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sniperman_99@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:25:17 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jacob Odem
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sniperman_99@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: koolpearce@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:04:46 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jacob Pearce
Organization:
E-mail: koolpearce@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I do not believe in this high of a tax on this good. It saves the life's of people and you are just going to try to get rid of it and/or run it out of town. For me and my whole family we would not want to visit a place that would tax a product or good at this rate. It shows that the state Government dose not care about its people or the taxed money that is made by small business. If this bill is passed we will never set foot on any of the islands of Hawaii.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: p.i.boots@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:57:26 AM
Attachments: [Testimony.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jacquelyn Trew
Organization: Individual
E-mail: p.i.boots@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

While I, as well as many other people, am of course against the sale of electronic cigarettes to people under the age of 18, I feel the classification of electronic cigarettes as well as any and all accessories as “tobacco products” (thus making them susceptible to the 70% tax on tobacco) is erroneous and quite simply unfair. For starters, not only do some of the delivery systems not contain any nicotine at all, but none of the delivery systems or any of the other accessories even contain tobacco. Up until the time of this proposed bill, I was proud to give the money that I used to spend on tobacco products to a company in Hawaii that presented me with a tobacco free and much safer alternative to smoking. Part of the reason I switched from smoking conventional cigarettes to electronic alternatives was because in addition to it being safer for me as well as my friends and loved ones, is that it was in fact more cost effective. And I chose to buy from a vendor located in your state because many of the products available from other countries are not subject to the same production and quality standards. If I were to buy from anywhere else, I could never be entirely sure what I am putting into my body. I know what I am breathing in when I buy from a company there, none of the ingredients in which consist of tobacco.

If this proposed bill were to pass, it would put several electronic cigarette vendors out of business because their patrons, not only in state but out of state ones like myself, could no longer afford their products. And worse still, many people who might have sought out a healthier and safer alternative to smoking carcinogenic tobacco, might be deterred from doing so because of the hefty cost due to the outrageous 70% tax. Even I myself could return to smoking if the alternative is taxed so heavily that it is no longer feasible for me to afford.

Regards,

Jacquelyn A. Trew.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jaimег808@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:08:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jaime Galam
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jaimег808@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I truly believe in this product and have seen it work for many. It not only is awesome for me being a non-smoker but also for my children so they don't need to cover their noses every time we are in public. I know of people who have come from smoking a pack of cigarettes a day to smoking these electronic cigarettes and saying they can breathe a lot better.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lunarshuffle@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:16:58 AM
Attachments: [eciq.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jake Bacigalupa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lunarshuffle@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This bill is unfair for electronic cigarette owners because smoking electronic cigarettes is a way to get away from the harm that real cigarettes cause. There are also products that exist that have no nicotine in them, so how could you tax such an item? E-cigs are the way of the future for smokers and it allows them to smoke in places without harming the environment around them. Smoking real cigarettes is bad and they are super expensive because of taxes..E-cigs are better for people and they need to stay cheap.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: fighterbra@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:37:42 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jake Crank
Organization: Individual
E-mail: fighterbra@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Most ecig vendors do not sell their products to minors. I agree that if you were to sell nicotine liquid to a minor, you should face an appropriate consequence same as the 711 cashier sells liquor to a minor. However, do not punish the community that has been made. The ecig has single handily helped me quit smoking. I couldn't ask for a better product.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jamescalbero@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 12:19:36 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: james calbero
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jamescalbero@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: james78003@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:11:37 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: james chapman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: james78003@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I do not have a file to up load,just my comments. I am a 50 year old who has smoked cigarettes for 35 years. I have tried everything to stop smoking. This is the first product I have used that I can say WORKS!!!! I have been off Cigarettes since Jan. 1st. I can not believe you can be so stupid and irresponsible,as to pass a bill like this. Do the people their in Hawaii's state capitol have ties to the big tobacco companies. In the 33 days that I have been off Tabacco, I breathe better,my smell and taste have come back,my energy level has soared, I take better care of my oral hygiene,my over all health is better and you want to stop the E- cig,just what kind of MORONS are running the state of Hawaii?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: planetdarr@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 11:36:56 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: james darr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: planetdarr@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jd4x4@verizon.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 3:36:04 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Davis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jd4x4@verizon.net
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

Law or Regulation based upon hearsay or politics is Totalitarianism in it's most pure and obvious form.

Please remove e-cigarettes from this legislation until such time as the preponderance of science fact concludes it is as harmful as tobacco products, if it indeed ever does.

I am a witness to e-cigarettes doing more good for society than harm.

I was able to give up tobacco use within 15 minutes of using an e-cigarette, whereas after 30 years of attempts to break my 45 year habit with ALL of the methods and information government and health organizations provided had failed.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to make an informed, unbiased, and rational decision.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jimoahu@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:20:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Eberle
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jimoahu@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I have been a smoker for 40yrs. The electronic cigarette has been the ONLY mechanism that has been successful getting me to quit! These things are SAVING PEOPLES LIVES! How can you even think of making them too expensive for common folks to afford. This is a SHAME that this is even being put on the table.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jjg70@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:49:42 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Guzior
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jjg70@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This is really ludicrous. There will now be tax on my batteries and usb cables? I am using this device to stop smoking so I don't have to pay high tax on cigarettes, etc. I may as well keep smoking cigarettes if you are going to tax this as well. Watching very closely who is voting for this... very much disturbed by this measure for revenue.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Wizac1071@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:12:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Harrison
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Wizac1071@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I support volcanoecigs because I went to school in hawaii..and i'd love to help support an hawaiian company. As long as I didn't have to spend more to do it. I found volcano while I was shopping for this amazing product which is helping me stop killing my self feeding a powerful addiction of 25years..and when I saw they were ahawaiian company I imediately decided i'd support them..
Please help keep my money coming to your comunities by not taxing their product as the cigarettes we are trying to stop. This will kill a local buisness and might cause less people to pursue this much safer option. I am all for an age limit as I don't want my kids to. Get addicted like I did. But don't tax it like tobbacko it will only hurt this industry and possibly a local business who is doing you all proud among the many company's in the market worlwide.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jrhawley@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:41:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Hawley
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jrhawley@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jimhays@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:34:53 AM
Attachments: [Testimony in Opposition to SB2819.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Hays
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jimhays@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Please consider tabling this bill. E-cigs are a safer alternative to smoking.

Testimony in Opposition to SB2819

January 31, 2012

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing as a supporter of “e-cigarettes”. As a smoker for twenty years, I picked up in a convenience store on a lark. What I found was that I had no desire to smoke tobacco cigarettes at all while using the electronic cigarette. I have been using electronics for four months now and have not had one real cigarette since.

Electronic cigarettes need to be studied further before they are subjected to legislation. What we have in “e-cigs” is a reasonable smoking cessation device. They are no more related to tobacco than nicotine patches or nicotine gum. If they are legislated against and taxed, you will be turning people off of them, where the reality is you should be encouraging more smokers to SWITCH to them!

Electronic cigarettes offer smokers a safer alternative. There is no smoke. No litter. No carcinogens going into one’s lungs. There is no carbon monoxide. It is cheaper in the long run, so more money can be spent in shops to bolster the economy. It is cheaper in the long run for the insurance companies. It is healthier. I have seen my lung capacity return after smoking for twenty years. I have felt my heart working better. I no longer have a smoker’s cough.

I strongly urge the legislature to table this bill. E-cigs are a new device that have worked wonders for some. I should know. I have tried patches, gum, even prescription drugs to quit smoking. These devices are the only way I have been able to quit, and I hope you will research them further to see that they are something that should be welcomed and encouraged as a safer alternative to cigarette smoking.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Hays

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: james2180@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:53:09 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Henshon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: james2180@live.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I would simply like to convey my gratitude for the company that I purchase my Electronic cigarette and accessories from within your state. I have been a smoker for 16 yrs now and within the last few months I am finally free of the traditional cigarettes which I have smoked for to long. I do realize E cigs contain nicotine, I also feel they are helping me kick the habit as well as anything that I have tried. I do agree that people under the age of 18 should be prohibited from acquiring these products. As for the taxation in this Bill, it will at very least make me take my business out of your state. as much as I like this product I will not pay huge taxes along with shipping from your state. Thank you very much for your time, please reconsider.

Sincerely,
James Henshon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Goofynoodle@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:52:47 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Meyers
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Goofynoodle@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

The tax is way too high. IF it wasn't for volcano e cigs low prices i would still be smoking real tobacco cigarettes and paying much more money than i am now. Since starting vaping, I've felt better and been breathing better. As much as i like the volcano brand, i would have to shop elsewhere if the tax makes it unaffordable to purchase from them. I understand the state needing money, but isn't there some way to partner with the industry in question rather than punish them in parasitic fashion with an obscenely high tax rate? Please dont let fear of the unknown rule over the innovations that may save us from tobacco.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: haaheo20@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 10:55:42 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: james palaualelo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: haaheo20@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:
NO TAX!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: petepope@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:37:51 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Pope
Organization: Individual
E-mail: petepope@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am here to oppose the bill in front of you on the electronic cigarettes, or more accurately vaping devices.

While I would strongly support the sale of anything with nicotine in it to anyone under 18 years of age, the rest of the bill has no merits and will not help your state with income, as I can buy elsewhere, and will not help folks stop smoking !

I am 50 years old, cigarettes were easy to obtain back when I was 13. I got hooked and up until November 14, Of 2010 was a 2 1/2 pack a day smoker.

I had tried every thing to quit over the years, the gum, patches, candy replacement and nothing worked. That is until after careful research I found the Volcano e-cig website.

I read about the ingredients in cigarettes and was shocked what I had been smoking all these years, and frankly it scared the heck out of me.

I read on numerous sites about a vg based juice that you could get in natural flavors and still get the nicotine and the physical action of smoking.

I ordered the best kit Volcano had, the Inferno. I received it on November 14, 2010. I got rid of all my cigarettes and have not looked back. That's right not one puff off of one cigarette. I completely stopped.

If not for this much, much safer form I would be back smoking again. I still order replacements parts and other things from Volcano in your state , because they have the best and can compete in price with other companies.

There is "absolutely" NO TOBACCO, in these products, and to classify them that way would be a very bad thing.

Since I stopped smoking and went to vaping, I can smell better, feel better and most of all in my state I can vape anywhere I want, without harmful second hand smoke to others.

I was in the hospital five times this year for a kidney stone and an ATV accident. The hospital policy is no smoking anywhere, that includes on their lot in your own car. Lucky me, the hospital knows the score and all five times I was inpatient, I was allowed to vape anywhere I wanted, and it was alright, had I still been smoking, I really would have had a horrible time dealing with their policy.

Please only consider the sale of these materials as unlawful to those under 18 years of age. Please continue to let people freely and without restriction purchase these products, help more people kick the unhealthy habit of smoking.

Remember this when you make the judgement and laws. I buy from your state now. That means money from Missouri is being moved into your state, creating jobs and supporting your economy. Should you passed what is proposed, myself and many other vapers will simply purchase somewhere else, hence a huge loss of money being routed out of your economy.

You can fix this to protect minors without hurting anyone and helping others, including your economy.

Respectfully,

James Pope

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jbpolo12@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 7:38:25 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Presley
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jbpolo12@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

How can you justify a tax on a product that produces no harmful effects to its users and acts as a better alternative to tobacco? Health effects of tobacco hurt state budgets, not items that help reduce consumer health effects.

Balance your own budget, do not keep trying to find unconstitutional ways to mask new excise taxes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: JPRUITT70@GMAIL.COM
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 10:58:03 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JAMES PRUITT
Organization: Individual
E-mail: JPRUITT70@GMAIL.COM
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jamescorbin@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:49:18 AM
Attachments: [SB2819 Opposed.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James R. Corbin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jamescorbin@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

SB2819 Opposed

Thanks to E-Cigarette's I have quit smoking real tobacco products. Now with proposed legislature that increases taxation on these devices to what is applied to real tobacco we could lose this tool. I have introduced numerous people to the E-Cigarette whom all of which no longer use actual tobacco products. By adding high tax rates to these products we are making the sale price cost prohibitive. This will in turn cause for manufactures to eventually cease operation in Hawaii or cease operations completely. These businesses create local jobs, contribute to the local economy and provide a great tool to people who want to quit smoking. It would stand to reason that Hawaii stands to lose more than they could ever gain by increasing these taxes.

Once these businesses are gone they will no longer be paying any taxes at all on property, local sales tax, employee state income taxes etc. The employees will be out of work and on un-employment. Local citizens who wish to quit smoking will have to pay more money to have E-Cigarettes shipped to them and may revert back to real tobacco. If they do continue to buy e-cigarettes it will be online, thus negating local sales tax.

Smoking has become recognized as one of the top 3 un-healthiest things a person can partake in. We should be promoting anything that contributes to people quitting this addiction. I and many others have found this in the e-cig. I have tried gum, patches and cold turkey all to no avail. With the e-cig I was able to wean myself off of the nicotine very easily and it helped with the hand-to-mouth aspect which is the hardest part for most. Instituting this bill would only lead to fewer people quitting. Who does this benefit?

Increasing taxes will subsequently equate to no taxes collected relating to the sales, distribution, or manufacturing of electronic cigarettes in Hawaii. The businesses will move or close. So in essence the legislature is saying "No" to a very successful "Quit Smoking Tool" in the state of Hawaii. This legislature may also be adopted in other states and eventually make it so these business are forced to operate outside of the United States. The demand is there for the products. Why would we force companies to operate somewhere else that we could not benefit from at all? Yet another industry our global economic competitors will stand to gain.

The E-Cigarette industry provides jobs to Americans. Our government yields taxes from the businesses and sales of the products. Most importantly the products help people quit smoking. Why take all of this away for a little more money you will never see? As far as prohibiting the sale to minors, it's just like alcohol. You can't buy alcohol under the age of 21. Do the same with nicotine. Any products containing nicotine can't be purchased by anyone under the age of 18.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jrileyatpeace@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 5:03:53 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Riley
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jrileyatpeace@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jristhe1@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:48:31 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Rose
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jristhe1@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I have used the electronic cigarette for over 2 years and have remained tobacco free. I was a tobacco smoker for over 30 years and the electronic cigarette finally freed me from tobacco. Don't punish Volcanocigs with this unfair tax that will make them less competitive and destroy their business. Thank you!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jveselsky@socal.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:56:49 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Veselsky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jveselsky@socal.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

The government and other organizations have for the last 30+ years been trying to get people to quit smoking. Now those people who still smoke are treated as lepers, forced outside in the rain, increased taxes so high on tobacco products, and it has even gotten to the point of not allowing those people to even smoke in their own apartments in order to force people to quit smoking. Now...the government wants to penalize those of us who have quit by the use of e-cigs by taxing e-cigs and the additional products associated with them. I have tried everything from the patch, gum, support groups, medication and even cold turkey. The only thing that makes quitting easier is e-cigs (for me anyway). If the prices were to go higher I would not be able to continue to quit. Think about that. I know the government needs our money, but enough is enough.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lordmage_18@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:21:56 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: james warren
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lordmage_18@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
i disagree with such a stupid tax on a non tobacco product

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jaidamariah@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:27:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: james
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jaidamariah@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: doctorwholittle@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 3:57:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jamie Ashby
Organization: Individual
E-mail: doctorwholittle@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This is absolutely ridiculous. The term 'e-cigarette' is the only similarity to tobacco and tobacco-related products. To tax e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories like tobacco products is nothing more than a penalty on people who have been able to divest themselves of an unhealthy vice. If this passes in Hawai'i, my family and I will take our vacations elsewhere from now on.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jamie_ann_85@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 3:22:53 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jamie-ann lui
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jamie_ann_85@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

i believe that there is better things that you guys could be wasting your time on trying to raise the taxes on electric cigarettes. if it wasn't for electric cigarettes more people would still be polluting the air.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Mnjgordy2@juno.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:49:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jana
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Mnjgordy2@juno.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: navysubmomx2@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:57:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jane Johnson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: navysubmomx2@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

After 35 years of smoking, I purchased an e-cig, which has no tobacco and produces no smoke. I've used this product for an entire year having quit smoking cigarettes completely. These products help people like me who couldn't quit tobacco any other way, they are saving lives. Please don't make it harder for them to be produced and sold.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: klagums@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:28:47 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: janelle gumpfer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: klagums@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: janet0154@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:39:01 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: janet nguyent
Organization: Individual
E-mail: janet0154@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jscapitaldomestics@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:59:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janet Sturmer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jscapitaldomestics@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I oppose the unfair taxing of e cigs. Electronic cigarettes most likely saved my life as I smoked cigarettes for 40 years and e cigs helped me quit. Why don't you tax the nicotine patch and gum why your at it.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: karangyoalas@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:57:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jared Resurrection
Organization: Individual
E-mail: karangyoalas@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
E cigs has helped me for the past 10 months.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: JAREDSUKAMOTO@YAHOO.COM
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 7:54:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JARED TSUKAMOTO
Organization: Individual
E-mail: JAREDSUKAMOTO@YAHOO.COM
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

PLEASE DO NOT TAX THIS. IVE QUIT SMOKING FOR 3 MONTHS THANKS TO THE VOLCANO ECIG. ITS A LOT BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND IT SAVES ME A LOT OF MONEY. NOT TO MENTION ITS HEALTHIER FOR ME.I WOULD REALLY HATE TO SEE THIS COMPANY GO OUT OF BUSINESS FOR I MIGHT BE FORCED TO SMOKE CIGARETTES AGAIN.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jas.young87@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:43:10 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jasmine Young
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jas.young87@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jadaniya@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:06:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jason Adaniya
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jadaniya@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jasonb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:28:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jason Bradford
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jasonb@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Darktallion@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:11:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jason Henning
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Darktallion@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Do not drive our bussness oversea the market your currently targeteing will cause a loss of jobs in a time we need jobs please let the focus of government be less restriction not more of it

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: snowskibum@bellsouth.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:29:15 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jason Parker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: snowskibum@bellsouth.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I strongly oppose the attempt to classify vaping (electronic cigarettes) in with tobacco products, so you can collect a tax on it. What are you all high on?

Maybe you all can actually spend some time figuring out how to cut costs instead of finding "inventive" ways to nickel and dime us to death.

Your doing an excellent job of putting business out of business and more and more people out of work. Exactly what is the plan? Have everyone dependent on government for survival? welfare and food stamps for everyone?

God save us from this lunacy..

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jays83cj7@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:44:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jason Price
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jays83cj7@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jasonbr@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:23:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jason Ramirez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jasonbr@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jason.robinson1986@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:20:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jason robinson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jason.robinson1986@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ja_schafer@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:11:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jason Schafer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ja_schafer@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I would like to start off by saying, I am in FAVOR of PROHIBITING the sale of electronic cigarettes to MINORS. I am OPPOSED to TAXATION of electronic cigarettes. I was only able to quit smoking traditional cigarettes because of the electronic cigarettes. I struggled for about ten years to quit smoking. I tried the patch, the gum, and the prescription. I did not succeed in any of my attempts until I started using electronic cigarettes. I am NOT a doctor, but it would seem to me that discontinuing the inhalation of burning substances is a good thing. I believe that the long term health effects of electronic cigarettes should be studied. I can tell you from personal experience that I have seen great health benefits of using electronic cigarettes instead of the traditional ones. For Instance, I have a heightened sense of smell and taste. I do not get out of breath as easily, and I have more energy throughout the day. All of this just from switching to electronic cigarettes a few months ago. Now, if you were to begin taxing electronic cigarettes, I would no longer be able to afford purchasing them in Hawaii. I can barely "make ends meet" as things are. I would have to start purchasing my supplies elsewhere, which I can only guess would be the case for a lot of electronic cigarette users. I fail to see how this would do any good. All of the people I know that use electronic cigarettes, including myself, purchase them online anyway; purchasing them from another state would not be a large change. I would still get the products, but now you would not be getting the general sales tax on my purchases. Presuming that there is a large percentage of the users of electronic cigarettes, that currently purchase them from companies in Hawaii, that would purchase them from another source due to the higher price from the taxes you are proposing, then how long would those companies that are currently in Hawaii be able to stay? I would not think that they would stay for very long. They would be losing business because of the disadvantage you will have put upon them. Those companies would be "forced" out of business or out of the state. Either would have the same effect to the state of Hawaii. In my opinion, you should prohibit the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors, but not impose the extra taxes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: griffen97023@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:53:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jason Whitten
Organization: Individual
E-mail: griffen97023@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I would never visit Hawaii again if this was possess

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ilemiaramos@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:21:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jay verano
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ilemiaramos@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cr8tivism1nd.jb@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:46:04 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jay
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cr8tivism1nd.jb@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Jaybrodz@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:23:28 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jaynie Zeigler
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Jaybrodz@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am a retired army veteran and I had smoked off and on, mostly on, since I was sixteen. I started vaping on the ninth of January and today three weeks later I have gone a whole day without a cigarette with no pangs of withdrawal and I can vape without nicotine in the cartridge. I am 54 years old and while I think juveniles should not be able to participate in vaping and I would suggest that no nonsmoker does, it has been a Godsend to me and if you are going to tax the E-cigs, themselves, which have no tobacco or nicotine in the cartridge and a person decides to vape mint or menthol as I will do from time to time, why should that person be taxed when in essence they are using a non tobacco, non nicotine product???

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jcfoster1@cox.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:37:59 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JC Foster
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jcfoster1@cox.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: filed.teeth@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:52:12 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JC Myrick
Organization: Individual
E-mail: filed.teeth@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Don't tie us to tobacco!! Our whole point is that we're not! Just pass a law saying can't sell these products to minors.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jtungpal@zagmail.gonzaga.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:02:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JD Yamashita
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jtungpal@zagmail.gonzaga.edu
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mikkelsenjm@roadrunner.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:33:55 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jean Mikkelsen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mikkelsenjm@roadrunner.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I would like to enter testimony on SB 2819 on electronic cigarettes. I am opposed to you claiming that these should be like a cigarette made from tobacco leaves, as they are not. Since there is nothing that is being burned in an electronic cigarette, as with a regular tobacco leaf cigarette, the body does not receive the carcinogenic properties from the smoke. Also many people have reduced or quit smoking by using these devices. There is no second hand smoke with an e-cigarette, no lit end to start a potential fire, and no odor in your home or anything else. Nicotine by itself does not cause cancer. I ask would you put a tax on tomatoes, potatoes, eggplants, cauliflower, green peppers and teas as tobacco products as they contain nicotine also? These are plants that people eat. And the propylene glycol is used in food, cosmetics and medicine as it keeps things moist and is used in food coloring. I myself am a user of these devices and they have helped me to cut down on smoking quit a bit. They are not a tobacco product. They contain a certain amount of nicotine, yes, some have no nicotine at all, but they are not made of the same elements as a tobacco leaf product, i.e. tobacco, paper, filter and all the other additives found in them. They are cheaper to use which also is a help for those who cannot afford other alternatives to quitting smoking. You have to be older than 18 to purchase many things to include tobacco leaf products. I think you have to ask yourselves and do some research as I have, that these are not the same as tobacco leaf cigarettes and say no to this bill and amendment, especially since it is to redefine something that it is not for a "taxation purpose" only. Thank you for your time. Jean Mikkelsen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: xforinbus@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:55:20 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JEANNETTE
Organization: Individual
E-mail: xforinbus@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

mY HUSBAND HAS BEEN USING THIS AND HE HAS STOPPED SMOKING AND ALSO STARTED TO
DOWNGRADE HIS INTAKE SO I BELIEVE THIS TO BE VERY
GOOD FOR PEOPLE PERIOD.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jeffrey.gruny@us.army.mil
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:19:26 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeff A Gruny
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jeffrey.gruny@us.army.mil
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

That is why I switched from reg cigarettes. I am feeling a lot healthier.

Please do not hinder peoples chances of a healthier choice at significant cost savings, particularly during this economic time we live in.

Mahalo!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jeffalderramachi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:40:49 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jeff balderrama
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jeffalderramachi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jbchickenhead@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:31:21 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeff Brendel
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jbchickenhead@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Seeing as though the taxation on tobacco is just that, on tobacco, this is clearly an unjust law. Nicotine is not in any way, shape, or form to be considered tobacco. If it were to be, wouldn't the nicotine patches, nicotine gum, and nicotine lozenges that large pharma has on the market be subject to tobacco taxation?

These vapor nicotine delivery systems are a great way for smokers to get off tobacco, and thus you would be hurting the general public by passing such a bill in to law.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jfreemanpro@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 8:58:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jeff freeman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jfreemanpro@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:
i OPPOSE THE DECISION OF TAXING THIS PRODUCT

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Jhard22@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:09:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeff Hardin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Jhard22@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I have not smoked in over 2 years by using electronic cigarettes to quit and maintain a smoke free life. This tax will ruin the business of the best supplier of electronic cigarettes in the US. If this tax is passed it must be limited & not be applied to any equipment. A 70% tax is ridiculous.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jeffkirk@vt.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:18:09 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeff Kirk
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jeffkirk@vt.edu
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
No sales to minors but no tobacco tax on non tobacco products

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: 01clk430@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 5:38:24 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jeff lachance
Organization: Individual
E-mail: 01clk430@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jp.cid@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:43:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeff Park
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jp.cid@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

This increase in taxes on e-cigarettes, and products is unacceptable. I have quit smoking regular cigarettes because of it. And to make these products expensive and unaffordable will only drive me back to smoke toxic cigarettes, that also harms others around me in forms of 2nd hand smoke. This new tax increase will only make it worst for the whole community as a whole. As vaping e-cigarettes does no harm like cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: gimpdrummer@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:28:09 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jeff raynor
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gimpdrummer@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Richardson74948@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:21:49 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeff Richardson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Richardson74948@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This will kill the ecig industry in Hawaii and force your local ecig businesses out of state with the 70% wholesale tax. The ecig should NOT be placed in the same bucket as Tobacco as it has NO tobacco. It seems the the tobacco companies have gotten their dirty hands around the throat of the state of Hawaii and are squeezing in order to get their customers back. I have personally been purchasing my ecig hardware and eliquid from an online retailer located in your state and WILL NOT continue to do so if this measure is passed. I had also planned a trip to your state to meet the people who have helped me kick the tobacco habit but I will not be doing that now. These products have helped so many people quit old fashioned cigarettes and this measure would force some of those people back to those cigarettes, causing harm to those people.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jbuddhasaunders@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:47:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeff Saunders
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jbuddhasaunders@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jthogmtn@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:41:13 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeff Tatum
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jthogmtn@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am not opposed to limiting the sale of Ecigs to minors, but I am against changes that would put an extreme and outrageous tax on Ecigs similar to those on cigarets.
This is a nicotine product not a tobacco product,not unlike nicotine gums, lozenges and patches.
Please don't mess this up for all of us who were able to quit cigarets with this product.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: factory1019@att.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:16:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeffery Scott
Organization: Individual
E-mail: factory1019@att.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I will not support a State in any way, shape, or form that would support a bill as ridiculous as this. That includes visiting the State for business and/or pleasure. Electronic cigarettes and their associated products are NOT tobacco, nor are they derived or contain any tobacco products. Therefore, they and their associated products should not be constrained by the laws or taxes that ONLY apply tobacco products. I DO, however, approve all measures that would insure their inability to be sold to minors.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jagellpuff@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:47:12 PM
Attachments: [Jeffrey Gallup testimony of Bill SB2819.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeffrey Gallup
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jagellpuff@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill, it will have far reaching consequences outside of the State of Hawaii.

I had hoped to visit the Volcano Vapor Cafe in Hawaii, but if this passes, that will be a journey that I will not make.

Jeffrey Gallup's personal testimony of Bill SB2819

My testimony will not be that much different from many you will hear, but hear it you must, as this Bill SB2819 will greatly affect me and many more people negatively.

I was a smoker for over 25 years. I grew up in a home where my father smoked. I was the youngest of 3 kids, and the only child to pick up the habit. I can't blame my father for the choices I made; after all he quit smoking in fact about 6 months after I started. Some people are just prone to smoke, while others choose not to like my siblings.

Over the course of the 25 years I smoked I tried many times to quit. I tried using the nicotine gum and patches, but controlling the amount of nicotine was difficult, and typically I ended up with headaches or upset stomach, so the solution was to continue smoking. In January 2011 I got a prescription for Chantix, and I must say in many ways it cut the urge for smoking, but as I live with my girlfriend and she smokes, I just couldn't break free. By no means was it her fault, it was ultimately my choice.

What many people don't understand, and for a non-smoker can't grasp this, but smoking is or was my best friend. Throughout my teenage and adult life, regardless of what was happening cigarettes were there, not to judge, but to support, relax and comfort me. Cigarettes were even there to celebrate the victories in life. They were also there to share the daily quiet moments of reflection after a day of work. I know this sounds strange, but these feelings are not just shared by me but many other smokers around the world. That is why it is so hard to quit, it is not simply quitting smoking, but giving up a beloved friend.

Then a friend told me that he tried eCigs and they worked. I was skeptical, but started looking online to learn about these things. I was blown away at the amount of information on the internet, both for and against. What has struck me as odd has been the amount of negativity thrown at eCigs. That really bothers me, on one hand the government says I should quit, they continue to ban them, push me outside, talk about banning them in cars, parks, etc. and yet here is an alternative that they want to silence.

On September 12th of 2011, I tried eCigs, and as of today am proud to say I am an ex-smoker! The transition was instant, from the very first vape (that is the term used to describe the action as opposed to smoking). 18 days after I started vaping, my girlfriend asked to finally try it and 3 hours after trying mine, I went to a local store and bought her a kit. She too has not had a cigarette since, and she smoked for over 20 years.

And now today the State of Hawaii wants to impose a 70% tax on eCigs, why? To drive these out of the market place, to protect kids from using them, or is it because you fear the loss of tobacco tax revenue if people continue to make the switch to eCigs?

This is downright wrong! As government officials you claim to have the best interest of the public in mind when making decisions, how does this one add up? The FDA supports the use of gum, patches and other nicotine delivery systems, but calls into question eCigs. Time and time

again I read and hear testimonies on how eCigs helped someone quit. Maybe it is time to rethink the position on eCigs and see why they are working.

I have saved a lot of money since making the switch. And sure my local and state governments have lost tobacco tax revenue. But did you ever think to ask yourself what I have done with that money? I have bought things I could not afford before, taken trips to Oregon with my girlfriend on a couple of weekends. We are so happy that we are even planning our trip for this summer. But I will say this, it will not be to Hawaii if this tax increase goes into effect! How could I even imagine going somewhere that is so strongly against eCigs. In fact part of the money I have saved from smoking has already been invested into the State of Hawaii. My favorite eCig company is Volcano, that is correct a company that was created and has been very successful in your state! Since I got my first Inferno eCig, I wanted nothing more than to go travel to Hawaii to visit their cafes. I will not do this however if this bill passes, I would rather spend my money at places that support eCigs.

In these tough economic times, I have seen an explosion of business with eCigs and vaping. In my state of Washington, we have several vaping establishments; in fact just in December we had a franchise of the Volcano Vapor Café open in Olympia! That is real economic growth, small business taking a chance and creating revenue! That is tax dollars being generated. Within about 7 miles of my house there are no less than 3 eCig/vaping shops that have opened in the last 12 months. But if Hawaii passes this 70% tax, I can see my state and others do the same thing, and that would mean several business's shutting their doors.

If those businesses' shut their doors, I know many people who will probably go back to smoking. A lot of older people don't want to order online. Is this the message that Hawaii wants to send, one that kills business?

You may say that this bill is to ensure that kids don't start vaping. Well I got news for you, all the efforts of government has not stopped kids from smoking. I do not want to see kids vaping, but kids under 18 are not allowed too, same as smoking. Pass a bill that ensures kids under 18 cannot buy eCigs, but do not levy such a huge tax that it only results in damaging business and people's lives.

I have noticed great changes in my health since quitting smoking, I sleep better, feel better, breathe better, all around it has made significant improvements in my health. I wish Hawaii would take a different approach and endorse funding to help with research to better understand why eCigs work better than other NRT's on the market.

I beg and plead with you, please do not pursue this over taxation on eCigs. Please do not classify them as a tobacco product, as they are not! Please do not take away someone else's chance to finally quit smoking. Please do not look to damage businesses' in this tough economic time.

Have you even asked yourselves how much money can be saved from health care costs if more people quit smoking? Look out for the public, don't restrict or block the chance to make things better for people. And remember that your decisions can have a great impact on more states than just Hawaii. I urge you to strike this bill down, take a different approach and be the leader for supporting vapers rights to vape, but more so support them with giving all smokers a chance to quit smoking once and for all.

Thank you for reading this and giving me a chance for my voice to be heard.

Your fellow American,

Jeffrey Gallup

Tacoma, WA

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jay_cube808@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 2:36:20 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeffrey Johansen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jay_cube808@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
you try and stop smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jkaiawe@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:45:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeffrey Kaiawe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jkaiawe@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: shrinkadink17@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:42:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jenay Cutino-Lemert
Organization: Individual
E-mail: shrinkadink17@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I quit smoking within a few days after smoking for over ten years. The vapor cigarette has saved my life, and I encourage everyone who wants to quit cigarettes to try the vapor, no matter what age you are.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mjsahr@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:33:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Cadelina
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mjsahr@live.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I support only where it is prohibited to the sale of minors but I do not support the bill where it wants to classify the electronic cigarette as a tobacco product for the purpose of taxation. Are we not already paying the sales tax when we purchase an electronic cigarette or any accessories associated with it? The electronic cigarette was designed and created as a better alternative to the traditional tobacco product as well as to save the consumer money. By taxing the electronic cigarette and all accessories associated with it is unfair. The electronic cigarette is not a tobacco product, nor should it be classified as one. By taxing it as a tobacco product it would only drive the consumers back to traditional tobacco products which contains nicotine and other poisons which not only harms the person smoking it but also the people around them. This tax would also create a black market of sort or drive consumers to purchase from out of state or even internationally. This would only create a negative outcome for all involved-from the vendors to consumers.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Jenscheez@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:37:36 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Chu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Jenscheez@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jennifer_d_morgan@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:30:49 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Morgan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jennifer_d_morgan@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jensenreese@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:38:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jensen reese
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jensenreese@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This product is in no way connected to tobacco and now the state wants to put a big tax on capping products. This will only drive others to try different items. Driving local money to the states if you put a tobacco tax on these products.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jjbisarra@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 3:12:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jeremy bisarra
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jjbisarra@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lil_jayjay2000@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 7:03:11 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jeremy coleman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lil_jayjay2000@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

There are, no second hand and it leave no after smells , not harsh chemicals, also theres no tobacco in it causing no tar build up

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: halom808@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:18:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeremy Ellis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: halom808@live.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This is wear i wittering my Testimony.

I believe that electronic cigarettes should be banned to underage kids they shouldn't be smoking anything. but taxing this alliterative to cigarets at 70% would drive others and me back to real cigarets with is horrible thought. dew to the outrageous cost increase & would also shut down local retailers. the legislature should tax the nicotine catting products "ecig juice" at a resealable tax such as 10%-20% and all the accessory sold be sold with the normal sales tax. please take this in to consideration and dont pass this bill as it stands now, is going to hurt more people than it helps. thank you for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: prettyme.jn@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:43:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jeremy nitahara
Organization: Individual
E-mail: prettyme.jn@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: methodhod@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:15:03 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeremy Schlake
Organization: Individual
E-mail: methodhod@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This bill would force business out of Hawaii. Several stores and distributors are located in Hawaii and would remove any competitiveness from the market by placing them inline with tobacco companies that have much larger advertisement and development campaigns and funding. Electronic cigarettes are a proven healthier alternative to tobacco, as is nicotine products like nicotine gum, which subsequently is not taxed 70%. I am in the military, and my health is fundamental to my work. Taxing electronic cigarettes would force many ex-smokers stationed in Hawaii that use electronic cigarettes to start to question the cost benefit and switch back to smoking tobacco cigarettes, doing exactly as Hawaii would rather not have, which is sponsor more tobacco-related health problems in their medical system. Please remove this bill or vote NO on it!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jeremy79_live@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:54:41 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeremy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jeremy79_live@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This bill is unfair and I will never visit Hawaii if this passes. Electronic Cigarettes saved my life and the lives of many of my family and friends from a tobacco related illness or death.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jerryj66@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:17:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerry Johnson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jerryj66@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jmnjr@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:34:21 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerry Neumann
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jmnjr@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
This is ridiculous.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jess@islandvapor.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:27:42 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jess Lovely
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jess@islandvapor.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Please don't pass this law and put all the E-cigarette stores out of business. There are to many people that benefit from this product!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jessecn777@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:58:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jesse aurrecoechea
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jessecn777@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
It helped me quit cigs all together. please don't pass the bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dirtgod@email.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:08:33 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jesse Hood
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dirtgod@email.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: wkkikruse@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 3:06:09 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jesse Krufe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wkkikruse@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chetchy76@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 7:17:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jesse larson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chetchy76@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jcsheehan21@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 11:14:15 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jesse sheehan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jcsheehan21@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: livnrite@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:58:09 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jesse stephens
Organization: Individual
E-mail: livnrite@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rubbaslippas@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 3:07:01 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jesse Tavui
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rubbaslippas@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
cant put a tobacco tax on something thats not made of tobacco

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Jessep242@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:43:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jessep Bangham
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Jessep242@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Ladies & gentlemen of the court,

Thanks to e-cigs, I was able to quit smoking entirely! For you to attempt to tax the industry on the same level as actual tobacco will not only destroy local businesses (thereby adding to the unemployment problems our nation faces) but remove a viable method to help people quit smoking!

I don't think I need to explain to you how smoking can limit a person's lifespan and quality of life but consider this, the less smokers there are living longer lives means more taxes brought in. It also means a MUCH lower burden on our medical system. All in all this is a positive thing so PLEASE be rational when you make your decisions on this issue.

Thank you very much,

-Jessep Bangham-

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: greven1109@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 11:22:47 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jesus a leal jr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: greven1109@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jhomarsar@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 5:21:53 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jhomar Sarmiento
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jhomarsar@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ec1ipse13@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:56:07 AM
Attachments: [I support that e cigarettes should not be sold to minors.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jim Feece
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ec1ipse13@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I support that e cigarettes should not be sold to minors, however I STRONGLY OPPOSE that there should be a tax on electronic cigarettes. I have struggled many years to quit smoking and with electronic cigarettes, I have finally stopped smoking for over a year now. I feel much better, I can breathe and taste again, walk a lot further without being out of breath, and I am much more psychically fit because of electronic cigarettes. If you were to tax e cigs, I know the prices would go up and I would have to resort back to traditional cigarettes to maintain my budget. I would be then putting those 4000 carcinogens in my lungs again, and probably develop cancer, be at a greater risk of having a heart attack or heart disease, and/or develop COPD and it would cost the tax payer more money to cover my medical expenses. And that is just me, think of what it would cost tax payers for the millions of other people that use e cigs. It doesn't stop there, it keeps going with people unable to work because of chronic illness caused by traditional cigarettes, which means they would also be unemployed due to respiratory problems and heart disease. You would not be saving any money in the long run. Give the non smokers a break. If they can quit using e cigarettes, please don't discourage them from continuing to be smoke free and living a healthier life.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mikeweld@telus.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:46:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jim Glivic
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mikeweld@telus.net
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: [Jim Smith](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#); [CPN Testimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: FW: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:41:53 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jim Smith
Organization: Individual
E-mail: diducmeb4@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Hawaii's state legislature recently introduced a bill that would ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors and classify the product and every accessory associated with it as a "tobacco product" for the purpose of taxation. As you might imagine I strongly support any measure that would ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors. However, the bill has many unintended consequences that endangers suppliers, supporters and users of electronic cigarettes in Hawaii.

The proposed bill would unfairly tax the sale of electronic cigarettes and every electronic cigarette accessory in Hawaii, regardless of whether or not it contains tobacco/nicotine. This tax in turn would force electronic cigarette companies to move out-of-state or close down due to the tremendous competitive disadvantage that would be placed on those companies.

This bill would also force local Hawaii electronic cigarette users to either purchase supplies from out-of-state and international vendors (who are not hampered by this unfair tax) or force those users to resort to smoking again. I have personally been using electronic cigarettes for over two years and purchase all my supplies from Valcanoecigs in Hawaii.

If this bill is passed, I, as many of my friends who also use electronic cigarettes, would simply choose to buy my supplies from a business outside of Hawaii. This would have a detrimental effect on all electronic cigarette businesses in Hawaii, thus leading to company failure and a disadvantageous consequence on state tax currently generated by the businesses.

If the true intent behind this bill is to protect those under 18, then ban sales to those persons. Do not impose an unfair "tobacco tax" on a product that is not tobacco. Otherwise, this bill is merely nothing but another tax to generate revenue for the State but will in the long run, cause a tax deficit when customers no longer use Hawaii based electronic cigarette businesses.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: djmac247@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:34:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jimmie McCullough
Organization: Individual
E-mail: djmac247@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

While it makes sense to restrict minors from using e-cigarettes, lets not forget that they contain NO tobacco. Keeping the under aged from consuming these products is fine, but how can you tax something that has no tobacco like something that does. These are not cigarettes and I should know. I've been smoke free since March 2011.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: seoyunki@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:05:36 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jin Sook Bosque
Organization: Individual
E-mail: seoyunki@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
Ecigs have helped me quit cigarettes for 3 weeks

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jinx.finch@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:11:39 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jinx L. Finch
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jinx.finch@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I first bought an electronic cigarette (also known as vaporizers) while on vacation in Hawaii. This bill should be of concern to anyone who is opposed to having e-cigarettes, cartridges, and e-juice designated as a tobacco product as there is no tobacco in the cartridges or e-juice. Additionally, e-juice is available with 0% nicotine, and in candy, soda, ice cream, liquor, cake, pie, cookie, spice, and other food/beverage flavors. As a nurse I have recommended e-cigarettes to many patients, including those who aren't actively trying to quit smoking, but are buying the e-juice in flavors to cut down on their daily ingestion of some of the food/beverage flavors. Some of my patients claim that their use of the e-cigarette with food/beverage flavor e-juices have helped them lose weight by enabling them to get the flavor of certain food/beverages without eating them. Electronic cigarettes have also reportedly helped some people cut down or quit smoking cigarettes because the e-cigarettes enable the smoker to mimic smoking real cigarettes but they are inhaling and doing the hand to mouth motions done in smoking while patches, gums, and lozenges don't provide the "smoking experience" which many patients claim that they miss and for which they claim has made their efforts at stopping smoking unsuccessful. The e-juices create a water vapor whether the e-juice has nicotine or does not include nicotine but is food/beverage flavored. I particularly recommend a brand of e-cigarette that is only available by mail from a manufacturer/vendor in Hawaii because their products create the amount of vapor that is more like the smoke that is inhaled from a tobacco cigarette. The cartridges and/or e-juices are not tobacco products, contain no tobacco, and shouldn't be treated as tobacco products. Bills such as this one threaten to establish legal precedent and undoubtedly will lead to other states following suit with similar bills. The ramifications of that would be that e-cigarettes, e-juice, and cartridges would fall under FDA rules and regulations, and place an unnecessary burden on people who use these products and manufacturers/vendors who supply these products. Currently these products aren't being advertised nor are the manufacturers/vendors claiming that one can stop smoking by using them, no health claims whatsoever are made by manufacturers/vendors. Bills such as this one would pave the way for the FDA to start regulating these products, and would also undoubtedly result in these products disappearing from the market as the FDA would be testing them before approving them for sale to the public. We all know that the FDA is understaffed and has been notoriously slow in approving medications and other products that may have a medical benefit for use by the general public. In all of my travels nationwide, I have never seen a child use electronic cigarettes and the product isn't advertised on websites that attract minors.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: joan.wilder@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:00:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joan Wilder
Organization: Individual
E-mail: joan.wilder@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
Ridiculous!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: phattbutt10@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:37:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: joanne oh
Organization: Individual
E-mail: phattbutt10@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: g4mula808@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 3:05:19 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joathan Agnir
Organization: Individual
E-mail: g4mula808@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jdog3mta3@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 5:14:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jobey Rodrigues-Kahakai
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jdog3mta3@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

This is a safe product that prevents people from smoking cigarettes. This is not tobacco. This is a product that gives individuals healthy options.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jfukumoto@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:47:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jodi Fukumoto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jfukumoto@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jodielynn96744@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:23:10 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jodielynn augustus
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jodielynn96744@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jostephfee@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:25:29 AM
Attachments: [Testimony.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jody Fee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jostephfee@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I was a smoke for over 30 years. Now due to the invention of the Electronic Cigarette I am smoke free. This is an important moment in history and health of our nation. I do believe this to be a great product and a useful tool for those who wish not to smoke anymore. This bill that is being presented is a travesty and should not be passed. The electronic cigarette is not a tobacco product and should not be treated as such. Minors are not targeted nor are they allowed to purchase these products. In fact if you read the information and how they are marketed you will find that great measures are taken to keep this from happening. In fact they even go as far as saying that if you are not already addicted to nicotine you should not use this product. They are not targeting people to start using electronic cigarettes; they are helping people that want a healthier way of dealing with their dependency of nicotine. The electronic cigarette is no more a tobacco product than patches or gum. Still there are many that want to make it out to be a tobacco product due to the fact they see the vapor coming out of the mouth. This is just another delivery system for nicotine for those that are already addicted. You can do as we have and look at the studies that Baltimore College has done. It is not harmful for those around you and it is not harmful for the person that is using the electronic cigarette. Why would you not want to support a product that saves peoples lives, reduces medical issues, and helps people that want help? This bill would jeopardize the peoples that have come to find this as a safe alternative to smoking. This help us to continue to be healthy and smoke free by NOT PASSING this bill. I fully support the enforcement of no sales to minors.

Sincerely

Jody A Fee

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jdubsss@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:36:59 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joe Wishnia
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jdubsss@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: johannaurquidez@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:54:50 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: johanna urquidez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: johannaurquidez@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: johnster_johnster@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:26:17 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: john a sabatka
Organization: Individual
E-mail: johnster_johnster@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
this is bad

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: aarghiisfrowny@clear.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:28:13 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Bartolotta
Organization: Individual
E-mail: aarghiisfrowny@clear.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I see banning e-cigs/juices (nicotine) to minors, but how can you tax batteries and other accessories as tobacco products? Makes no sense to me. Taxing e-liquids is even sort of iffy, as the nicotine has been extracted from the tobacco plant, so it's no longer really tobacco.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: xvr78@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:32:54 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: john bruce
Organization: Individual
E-mail: xvr78@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: SeaShaman@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:17:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John C. Shute
Organization: Individual
E-mail: SeaShaman@msn.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: johnwinchell86@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:28:05 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Cardiff-Winchell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: johnwinchell86@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Electronic Cigarette is NOT a tobacco product. there is no tobacco involved whatsoever.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rampant.garage@engineer.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:59:06 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Doe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rampant.garage@engineer.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

As per your opinion on the issue, this is an unnecessary treatment to this particular group. I personally do not think that it harms anyone but the business itself. There should be support the restriction of age use as these are intended for adult use only. This is nothing but to bar the growth of something that in line of a positive hobby. You should bring this bill back and come back with something that is more reasonable.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: JCJohn23@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:48:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Fisher
Organization: Individual
E-mail: JCJohn23@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

this is not a tobacco product in any way and contains no tobacco so why should it be labeled tobacco.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: likkos@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:00:36 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Greg
Organization: Individual
E-mail: likkos@msn.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Vaping, has helped me quite smoking cigarettes after many years. However, they are not cigarettes. They are a much healthier alternative. I do agree that minors should not have access to nicotine. That is not really the issue here is it.

I know the idea of taxing something that doing well in the state at 70% sounds like a good additional revenue stream. However, this will cause businesses to close or move out of the state and force people to purchase products from out of state. Please reconsider, and side with the people in this matter.

Thank you

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: john.siletti@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 11:52:40 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JOHN M.K. SILETTI
Organization: Individual
E-mail: john.siletti@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

I am against the fact to classify the E-cigarette as a tobacco product because the fact is it is not. This I feel is just another way to bleed Hawaii for more money. Prohibiting the sale to minors is fine because they already do not sell to minors as is. To pass this bill will allow the State of Hawaii to STEAL money from the people legally and that is wrong.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: johnmolaison@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:13:43 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Molaison
Organization: Individual
E-mail: johnmolaison@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
Dumb asses!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: j_owenshi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:17:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Owens
Organization: Individual
E-mail: j_owenshi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Look up the the definition to Tobacco products. Why would this be an alternative for Tobacco products if there is the same taxes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jpvw808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:49:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: John Paul vonwiegandt
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jpvw808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
Please pass this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jtsanders23@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:49:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: john sanders
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jtsanders23@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

The gross Taxation of electronic cigarettes are damaging to a free market and safer and healthier alternatives to smoking nicotine, and\or cannabis products. I personal use electronic cigarettes as a coping skill from smoking Cannabis and\or nicotine products. Zero per cent\0% nicotine electronic cigarettes have been my only success and joy in living a drug free life style in over 8 years. please reconsider any gross taxation that will damage both lives and job.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Thomas Sanders

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: audiocratic45@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:34:59 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Takanawa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: audiocratic45@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I was a pack a day smoker for 15 years. I tried the gums, the patches, cold turkey, even hypnosis, and every time I went back to tobacco cigarettes.

Until I started using electronic cigarettes.

With electronic cigarettes I've had a very notable improvement in my health and no desire to go back to tobacco cigarettes. I've looked at the research and read all of the arguments and I still can't see why so many anti-smoking groups try to ban something that has had the greatest potential to save lives.

Please, look at all of the research clearly. Understand that putting this kind of tax on electronic cigarettes would not only put local companies out of business but would also put the thousands of ex-smokers who have switched back on to regular cigarettes. This won't improve health, and it won't bring more money into the state.

It will do the opposite.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: friedcutlet@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:35:41 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Weaver
Organization: Individual
E-mail: friedcutlet@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I am an electronic E-cigarette user. Your stupid tax on e-cigs would completely defeat the purpose of them. I vape because it's beneficial to my health. but it also saves me MONEY. Buying cigarettes is expensive, but a 70% tax on all e-cigs and accessories is RIDICULOUS! It would just be cheaper to buy cigarettes and damage my health than to continue buying e-cigs with a 70% tax. If the bill is passed, I will never buy e-cigs from Hawaii. I will never have any desire to visit Hawaii and pay other taxes. Why don't you guys tax your air? Just tax people to breathe everyday and to drive their cars. Flat out stupid, kind of like SB2819. I hope you people can come to your senses and realize how much people depend on e-cigs, and maybe just for a moment, you won't think about money.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: wilson3600@bellsouth.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:02:36 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Wilson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wilson3600@bellsouth.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I think its a shame you even consider this bill. Electronic Cigs> have saved lots of lives by getting people off of regular harmful smokes. Why punish people for doing good just to increase your coufers.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jhb1018@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:13:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Johnny Buss
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jhb1018@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I'm not sure how you categorize flavored vegetable oil, which is a common liquid used in e-cigarettes, as a tobacco product.

I feel a little more research is necessary before passing this measure.

Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jnomura505@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:13:09 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joie Nomura
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jnomura505@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Quite simply, e-cigs is a true health benefit. I started utilizing e-cigs July 2011 It is Jan 2012 and I am truly thankful for no longer being hooked on the tobacco sticks you light up and stink. Hurray, I'm no longer a cig smoker. I do like to puff or vap occasionally. However, I regular cig smoking no longer rules my life. E-cigs are the most inexpensive way to kick the habit and most rewarding...physically and mentally. PLEASE Do not classify nor tax e-cigs as if it's tobacco. Mahalo from my heart!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kanemoo@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:44:24 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jon Chiles
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kanemoo@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jon.hiekkenen@tannercompanies.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:11:08 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jon hiekkenen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jon.hiekkenen@tannercompanies.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
govt has no buisness taxing an electronic device as a tobacco product greed dont you already get taxes from the sales

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jonathan_aceret@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:20:47 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jonathan Aceret
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jonathan_aceret@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jkappas@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:59:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jonathan kappas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jkappas@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jonbonkoki@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 6:49:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jonathan koki
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jonbonkoki@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

I was an avid smoker for 4 years. I was effected physically due to the harsh chemicals in cigarettes. after switching to e-cigs I can honestly say that this is a healthier safer alternative to smokers who still like to 'smoke'. There is also no second hand effects on others. If you raise the taxes I and so many others would have a hard time affording this product. It would definitely cause a lot of problems at work due to most of us being smokers.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bax1231@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:02:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jonathan S Tabuc
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bax1231@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jordanuts@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:51:12 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jordan lee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jordanuts@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jmarsen1@eaglespace.northgatech.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:14:45 PM
Attachments: [Untitleddocument.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jordan Marsengill
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jmarsen1@eaglespace.northgatech.edu
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I will try to keep this short, saving yours and my time. These devices are regulated very well within the industry, however, having the local government regulate them would also ensure that these are not sold to minors. That part I'm fine with. What I'm not fine with, is adding a "sin" tax to these devices. I personally hate the term "electronic cigarette". These devices have nothing at all in common with cigarettes. This device usually consists of a normal lithium-ion battery, a heating element, and propylene glycol/vegetable glycerin. These do not need to be taxed in such a manner, doing so will cause all of the companies located within your state to either shut down or move to a different location outside of your state. That will cause the state itself to lose the normal tax they are already receiving off of anything being sold. This bill is going to hurt the users, sellers, and the state in which the sellers conduct business.

Thank you for your time.

-Jordan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jordan.mulkey23@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:33:43 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jordan A Mulkey
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jordan.mulkey23@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Electronic cigarettes are not tobacco products they are not even tobacco alternatives and shouldn't receive any additional taxation besides regular sales tax

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jordan.parsons@gpinteractive.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:34:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jordan Parsons
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jordan.parsons@gpinteractive.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jajaygirl09@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 4:56:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jordan trujillo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jajaygirl09@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jorilynner@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:09:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jorie McGill
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jorilynner@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I support no allowing access to electronic cigarettes to minors. But taxing all accessories up to 70% of wholesale would strongly affect me in an adverse way. I recently took up vaping nicotine to get off of a 25 year, 2 pack a day smoking habit. It was an expensive and harmful addiction. Using an e cigarette has helped me to quit smoking cigarettes and to change my whole lifestyle. I don't want to buy my e-juice from overseas vendors because quality is compromised. That applies to accessories as well. I think it is important to keep US companies alive and prospering, and to buy US made products. Can we please stop forcing consumers to buy from overseas?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hahaiboy@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:23:01 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jose Ilar
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hahaiboy@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mberry178@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:56:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jose Rodriguez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mberry178@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kepa_hawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:38:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: joseph B mattson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kepa_hawaii@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jbumatay@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:04:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: joseph Bumatay
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jbumatay@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: surferjoe.davis21@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:41:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: joseph davis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: surferjoe.davis21@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: anon4myfb@europe.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:34:40 PM
Attachments: [Testimony.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joseph Phillips
Organization: Individual
E-mail: anon4myfb@europe.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

E-cigarretes have helped my Uncle stop smoking. They are important because they help alleviate his physical addiction to nicotine, but also allow him to continue to smoke without inhaling the tar used to cure tobacco leaves and fill normal cigarettes. To take a product like this off the market by force would not only be amoral, but an inefficient move for a “Progressive” government which is at war with Tobacco. Let people inhale water and nicotine of their own free will... vote no for this measue.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: schrimm02@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:18:34 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joseph Schriml
Organization: Individual
E-mail: schrimm02@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This is not a tobacco product! It's a nicotine product. Big business and government needs to stop capitalizing on products that can help people reduce usage of harmful tobacco products, and start promoting safer nicotine products instead. Passing this bill will prove that the State is interested in money over people's health.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: josephTaylor529@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:16:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joseph Taylor
Organization: Individual
E-mail: josephTaylor529@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I have served in the US Army for five years and served two tours of duty in Iraq, for those five years i have been a HEAVY smoker of cigarettes's. I have noticed that after a three and a half years, my physical performance was not as good as it was back in my early days of the military. After i have served my active duty term, i was honorably discharged from the army. After a month out, i can across an electronic cigarette, silly at first glance, i decided to buy one and was i in for a surprise, I come to love the "E-cig", plus the array of flavors is mind boggling, so many to choose from and a flavor to suit the taste of any smoker. I also come to find the amount of money i have saved is also a suprise; after a year i have saved \$1,000+ from switching to the "E-cig". I also noticed my breathing was better...ALOT better, now i can run like have back in 2005 when i was in basic training. After a few years, i have found myself working as a welder after my schooling, since im a "E-cig" user, my supervisor noticed my productivity was increased compared to my fellow co-workers because of a simple fact that i am not taking time to stop what im doing just to go outside to smoke while im vaping in my work station through the break. After a few weeks, i have the whole entire shop using "E-cigs" and the comments about the "E-cigs" are nothing but good, positive things. The whole shop loves them and not one person has an identical flavor and strength, plus the money they svaed through out the months were great (could always use more gas money). I am still a die-hard, loyal "Ecig" user and fan, my health is better and my wallet and rest easy, buying an electronic cigarette was one of the best investments i have ever decided alongside other things. This taxation on these products are illogical and down right stupid. Increasing the price on ALL products are not only going to hurt the company and stores selling these, but more importnaly, its going to effect everyone that uses these to the full. I hope you find it in your hearts that these products are nothing but good things to a ever-expanding community, If i had a chance to go back in the days of my early career in the military, i would use the "E-cig" in a heart beat and while im at it, spread the truth on how these products can deliver the desired nicotine or none and NOT inhale/exhale smelly, deadly smoke and the rest of the deadly chemicals the tobacco company's use. Im deciding to start my own business making electronic cigarette juice for this ever expanding community of "E-cig" users and create my own flavors and strengths to satisfy the ever expanding community and the ingredients are very simple and abundant. But if this crazy taxation passes, its going to ruin my chance to be part of something that has helped me and others. As we both know, the tax bill is just for the tobacco company's profit. thank you for taking the time to read this and understanding what i mean when i say this is a great product.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: whitezombie.1965@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:00:43 PM
Attachments: [Ecig Testimony.txt](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Josh Elder
Organization: Individual
E-mail: whitezombie.1965@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Eci g Testi mony

I started smoking when I was 12 and quit using Volcano ecig when I was 26. If it wasn't for ecigs I garentee that I would still be smoking. Why try to stop something that a lot of people have had success with? As far as safety goes I think the evi dence is out there that support ecigs.

Josh El der

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mrDAH@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:58:06 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Josh Nielsen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mrDAH@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

It doesn't make sense to tax something as related to tobacco, that isn't related to tobacco. We need to keep these out of the hands of children, I agree, but there's other ways of doing this. Nothing but the nicotine containing products should be taxed, if anything. I have friends that use the "juice" without nicotine. How is that related to tobacco at all?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: josh@sommers.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:17:32 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Josh Sommers
Organization: Individual
E-mail: josh@sommers.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I was a smoker for 15 years. I tried to quit smoking many times using every method available and nothing worked for me. Two years ago I purchased an electronic cigarette and since that day I have not had a single analog cigarette. Electronic cigarettes have proven to be the only means of quitting smoking that has worked for me. Electronic cigarettes are the only means of quitting smoking that enable the user to gradually step down the amount of nicotine intake and provide the option of completely eliminating nicotine altogether. Electronic cigarettes are NOT the same as analog cigarettes and should not be treated as such. As someone who frequently visits Hawaii I can say that if Hawaii enacts this extremely harsh level of taxation I will no longer visit Hawaii for my vacations, opting instead for vacation locations that support the use of Electronic cigarettes. I wholeheartedly support preventing minors from purchasing any component of an electronic cigarette, but I do not in any way support this extreme and abusive proposed 70% tax. Don't do it Hawaii, this is an extremely misguided measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cryptorchild311@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:11:12 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: josh
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cryptorchild311@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Rather than conducting the necessary research to create a specific classification of the product and applying a fair tax policy for it, Hawaii's state legislature is merely attempting to classify the product as tobacco and apply the egregious tax rates that are applied to tobacco to electronic cigarettes too. Levying this hefty of a tax on the product would virtually wipe out any local vendors as they would not be able to compete with their out-of-state and international counterparts that are not subject to this unfair tax.

Customers would then be forced to buy their products from vendors out-of-state on the internet, or put down their ecigs and return to smoking again. Any and all local vendors would either be forced to relocate their operations to another state or face closure due to the competitive disadvantage that would be placed on them.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mrg240@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 2:39:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: joshua green
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mrg240@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: joshpau@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 11:58:57 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joshua Pau
Organization: Individual
E-mail: joshpau@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mockedxbeauty@aim.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:45:53 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: joshua rager
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mockedxbeauty@aim.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

as a smoker of over 10 years and someone who has lost several family members to lung cancer due from the chemical harm that smoking actual tobacco can cause to the lungs and body. with the use of the electronic cigarette, i have greatly increased my life expectancy per my doctor, and have curbed my addictions to nicotine using this product. by not having access to electronic cigarettes, or limited access, i would surely be going back to real tobacco, hurting not only myself but the environment and those around me. one person can make a difference.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: boricua8081@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:32:31 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: joshua seabury
Organization: Individual
E-mail: boricua8081@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: vistantej@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:48:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: josiah vistante
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vistantej@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: joegina@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:40:39 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: joven tolentino
Organization: Individual
E-mail: joegina@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
e-cigs stopped me from smoking

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: joy.k.hokama@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 3:10:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joy Hokama
Organization: Individual
E-mail: joy.k.hokama@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: j.kelly5990@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:05:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joyce Kelly
Organization: Individual
E-mail: j.kelly5990@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

While I strongly agree that electronic cigarettes should not be sold to minors. I understand that the sellers of e-cigs take every possible measure to prevent under age individuals from purchasing their products. These bills would unfairly tax the sale of electronic cigarettes and every electronic cigarette accessory in Hawaii, regardless of whether or not it contains tobacco/nicotine, at a rate of 70% of the wholesale price. This tax in turn would force Volcanoecigs to move out-of-state or close down due to the tremendous competitive disadvantage that would be placed on them. This would take jobs and revenue away from Hawaii. We should be working on growing businesses not closing them down.

I strongly oppose this bill.

Joyce Kelly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: scizor02@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:33:05 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jrod Wong
Organization: Individual
E-mail: scizor02@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
don't tax this great product.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: evainyone@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 12:25:29 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Juan Perez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: evainyone@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: natejudy4248@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 4:03:04 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: judy leonguerrero
Organization: Individual
E-mail: natejudy4248@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
you try and stop smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: RebelAlchemist@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:21:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Julia Conquest
Organization: Individual
E-mail: RebelAlchemist@comcast.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jujubeee07@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:17:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Julius Dinong
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jujubeee07@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: flgrnlizard57@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:10:50 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JUNE SHORT
Organization: Individual
E-mail: flgrnlizard57@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Look, 1st everyone messes with our right to smoke, you asked that we quit. Now we are all using E-cigs or others like it to quit smoking, and now you want to mess with that. Get a friggin' life already and go after some of the things that really matter..child abuse, spousal abuse, etc.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: santaisaplayah@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:38:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: justin Chan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: santaisaplayah@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: justinchan723@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:18:39 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Justin Chan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: justinchan723@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I've been a customer of this company for a while and I don't think this is fair at all. Don't tax them! i chose this so i could save money from buying cigarettes and i don't want to pay tax on these products as well

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jcredible78@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:21:17 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Justin Dodd
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jcredible78@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am a huge fan of ecigarettes. I am a smoker of almost 10 years...and I have turned to these as a alternative. Unfortunately, the cost as it stands now is already more than a carton of my original brand of cigarettes. I have limited income...so if the cost of these does go up, I would now then have to contemplate reverting back to regular cigarettes simply due to the cost.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: aircat72@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:31:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Justin Gibbs
Organization: Individual
E-mail: aircat72@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jnish3590@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 7:44:25 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: justin nishida
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jnish3590@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jus_rebs808@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 10:26:07 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Justin Rebudal
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jus_rebs808@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: justin.richardson.jr@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:00:34 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: justin richardson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: justin.richardson.jr@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: thecoronersgambit@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:05:49 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Justin Tanner
Organization: Individual
E-mail: thecoronersgambit@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

While I agree that nicotine products should not be sold to minors, exorbitant tax provisions would not only destroy existing e-cigarette companies in HI, but would prevent businesses from developing there in the future, and would prompt most/all e-cigarette consumers in HI (now and in the future) to purchase e-cigarette products online or by mail order from out-of-state, making it infeasible for the HI Rev Dept to collect taxes on these purchases.

Bottom line, it could cost the HI Revenue Dept more to try collecting the tax than the revenue it would bring in.

Electronic cigarettes only contain nicotine, a base, and flavoring. They do not contain tobacco, do not cause cancer and emphysema, and do not affect others with second hand "smoke" because they produce vapor, not smoke.

The reason for high taxation on cigarettes and other tobacco products is to offset the cost of health-care accrued from the damage caused by those products. Since electronic cigarettes do not cause the diseases that traditional tobacco products cause, it makes no sense to raise taxes on them to offset non-existent costs to society.

The goal of the electronic cigarette community is to help smokers find a healthier alternative to smoking which saves lives and reduces the financial and human cost that traditional tobacco consumption causes. The pharmaceutical industry has failed to produce an effective product for smokers who have trouble quitting. Curtailing the purchase and use of healthier alternatives by informed adults will only drive those smokers back to tobacco use and eventual death.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: klt_82@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:56:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: K
Organization: Individual
E-mail: klt_82@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Look, you guys really need to stop all of the nonsense. These products have NOTHING to do with tobacco, and you should leave it alone. In fact, ecigs made me quit smoking tobacco and my health has noticeably improved since.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: yayagirl_74@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 5:16:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kahala
Organization: Individual
E-mail: yayagirl_74@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:
leave us alone

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kailekrueger@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:23:01 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kailee Gruber
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kailekrueger@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kailey.reyes@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 7:22:36 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kailey Reyes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kailey.reyes@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

I have quit smoking cigarettes for a year and half now. I have tried everything to quit cigarettes and nothing worked until I tried vaping, Please help the many of us who are on our journey to becoming free of dependency.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: zayahbaby@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 6:04:31 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kainoa Kaeka
Organization: Individual
E-mail: zayahbaby@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

There are, no second hand and it leave no after smells , not harsh chemicals, also theres no tobacco in it causing no tar build up

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kalani.shawnee@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:40:52 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kalani akana
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kalani.shawnee@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: prittypritt@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:25:49 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kalani angeles
Organization: Individual
E-mail: prittypritt@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: supahkaleo@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 6:30:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kaleo cockett
Organization: Individual
E-mail: supahkaleo@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: KALEO12@GMAIL.COM
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 6:48:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: KALEO WELCH
Organization: Individual
E-mail: KALEO12@GMAIL.COM
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
THE ELECTRONIC CIG PRODUCTS HAS HELPED ME QUIT SMOKING COMPLETELY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: KALEO12@GMAIL.COM
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 6:48:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: KALEO WELCH
Organization: Individual
E-mail: KALEO12@GMAIL.COM
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
VOLCANO VAPOR PRODUCTS HAS HELPED ME QUIT SMOKING COMPLETELY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: laulau@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:57:17 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kali Liu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: laulau@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Its not tobacco and I dont believe this is causing any harm to my lungs. I feel better using ecigs then I did using cigarettes. I havent smoked a cigarette for over one year now.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kb8098@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:25:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kamao berinobis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kb8098@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: elayurong@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 11:58:08 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kamuela Yurong
Organization: Individual
E-mail: elayurong@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kquinata143@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:01:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kara Quinata
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kquinata143@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I love my Volcanoe E-Cig it really helped me kick me off the real stinky smokes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: gjm2011@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:23:58 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen H
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gjm2011@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

E-Cigarettes and their supporting products, equipment, and supplies are NOT tobacco products, do not contain tobacco, do not 'burn' as tobacco, and therefore have no business being classified as such. Senate bill SB2819 is absurd and should not even be considered, let alone passed.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: krhume2004@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 12:24:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen Hume
Organization: Individual
E-mail: krhume2004@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: fiamma@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 4:18:56 AM
Attachments: [Hawaiian SB 2819.txt](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen Lee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: fiamma@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

Hawaiian SB2819

I am not a bill writer so I will not propose an amendment (as such) to your proposed legislation.

My comments follow:

I live on the Mainland.

I purchase and use Electronic Cigarette hardware ONLY from Volcano Electronic Cigarettes located in Hawaii. I do not buy anything containing nicotine from them (nicotine is confined to the liquid that is vaporized). I buy that from the mainland from suppliers that I know exactly what is going into the liquid, and in what proportions.

I know they (Volcano) have safeguards in use to prevent the sale of these items to minors.

I find your intention to include the hardware as "tobacco products" ludicrous.

Wall chargers are not tobacco products.

Batteries are not tobacco products.

Empty plastic tanks are not tobacco products.

Atomizers are not tobacco products. The list of hardware goes on, I will not bore you with all the items.

Nicotine liquid, 'perhaps' could be classified as a tobacco product. Do you then propose to classify Nicorette gum, the nicotine patch, and the nicotine inhaler as tobacco products? I think the large pharmaceutical companies would stomp you into the ground if you tried to do that and tax their products at 70% of wholesale. You might lose your campaign money.

I tried those cessation products. The gum made me sick, the patch made me hallucinate when awake and have nightmares when asleep. One pull on that nasty inhaler and it went into the trash. I tried hypnotherapy and stiff upper lipping it and failed each time. I smoked for 55 years. I am happy to no longer smoke carcinogenic tobacco.

If you intend to drive electronic cigarette users back to carcinogenic tobacco, this new law will surely help do that. Do you really get so much money from the big tobacco firms to make this patently coercive stand? Do you really miss the tax on carcinogenic cigarettes that badly to drive people back to smoking them?

The people are not cash cows. We are not here standing about to be milked. We know hardware is not a 'tobacco product'.

We have chosen to try to be healthier and not smoke carcinogens. We have, in many cases, become much healthier and happier without carcinogenic tobacco use. We use less health care, cause less pollution, are better smelling to be around than stinky smokers, and do not litter areas with cigarette butts.

We try to kick the tobacco habit by using something else that we know has the same amount of nicotine in it that the patch, the gum and the inhaler do, but with better taste and no side effects. We are trying to save our lungs.

Personally I have been using an electronic cigarette for very close to one year. I have decreased my use of nicotine dramatically in that time without being cranky with other people and without gaining any weight. In perhaps another six months I will no longer need to use an electroic cigarette. I have not smoked a carcinogenic tobacco cigarette in all that time, nor have I wanted to do so.

If you intend to tax electronic cigarette hardware and liquids you had better be taxing nicorette gum, the nicotine patch and the nicotine inhaler at the very same rates. We will be watching.

Karen Lee

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cryptorchild411@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:10:37 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: karen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cryptorchild411@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Rather than conducting the necessary research to create a specific classification of the product and applying a fair tax policy for it, Hawaii's state legislature is merely attempting to classify the product as tobacco and apply the egregious tax rates that are applied to tobacco to electronic cigarettes too. Levying this hefty of a tax on the product would virtually wipe out any local vendors as they would not be able to compete with their out-of-state and international counterparts that are not subject to this unfair tax.

Customers would then be forced to buy their products from vendors out-of-state on the internet, or put down their ecigs and return to smoking again. Any and all local vendors would either be forced to relocate their operations to another state or face closure due to the competitive disadvantage that would be placed on them.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: karl.kittler@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:39:03 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karl Kittler
Organization: Individual
E-mail: karl.kittler@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawaii state legislature,

I am commenting to voice my opposition to the bills regarding electronic cigarettes. I am a fairly new, but very loyal customer of Volcano, an electronic cigarette supplier based in your state. This company makes every effort to supply a quality product with as much United States made components as possible. They provide a great product, and great service. This bill unfairly and unjustifiably places extreme constraints upon this business. Additionally, e-cigarettes provide an alternative to smoking which I enjoy and unlike cigarettes has no confirmed ill effects on the body. For these reasons I ask you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,
Karl Kittler

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: misskit_e2@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 5:34:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Katherine Himoto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: misskit_e2@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

please do not raise taxes on e cigs. its healthier for the environment and for your health.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hawaiiasea@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:12:42 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kathleen Greer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hawaiiasea@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kwnewell@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:54:37 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kathleen Newell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kwnewell@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: knakano@hihrhawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:13:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kati Nakano
Organization: Individual
E-mail: knakano@hihrhawaii.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I would like to say that the electronic cig. has help me in quitting smoking. That this is a better way of quitting in a more health way. Please don't raise the taxes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: katie.matutino@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 1:10:01 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Katie Kam
Organization: Individual
E-mail: katie.matutino@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: u2ckimo@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 7:53:39 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kauli murakoshi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: u2ckimo@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kawehi.collins@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:15:34 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kawehilani Collins
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kawehi.collins@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
Aloha,

My name is Kawehilani Collins and I oppose this bill to tax Electronic cigarettes. If Volcano Electronic Cigarettes is taxed 70% of all products, that would basically mean that all retail locations would not make enough profit to stay open for business. Not only would this bill make 40 full time employees, unemployed. If there is no retail locations, that means that majority of the customers would start smoking analog cigarettes again. The real debate is about Hawaii's residents and their Health. Electronic Cigarettes is a better alternative to smoking, that will provide a the nicotine content that everyone is now addicted to, (due to analog cigarettes),but not 4,000 or more nasty carcinogens. Please take a minute of your time to read this testimony, begging you to consider Hawaii's residents and their Health before making your decision.

Mahalo,
Kawehilani Collins

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kealaokakane@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 8:35:55 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kawika A. Keala
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kealaokakane@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: makana.silva@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:26:17 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kawika Paiva
Organization: Individual
E-mail: makana.silva@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

If you tax the ecigs and other products relating to it I guarante you that no one in the state of Hawaii will buy them and that people will start smuggling it to get it cheeper just like the actual cigarettes,weed,and other drugs and that means more money the state will lose. Cause people in Hawaii will be in jail. Cant go to work because of it the unemployed rate will go up. Taxes will rise to pay for the people in jail. And then more people will go to jail for not being able to afforde to pay taxes. Come on guys think this is like a chain. one thing links to another and so on and so fourth. People buy these ecigs because it taste better,it smells better,and its CHEEPER!!!! Hello think about these type of things before you ruin the entire purpose of why they were made in the first place!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kiakahagirl@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:20:01 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Keala Menza
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kiakahagirl@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mypopthecop@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:35:54 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Keavy Brennan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mypopthecop@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
why tax when you oppose SMOKING?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: swissasscheese@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 7:30:30 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: keenan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: swissasscheese@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Backhair_2000@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:50:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Keith Miller
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Backhair_2000@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Although I do not support the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors, I believe taxing anything at 70% is nothing more than a way for a state to rape the small business man. I would boycott the state of Hawaii and be sure to not buy products associated or manufactured in Hawaii. Once again the American way run off small business and force people to purchase from overseas. This legislature is pure garbage.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: khustace@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:16:55 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Keli Hustace
Organization: Individual
E-mail: khustace@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Its has definitely helped me quit smoking regular cigarettes!! I love my volcano ecig & have saved so much money!! Would never go back to smoking cigarettes!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: keli.waiolama@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:35:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Keliimakamae Waiolama
Organization: Individual
E-mail: keli.waiolama@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I feel that the act of vaporizing is such a key influence to fight against smoking cigarettes. I feel that it would only hurt the people who use the electronic cigarettes as an alternative to slowing down on smoking and eventually quitting entirely. I feel that there are many alternatives for our state to raise monies and taxing pn vaporizing will not be in the positive for the people of Hawai'i. Mahalo for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cru808@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 12:19:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kelly costa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cru808@live.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kawehi26@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:27:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kelly Kahaialii
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kawehi26@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kniriders@net.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:02:29 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kelly Luat
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kniriders@net.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I've recently changed from smoking to ecigs and its saved my life! Putting this tax on ecigs will probably make me go back to regular cigarettes since I won't be able to afford it.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: aspynmom@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:18:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kelly Seitz
Organization: Individual
E-mail: aspynmom@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Hello,

I am an average citizen who has smoked for over 20 years. I have tried just about any method you can think of to quit, to include Zyban, patches, gum and cold turkey. None of these methods worked until I started using e-cigarettes. My health has improved, and I no longer harm the people around me. I am working on "tapering" the nicotine level down until I no longer need it. The only reason I have been able to be successful is the similarity to smoking and the low cost. If e-cigarettes and supplies are taxed the same as regular cigarettes, I will probably just go back to smoking, harming myself and others. I completely agree with prohibiting sales to minors, nicotine is after all, a drug. But to classify it as a "tobacco" product does not make sense. Nicotine itself is NOT actually tobacco and should not be taxed as such. I will not be visiting Hawaii again in the future if this bill is passed. I just won't be able to afford it!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: knono@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:02:19 AM
Attachments: [testimony.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kelvin Ono
Organization: Individual
E-mail: knono@hawaiiintel.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

While I agree that the selling of any form of inhalant (whether it be in the form of smoke, vapor or otherwise) should not be sold to minors, I disagree with the taxation and categorizing of ecigs (electronic cigarettes) as a form of tobacco.

There is a difference in smoking and vaping:

“**Smoke** is a collection of airborne solid and liquid particulates and gases emitted when a material undergoes combustion or pyrolysis, together with the quantity of air that is entrained or otherwise mixed into the mass.” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smoke>)

“A **vapor** (American spelling) or **vapour** (see spelling differences) is a substance in the gas phase at a temperature lower than its critical point.” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vapor>)

I am a smoker of 20+ years and am in the process of quitting tobacco smoking. I have been tobacco free for 3 weeks now because of my ecigs. My wife and family are happy that I have changed from tobacco to ecigs.

This tax is being used to punish the people who have found the benefits of quitting traditional cigarettes by converting to ecigs. The only reason people associate ecigs to cigarettes is because of the name of the device. If ecigs were called something else such as a nicotine vaporizer, would it still be considered for a tobacco tax?

What about coffee drinkers? Coffee is a luxury. There are people who go to Starbucks every day to get their caffeine fix. Why not tax the coffee like alcohol?

The end result would be that I would probably go back to smoking traditional cigarettes because ecigs would cost more than traditional cigarettes if the tax is applied. We have a great local company that provides me with quality products at a great price. This tax will cause them to go out of business. Please do not pass this tax on to non-tobacco products!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bucky-51@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:24:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ken OConnor
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bucky-51@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I use a E cig but with no nicotine because I quit smoking but can't get rid of the habit this bill would include me and I don't smoke.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kpar1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:39:01 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ken park
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kpar1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dkspanjah@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:17:59 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kendall Kishida
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dkspanjah@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Smokeless tobacco products are a great alternative to smoking tobacco with much less consequence. I feel that taxing tobacco alternative products will subdue their sales making it more expensive and less available to smokers seeking help. I oppose this bill and any bill like it.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dtserverolutions@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:18:40 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kenneth Brian
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dtserverolutions@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I agree to not allow the selling or distribution of nicotine products to minors. However it is unfair to tax a none tobacco product as you do other tobacco products. Many individuals seek electronic cigarettes as an alternative to smoking. If this was to be taxed to the point that the electronic cigarettes where as expensive or near the price range of traditional cigarettes many people that have turned to them as an alternative may see fit to start smoking traditional cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kenneth.higley@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:18:30 PM
Attachments: [SB2819ElectronicCigaretteTestimony.pdf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kenneth Higley
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kenneth.higley@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Testimony Regarding [SB2819](#)
RELATING TO SALES OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES
Monday, January 30th, 2012

My name is Kenneth Higley. I am a resident of Indiana and a customer of VolcanoECigs.com which is based in Honolulu, Hawaii. I am a former smoker of 1 pack a day for the last 7 years. I am proudly able to say "former" smoker due entirely to the electronic cigarette products sold by Volcano. I have been tobacco free for one month now which is the longest I have been able to do so since I began smoking, I have tried numerous times to quit, but have been met with failure each time despite using several types of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) including nicotine augmented gum, patches and inhalers.

My grandfather is 65 and began smoking cigarettes in his teens. Up until 3 months ago, when he discovered electronic cigarettes, he had smoked 3 packs per day for the last 30 years. He has not had a single cigarette in 3 months and shows no signs of relapse. Electronic cigarettes have changed both of our lives for the better.

The National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health prepared and continues to update a report entitled, "Cigarette Smoking: Health Risks and How to Quit (PDQ®)" which can be read in full at <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/prevention/control-of-tobacco-use/HealthProfessional/page4>. There are many significant quotations contained therein related to the negative health effects of smoking both to the smoker and nonsmokers via second hand smoke. It also contains findings related to the use of NRTs for the cessation of smoking. The following are excerpts from that report:

"In the United States, smoking-related illnesses accounted for an estimated 443,000 deaths each year between 2000 and 2004.[1] On average, these deaths occur 12 years earlier than would be expected, so the aggregate annual loss exceeds 5 million life-years.[2] These deaths are primarily due to smoking's role as a major cause of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and chronic lung diseases"

"Tobacco products are the single, major avoidable cause of cancer, causing more than 155,000 deaths among smokers in the United States annually due to various cancers."

"Smoking also has substantial effects on the health of nonsmokers. Environmental or secondhand tobacco smoke is implicated in causing lung cancer and coronary heart disease."

"Many health risks related to tobacco smoking can be reduced by smoking cessation. Smokers who quit smoking before age 50 years have up to half the risk of dying within 15 years compared with people who continue to smoke, and the risk of dying is reduced substantially even among persons who stop smoking after age 70 years.[1] The risk of lung cancer is 30% to 50% lower than that of continuing smokers after 10 years of abstinence, and the risk of oral and esophageal cancer is halved within 5 years of cessation."

It is obvious even to those who are smoking years off of their lives that the harmful effects of tobacco use can be devastating and highly common. As the report states, nearly 443,000 Americans die each year from smoking related illness. It is in the best interest of all Americans that the number of people who smoke tobacco products be reduced as much as possible, as soon as possible and by whatever means necessary within the bounds of common sense and the United States Constitution.

Nicotine is a powerfully addictive drug. Time Magazine reported in a June 24, 2001 article by Christine Gorman entitled, "Why It's So Hard to Quit Smoking" that the relapse rate for those who attempt to quit smoking is 75% which is similar to that of recovering alcoholics and heroin addicts. US Senator Bill Bradley (D) of New Jersey proposed legislation that would require cigarette packages to have a warning label that states, "Smoking is addictive. Once you start you may not be able to stop." Those of us who have tried to quit unsuccessfully regret the day we ever smoked our first cigarette. If the friend who gave me my first cigarette had said to me, "Not only will these things slowly kill you and reduce your quality of life, but you will know that they are doing so and will be unable to stop yourself," I would have handed it right back.

Tobacco smoke contains over 4000 chemicals including 43 known human carcinogens. The vapor produced while using an electronic cigarette contains only 4 main ingredients: United States Pharmacopeia (USP) grade propylene glycol, USP grade vegetable glycerin, USP grade pure nicotine and food grade flavoring agents including many of the same chemicals used to flavor common food products. None of the preceding chemicals are known human carcinogens. Electronic cigarettes contain no organic particulates (smoke) or tar. They do not produce a lingering cloud of foul smelling and eye, nose, throat and lung irritating smoke. They do not cause bad breath and they do not cause staining of the teeth. They do not cause cancer, emphysema or tooth and gum disease. There is no "smoker's cough" associated with the use of electronic cigarettes because there is no particulate matter that collects in the lungs.

Many people, including medical professionals, postulate that the addiction to nicotine is only one of the components of the addiction to smoking. Smokers are also psychologically addicted to the act of smoking itself. This is where electronic cigarettes differ from other NRTs. NRTs such as Nicorette, Nicoderm, lozenges and even inhalers have an unusually high relapse rate. Conversely, anecdotal evidence and some limited scientific studies have shown that the use of electronic cigarettes as a cessation tool has a significantly higher success rate than other NRTs. A smoker feels at ease by the movements of bringing the cigarette to his mouth, taking a puff, feeling the warmth and seeing the smoke exhaled. Electronic cigarettes provide a means of NRT that also meets the criteria of the psychological addiction in addition to the chemical addiction. Many people who use electronic cigarettes are able to reduce the number of cigarettes they smoke per day or even quit tobacco entirely immediately after switching to electronic cigarettes. The liquid used in electronic cigarettes can be purchased with varying doses of nicotine or no nicotine at all. This allows a new user to start at the same dose that they would be receiving from tobacco products and gradually reduce the dose over time until they no longer feel as though they need the nicotine at all. After that, they may begin to break themselves of the psychological addiction by reducing the number of times per day they use the electronic cigarette until they no longer feel the need to use it at all.

Even if a person is unable or unwilling to work toward complete cessation of nicotine use or break the psychological addiction to the act of using the device, the important thing to realize is that they are no longer using a product that is known to cause nearly 443,000 deaths per year in America and is a significant risk to public health at large.

I fully support the measure to prohibit the sale of any nicotine containing product to minors. The vast majority of electronic cigarette retailers require age verification prior to purchase and refuse to sell their products, even those products that are nicotine free, to those under the age of 18. I applaud this practice and the show of responsibility those retailers have voluntarily displayed. I do not think any electronic cigarette retailer or consumer would be opposed to a measure that wrote into law a practice that is already being followed.

However, I am in strong opposition to the classifying of electronic cigarettes as “tobacco products” for the purposes of taxation. Electronic cigarettes are in no way, shape or form a tobacco product. They are more closely related to other smoking cessation aids and NRTs such as Nicoderm patches and Nicorette gum. The nicotine delivery system used by electronic cigarettes does in no way involve the burning of chemical laden organic tobacco leaves for the purposes of producing tar which collects in the lungs and transfers nicotine to the bloodstream. Instead, USP grade, hygroscopic, propylene glycol is used to collect water vapor which is inhaled into the lungs or held in the mouth to transfer nicotine into the bloodstream.

It is my opinion that the State of Hawaii and all other States should view the use of electronic cigarettes as a useful tool to help those who are addicted to nicotine discontinue smoking tobacco products. Doing so could indeed lead to a reduction in the number of smoking related illnesses and deaths which would in turn put less strain on the medical industry, health insurance industry and demonstrate that the State takes the basic principles of the inalienable right of all People to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. It could result in the citizens of Hawaii leading longer, higher quality lives free of the dangers associated with inhaling tobacco smoke including those who do not smoke themselves, but rather are exposed to the smoke second hand.

I am unaware of any State or National laws that classify Nicorette, Nicoderm or other NRTs as tobacco products for the purposes of taxation and I see no reason that electronic cigarettes should be singled out in this regard. Doing so will certainly be devastating to the electronic cigarette industry. Due to the nature of electronic cigarette, many users view them as a gadget and thus purchase their supplies via the internet. With a tax on electronic cigarettes equal to that of tobacco cigarettes, Hawaii based electronic cigarette retailers and producers such as Volcano would have absolutely no chance of competing in the marketplace. Customers of Volcano and other Hawaii based retailers would easily switch to a retailer based in another State or even in another country where no such restrictive taxation were present if the cost of electronic cigarette products were to drastically increase as proposed by this measure. Hawaii based retailers would be forced to relocate to other states in order to continue business. The jobs that this new industry has created would be lost and gone from Hawaii. The property, income and sales taxes associated with these companies would be lost to Hawaii.

Most importantly, the State of Hawaii legislature would appear to be making an announcement to the people who call Hawaii home that their representatives do not care that the smokers of Hawaii have found a method to help them discontinue slowly killing themselves and harming their bodies. The measure as presented would declare that the State of Hawaii only wants its residents to put dollars in the treasury whether it be from destroying their health or improving it. I believe that treating the two as equals is not in the best interest of the State or its citizens

I implore each and every one of you to put the lives and well being of your citizens first and the need or desire to collect taxes on a potentially life saving, extending and improving product far behind. Please be brave enough to set the standard for the rest of the Country in showing that you are not willing to allow taxation to prevent people who wish to better themselves from doing so. There is certainly a need to keep nicotine products out of the hands of children and I applaud you for taking steps toward that goal. However, doing so by taxing electronic cigarettes into extinction is not the most prudent way of going about it.

I thank you for your time and sincerely hope you take my words to heart.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: CaptKen111@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:52:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kenneth Janes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: CaptKen111@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
Dear Sirs;

While I am not sure how this piece of Legislation has come about, I can only surmise it is because of the decline in actual tobacco sales, and your need to generate further revenues. Your increasing effort to Tax Tabacco, in the affront to Fund Child Health Care Programs, to only be raided at a later date to Balance what ever Budget's is disgusting to say the least.

This has been and will always be a Punitive Tax and you All should be ashamed.

If this product the " E-cigarette "

is to be considered a nicotine deliver device, then so should nicotine losenges, nicorette gum, and nicotine patches.

If your concern is, purchase by minor's, then that is the Law that should be considered.

All this Hyperboyle about being a Gateway device is total BS.

As both the House and Senate proposal's have stated, " potential harmful ingredients " Really?

Were any of you outside breathing the Air choked with Madame Pele's Vog last week, you want Harmful ingredients, try stopping that!

OK enough of my rant,

I Have been a cigarette smoker for over 40 years and within the last few months have been using one of these devices, and I have stopped SMOKING cigarettes. It's not that easy with the patches, the gum,the losenges, because of all the years of repeatedly bringing something to your mouth is hard to get away from.

IT WORKED FOR ME AS WELL AS OTHER'S,

two of my co-workers have had the same success.

Taxing these Device's and it's components is not the answer.

Send it Back to Committee for further indepth study and then make the right decision.

Mahalo,

Kenneth Janes

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: xmorbidx2000@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 3:20:20 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cpl. Kevin E Smith
Organization: Cpl/USMC
E-mail: xmorbidx2000@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

I would just like to add my oppinion to the many others that appose this Bill.

Keeping e-Cigs and like materials out of the hands of minors is a great idea, but i do not agree that e-cigs, or the componants of e-cigs should be considered "tobacco products" even if it is just for taxation, i also think that a 70% tax rate is horribly rediculous. I have been able to stop smoking regular cigarettes permanantly after trying several times with other means with e-cigs, they should be a smoking cessation tool, not a taxable "tobacco product";. e-cigs are helping me live a smoke free life. dont make the means to accuire un-bearable.. please...

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Kgima@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:14:50 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kevin Gima
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Kgima@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cfikevin@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 11:33:09 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kevin M Hanrahan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cfikevin@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
Prohibit the sale to minors - fine.

Raise the taxes to prohibitive levels? You are only harming your own constituents.

I live in California - I patronize a Hawaii company that markets these products. Implement these taxes, my patronage will shift to a competitor in, say, North Carolina.

Its a fair bet you will have net tax revenue decreases by doing this. How much of Volcano's business is from out of state?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kevin@iPhoneRepairs.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:19:54 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kevin Miller
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kevin@iPhoneRepairs.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Greed is the ruin of many. Taxation on tobacco products can be justified due to healthcare costs, perhaps. But, do you tax nicotine gums and patches as tobacco products? If not, then, to tax electronic cigarettes as tobacco products is wrong. And, e-cigarettes have not been shown to cause the myriad of health problems associated with true tobacco products. You will serve yourself only in loss of jobs and loss of tourism revenue (and associated taxes). The e-cigarette community is well established and will actively campaign against tourism to Hawaii if such a poor measure as this is passed.

It is shameful to link sales to minors with raising taxes. Make e-cigarette sales illegal to minors, but take your job killing tax bill out (at least man up and vote for raising taxes in a bill of its own). The bill, as written, is shameful. May the politicians supporting such blatant governmental misuse of power be held accountable by the public. I will definitely give money to your state in defeating such shameful politicians.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: basscase_2000@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:47:55 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kevin newsham
Organization: Individual
E-mail: basscase_2000@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Members of the legislature,
I am sure nobody supports the use of or sale to minors of electronic cigarettes. And though not recognized by the FDA as a smoking cessation device, I can give testimony to the fact that the products I purchased from a Hawaiian company, are the very reason I no longer smoke cigarettes. My health has improved greatly since starting these products.

Additional taxes will fiscally put these products out of reach for me, and I fear I will start smoking again. Politicians are concerned about health care costs for its citizens, to the point they are taking over insuring citizens. What could be more expensive than all of the diseases associated with long term smoking.

I realize revenues are down in this economy, and governments are scrambling for cash to cover commitments. But this new tax will do more to hurt the revenues, and the health of your citizens in the long run.

Retailers are already making plans to move locations and distribution from your state if this passes, so no increase in revenue will come. With every business that leaves, people, property taxes, and sales tax leave with them.

Please reconsider. Separate the tax issue from the minor sales portion of the bill, and drop the tax portion. It is a lose-lose situation for all involved.

Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kevinrichter@att.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:38:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kevin Richter
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kevinrichter@att.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This bill is ridiculous and the premise on which it is based upon is false. This product cannot possibly be deemed a "tobacco product" when there is no tobacco in it. Nicotine liquid is not tobacco plain and simple thus this bill should be denied.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kntorian@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:40:43 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kevin torian
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kntorian@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kwrinn@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:33:16 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kevin Wrinn
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kwrinn@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kiwihaney@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 11:09:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kieron Haney
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kiwihaney@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

After 38 years of smoking I quit thanks to e-cigarettes. There is no tobacco in e-cigarettes. Do you really want people to quit smoking or is this just another government money grab?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lilboop@epbfi.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:34:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kim A Molloy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lilboop@epbfi.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Please stop the tax increase on e-cigs in Hawaii. Leave the vaping community alone. They are an asset to the State of Hawaii and all over the world. If you don't vape, then you don't need to put your hands in the money jar. Leave them alone!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lilboop@epbfi.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:18:39 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kim Molloy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lilboop@epbfi.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Please do not ban the electronic cigarettes. These smoke devices are so much better than tobacco cigarettes. They are making the world a much better place.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kevinandkim@frontiernet.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:30:56 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kimberlee decker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kevinandkim@frontiernet.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I smoked between two and three packs of cigarettes from the time I was a teenager til the age of 41 , I am now 43 years old and have completely stopped smoking cigarettes by replacing them with electronics and vapor. I also now "Vape" a liquid that contains ZERO percent nicotine. I had previously tried hypnosis , chantix , the patch as well as gums and lozenges with no success.

I became aware of electronic cigarettes when I was lucky enough to see another person using one in a public area.

If it were not for this product I know I would still be having trouble breathing. I can not imagine taking away a positive alternative to smoking (which we all know is a deadly habit). There is no proven scientific information to suggest that Vaping is not a much healthier alternative with a much higher rate of success compared to Smoking (much different that vapor) . I hope that everyone informs themselves and reads information provided by CASA and similar groups before passing legislation that could potentially harm peoples health by taking away an option that is not harmful to others , the way second hand smoke it.

sincerely,

Kimberlee Decker

607-843-2174

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: gracegirl1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:16:06 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimberlee Metz
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gracegirl1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I currently live in California but visit Hawaii quite often. I am opposed to this bill because I use electronic cigarettes. I am 54 years old & had smoked since I was 14. I have tried everything to quit smoking including the nicotine patch, the nicotine gum & lozenges, hypnosis, acupuncture, Chantix (which made me feel suicidal & I had to get off it after only 3 days) Nothing worked for me I'd be smoking again after a month. I decided to try these electronic cigarettes & have been quit from smoking now for almost 8 months. This is a miracle for me! I use to cough constantly & now I don't cough & sleep much better & have more energy. If you decide to pass this bill I will boycott your state. This is the best thing that has come out ever for smokers. You can also titrate down to 0mg of nicotine. If I didn't have electronic cigarettes anymore I know I would go back to smoking again. Please do not pass this bill & make it so expensive that I have to go back to smoking. I believe the cigarette companies are behind all this because people are switching over & it threatens their profits. Don't support the BIG TOBACCO companies. Please vote no on this bill!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kimberlyhk@charter.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:53:05 AM
Attachments: [to vape or not to vape.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimberly Kostuik
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kimberlyhk@charter.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

January 31, 2012

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident of South Carolina and I very much OPPOSE your Bill HB2557 to be signed into law.

My fiancé and I plan to be married in your state later this year and if this law is passed we will not be visiting Hawaii then or any time for that matter.

Let me explain to you how vaping has helped save my life:

I lost my mother in 2005 to lung cancer. Currently my father is fighting for his life-why; lung cancer. You might be asking yourself about now well this doesn't affect her-she should just not smoke. But see that's where the problem comes in I was a smoker for 14 years, 2 packs a day for the matter.

January 19, 2012 I celebrated one year of being smoke free-how did I quit-ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES!

Not only have I quit, I have converted 20 other smokers to kicking the nasty habit. Trust me I will spread the word to those vapors as well about your attempts to pass this bill which will negatively impact us, possibly eliminating electronic cigarettes as we know them. Not all of them will take the time to write to you but they will know it was your state that passed the law.

I am one of the biggest advocates of electronic vaping you will find. I feel that this bill is simply allowing the legislators to be bullied and strong armed by the big tobacco companies and their greed for money along with continuing to contaminate us with unnecessary drugs, i.e. Carpet Glue along with 400,000 unnecessary drugs.

STOP and think about your future generations-if they were to smoke, which is certainly their given right-would you rather them smoke 400,000+ drugs or water vapor? The answer seems logical and simple to me. VOTE NO TO LAW HB2557! It's our given right to vape! Hope to visit HAWAII later this year?

Sincerely,

Kimberly Kostuik

129 Montclair Drive

Mauldin, South Carolina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cktk92@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:56:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kirk kawamoto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cktk92@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kkreed527@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:49:37 AM
Attachments: [E-Cigarette Bill SB2819 Testimony.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kristina Murphy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kkreed527@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Please OPPOSE This bill! Please consider an alternative to taxing a healthier alternative to smoking.
Please devise a bill that is specific to address only preventative measures against underage use.

Signed with the following note added:

I would respectfully request Bill SB 2819 to be opposed. I believe underage use should be discouraged, but to categorize E-cigarettes in with other tobacco products is wrong, and should be opposed until more studies are done. Studies to either prove they should be categorized with tobacco products, or lumped into the category of smoking cessation products. Please do not act and support this, and do a disservice to your constituents. Please devise another bill which directly addresses underage use of E-cigarettes.

The World Health Organization reports that smoking with tobacco (smoking, chewing, snuffing and dipping tobacco from leaves) is the leading preventable cause of death worldwide with estimates of it causing 5.4 million deaths per year. (source: Wikipedia)

There have not been enough studies, but a study at Boston University School of Public Health in 2010 concluded "electronic cigarettes are safer than real cigarettes and may aid in breaking the habit of smoking. Researchers said that while further studies on electronic cigarettes were needed, [f]ew, if any, chemicals at levels detected in electronic cigarettes raise serious health concerns." Electronic cigarettes were found to be "much safer" than traditional tobacco ones, and had a level of toxicity similar to existing nicotine replacements." (source: Wikipedia)

"In the report, the level of carcinogens in electronic cigarettes was found to be up to 1,000 times lower than regular cigarettes. It also said early evidence shows that electronic cigarettes may help people to stop smoking by simulating a tobacco cigarette."(source: Wikipedia)

I have been smoking for over 15 years. I have tried to quit many times, using the nicotine patch, nicotine gum, cold turkey (no nicotine), Ziban and Chantix. I honestly didn't want to quit. I wanted to for my health and monetary reasons, but I didn't want to give it up either. I enjoyed smoking.

After trying to quit smoking again with Chantix, a study came out in the spring of 2011 stating it had even more harmful side effects, than originally thought. So I immediately stopped taking Chantix, but to keep from smoking real cigarettes, I decide to try out an Electronic Cigarettes from Hawaii's own Volcano E-cigarette Company, before giving up once again.

For the first time in my life, I know without a doubt, that as long as E-cigarettes are around, I will never have a real cigarette again. I now have something to keep me from going to the real, harmful cigarette. The liquid I use for the E-cigarette has 4 ingredients: Propylene Glycol, Glycerin, Artificial Flavoring and Nicotine. Propylene Glycol and Glycerin are in many medical grade nebulizers and asthma inhalers. In the near future, I plan using liquid that has no nicotine and then only using the E-cigarette on special occasions, should I feel the urge. The E-cigarette

has gives me the similar feelings I get, and I am satisfied with it. I don't even want a cigarette. I can say that with 100% conviction. E-cigarettes help me.

I leave it with this:

"As of April 2010, The American Association of Public Health Physicians (AAPHP) supports electronic cigarettes sales to adults, "because the possibility exists to save the lives of four million of the eight million current adult American smokers who will otherwise die of a tobacco-related illness over the next twenty years." (source: Wikipedia)

Classify anyway you want, but do not tax it. It helps people. It serves as a healthier alternative. But you lawmakers are smart, can't you classify it, but not tax it? Please don't make this about money. But if that is what it is, I imagine in the long run it will be more costly if you did decide to tax E-cigarettes. If those people who could have been alive paying taxes, died because of a smoking related illness, some of those could have chosen the E-cigarette, and lived much longer. But, if you make it too expensive by taxing E-cigarettes, it will serve as a deterrent. Of course, if your smokers which already pay a tax, move to E-cigarettes, then you are losing out on revenue currently. I guess you are in a pickle. But please consider the fact, that by not taxing the healthier alternative you are helping people. That has to be priority in your determination. Like I said before, please don't make it about the money though. Make it about the kids, but please consider an alternative to taxing E-cigarettes.

If the taxes are raised, you will also force excellent businesses out of state, as neither they, nor their customers can shoulder a 70% tax rate hike. Instead, oppose this bill, and make Hawaii an example. Create another bill supporting preventive measures against underage use, but without the tax increase like the traditional lethal tobacco products.

Please Oppose this Bill!

Kristina Murphy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sebacca@charter.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:07:30 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kristine Weston
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sebacca@charter.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I think banning the sale to minors is fine but taxing e cigs as a tobacco product is wrong and will affect all vapors who use them in place of the serious real cigarettes. If this law is passed in Hawaii I will never visit Hawaii again and go to Jamiaca instead. Tax ecigs and take away another freedom we have!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: apexified@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:36:45 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kristopher Petersen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: apexified@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

In regards to the measure: I would just like to take a moment to express my opinion that the negative consequences of this measure far outweigh the good that is intended. Electronic cigarettes are not Tobacco products. While tobacco has a long and storied, nearly criminal, history and deserves to be taxed out of existence, electronic cigarettes are helping people to find refuge from the ill effects of tobacco products by giving them a healthy alternative. The overwhelmingly positive effects they have had on the lives of people held in the grip of an addiction to cigarettes cannot be overlooked. And to effectively make them less accessible through taxation is in opposition to the idea behind taxing them in the first place. In other words: if this tax is being levied with the intention of helping people, it will ultimately hurt them by making a nearly harmless alternative to smoking less attractive. The facts and the nature of the product should be studied further before such a harsh hand is dealt against them.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kris

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Oblivion2k@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:08:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kurtis stalnaker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Oblivion2k@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I oppose the proposed legislation classifying electronic cigarettes as tobacco products and taxing them as such. I am an electronic cigarette user, and used electronic cigarettes as a cessation device. I have not used tobacco in months thanks to electronic cigarettes, and with no withdrawal symptoms. If this law were in effect when I blwas shopping for my first electronic cigarette, it would have been prohibitively expensive, and I would still be smoking to this day. Please oppose this measure for people like me who just wish to live a healthier life.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kajust79@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 3:58:50 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kyle Just
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kajust79@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This is a slap in the face to all those who have quit traditional cigarettes and replaced with electronic cigarettes, greatly reducing the harm to ones body. Do not pass this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kyle@n3sys.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:15:01 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kyle Kazarian
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kyle@n3sys.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

It is unfair to treat these products exactly like tobacco products thus this bill needs to be amended.
Taxing products that help get people away from smoking tobacco is wrong!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kbruffrider@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:30:19 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kyle
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kbruffrider@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kblue121085@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 6:41:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kyle schoenbein
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kblue121085@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill as it would effectively drive great companies like volcano out of business. Ecigs have been a tremendous help my health as it has helped me give up smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kjm030584@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:36:26 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kyle
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kjm030584@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am all for banning the sale of personal vaporizing devices to minors, but introducing a tax could smother one of your local businesses. I am not a HI resident, but I don't want to see a product that literally saves lives become too expensive for people to afford or have it ultimately become unavailable as a smoking cessation device. This bill just makes the state look greedy, you make enough money from tourism. Personal vaporizers do not contain tobacco, there is no combustion, no smoke, no carcinogens. HI, do not let this bill pass, do some research and do not jump to a conclusion based on greed and ignorance.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: too_hardcore4u@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:23:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kyle
Organization: Individual
E-mail: too_hardcore4u@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: viper4723@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:58:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kylee Wells
Organization: Individual
E-mail: viper4723@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I live in Texas however I Vote NO to this bill,

(If Banned)I am an E-Cigarette Smoker and if it gets banned then I and thousands of people would be forced back to Real Toxic Cigarettes, we will die! I also thought we are trying to get rid of pollution so this makes no sense.

(If Taxed)If E-cigs are taxed then I don't know what I could do, I and many people are already having trouble with money, There is no Tobacco in an E-cigarette so I don't understand how y'all can even do this, I'm sorry but its time to stop being greedy, there is no way to move into a clean future if being greedy is all y'all care about, Trust in the Government is also just going to go even further down.

"We The People" Oppose of this, its time to create a real future, stop being greedy and finally bring some peace to this country, I'm fed up with this.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: giraphants@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:18:04 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: la aukai
Organization: Individual
E-mail: giraphants@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
it helps me getting off of cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cabral1182@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:26:39 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: lance cabral
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cabral1182@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lbustamente@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:22:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: lani bustamente
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lbustamente@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lannybooth@embarqmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:35:29 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lanny Booth
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lannybooth@embarqmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I'm 62 years old and was a heavy smoker for over 40 years. E-cigs were the ONLY way I could get off of tobacco. I have been tobacco free for over two years. Restricting the sale to minors is completely correct, but applying the tobacco tax to e-cigs is completely inappropriate. This is your opportunity to lead the nation in the right direction by encouraging the use of e-cigs instead of deterring it. Please be smart! Thank you

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: o1coolpapa@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:40:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Larry Enfield
Organization: Individual
E-mail: o1coolpapa@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Tweeti623@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:10:04 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laura Lee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Tweeti623@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lmiller@mattsonwitt.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:34:58 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laura Miller
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lmiller@mattsonwitt.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. I have struggled to quit smoking cigarettes for many years. Using the electric cigarette I am finally succeeding. I have lost my mother and both triplet brothers to lung cancer.....I do not want to be next.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: laura-nunez1@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:53:28 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laura Nunez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: laura-nunez1@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ayem@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:40:34 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laurisa Miller
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ayem@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Please don't classify ecigs as cigarettes. The taxation would be damaging to this clean alternative to smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: farinsheart@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:35:40 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: lawrence gorgonio
Organization: Individual
E-mail: farinsheart@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
no tobacco in here, IDIOTS!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: l8_n@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:31:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Layton Okunami
Organization: Individual
E-mail: l8_n@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kainoaakana808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:01:20 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Leanne Akana
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kainoaakana808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: laf365@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:28:24 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: lee francis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: laf365@live.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Dont tax. You will just take away hawaii businesses and make people import then to avoid the taxes.
Minors shouldnt be able to buy e cigs but taxing ecigs like cigarettes is ludicrous, unless you want to tax pharmaceutical companies that make nicerette gum and nicotine inhalers too.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: llechanko@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:36:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lee Lenchanko
Organization: Individual
E-mail: llechanko@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
why tax when you oppose SMOKING?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lees1210@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:28:37 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lee Sun W
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lees1210@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dannygarf@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:40:21 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: lenny garber
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dannygarf@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Lheo_20042000@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:10:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Leo Garcia
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Lheo_20042000@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Platoleob@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:23:42 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Leo Plato
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Platoleob@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am a user of the vapor system and agree it should not be sold to kids under 18 but don't not agree with a tax on it like tobacco because it is not tobacco, the cost would be to much then I would be forced to go back to smoking tobacco, then all the federal tax money can pay my doctor bill from all the health problems from smoking tobacco. I think it boils down that you are greedy and can't keep your hand out of everyones pocket. It is not tobacco!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lewiswalker@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:48:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lewis Walker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lewiswalker@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I do not live in Hawaii but if this bill is passed I will not ever vacation there again. Electronic cigarettes have changed my life completely. I have smoked for close to 20 years having tried to quit numerous times unsuccessfully. Last May I bought my first e-cigarette and have not had any desire for an actual cigarette. I was overweight, diabetic, had high cholesterol and blood pressure. I have since had the energy to lose 60 lbs and have eliminated all these ailments. Electronic cigarette obviously are not the reason I lost the weight but I couldnt have quit smoking and lost the weight without the help of an e-cigarette. I do not cough all the time like I used to. All and all I am a completely different man having switched to e-cigarette. My wife and daughter both are amazed with my health. This tax will discourage people to try to find healthier alternatives and that greatly saddens me. The studies have not proven any serious health affects but yet the e-cigarette is being labeled unfairly as a tobacco product. This kind of tax is just outrageous and will do more harm than good. I hope you consider opposing this so others have the same chance to find a healthier lifestlye. Like I said before, I will not visit Hawaii if this passes for any reason and will encourage others to do the same.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: liankondo@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 6:38:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Liann Kondo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: liankondo@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

There are, no second hand and it leave no after smells , not harsh chemicals, also theres no tobacco in it causing no tar build up

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: peachcobbler66@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 3:53:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lianne Gaspar
Organization: Individual
E-mail: peachcobbler66@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: liannejumawan@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:00:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: lianne jumawan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: liannejumawan@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lwilliams@i3solutions.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 3:10:11 PM
Attachments: [SB2819 - Linc Williams Testimony.pdf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linc Williams
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lwilliams@i3solutions.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Aloha Representative,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen in regards to bill HB2557. I grew up in Maui and consider it my true home. I am lucky enough to return to the islands on a frequent basis. I smoked for over 20 years – the last 15 of those years attempting to quit multiple times and failing, After my last attempt with “approved cessation” and adverse effects from Chantix –I quit trying to quit smoking. I gave up, convinced I’d die a smoker. I picked up an e-cigarette June of 2009 in a half-hearted attempt to cut back on what had become a 4+ pack-a-day habit. Within 3 months I was tobacco free. The results? I have lost 65 pounds, I no longer have to take diabetic medication to control my blood sugars, I my breathing has improved greatly! Most importantly I am No longer a smoker!

The products I use come from a Hawaiian local company, Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes. Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes is a locally owned and operated Electronic Cigarette and Accessories retailer/supplier with 5 current retail locations and one warehouse/shipping center located in Honolulu. they have been in business for nearly three years and currently employ over 30 full-time employees locally and are one of the fastest growing businesses in the state. Bill HB2557, introduced by Speaker Say as a package put together for Governor Abercrombie, directly affects their local operation and jeopardizes their ability to continue operations in the State of Hawaii and I wanted to contact you to voice our concerns and ask for your help in getting this bill defeated.

The electronic cigarette, also known as an “e-cig”, “an e-cigarette”, “a personal vaporizer”, a “PV”, a “nicotine vaporizer” and many other things is a device used to vaporize liquid that can optionally contain varying levels of nicotine (and in many cases no nicotine at all). It is used currently by thousands of people locally and tens of millions of people nationally everyday as an alternative to cigarettes and in situations where cigarettes are not permitted. This product is intended for smokers and others addicted to nicotine who are looking for a less hazardous way to maintain, decrease, or otherwise eliminate their nicotine usage and avoid known risks to their own health caused by smoking and the health and safety of those around them.

The name electronic cigarette is quite deceiving since the device actually contains no tobacco and produces no smoke. The lack of combustion results in reduced or eliminated carcinogens, zero first-hand/second-hand/third-hand smoke, zero tar, and greatly reduced harm to the user. Unlike traditional cigarettes which contain thousands of chemicals and carcinogens, the vaporizing fluid used with an electronic cigarette only contains 4 ingredients including Nicotine (optional), Flavoring (optional), USP Grade Propylene Glycol and USP Grade Glycerol. Propylene Glycol and Glycerol are substances that are contained in thousands of consumer products including nicotine and asthma inhalers and are recognized by the FDA as generally safe for consumption

Bill HB2557 aims to classify electronic cigarettes as a tobacco product, restrict the sale of the product to minors under the age of 18, and subject the sale of all electronic cigarette related products to a 70% tobacco tax regardless of whether or not the product actually contains tobacco. While I agree that products should be restricted from being sold to minors. The bill in its current form has many unintended negative consequences that will effectively end all future sales of the product in the state by

local vendors and force thousands of users of the product to buy from out of state vendors via the internet or return to smoking altogether which has already been proven to be an eventual death sentence.

The bill as it is written shows a fundamental lack of knowledge of electronic cigarettes, how they are made, what it does, and how it is sold. An electronic cigarette is an electronic device made up of many different common electronic components such as batteries, buttons, metal tips, charging components, plastic bottles,...etc. All of these item are sold separately or as a kit and many of the components can actually be used in conjunction with many other standard electronic devices such as cellphones. In fact nicotine, which may or may not be derived from a tobacco source, only makes up about 2% of all the products sold. I think we can all agree that if I buy a battery from Volcano, that can in no way be perceived as retailing a "tobacco product". However the current bill proposes to classify all of the products as electronic cigarette related tobacco products and subject us to the standing 70% tobacco tax which was enacted with traditional tobacco products in mind.

The general cost of a fully functioning electronic cigarette kit is upwards of \$70, much higher than that of a pack of cigarettes. Levying a 70% tax on every component and accessory of an electronic cigarette would effectively make it much more expensive than a traditional tobacco cigarette and would effectively force locals to buy from out-of-state and international suppliers (who are not subject to this tax) via the internet or return to smoking altogether. Furthermore, this tax would ultimately make it impossible for Volcano to compete and would force them to either move out of state or close the business altogether. This means a loss of jobs, a loss of tax revenues that the state is already collecting, and ultimately forcing the will of the state on its smoking population by forcing them to purchase their products out-of-state or return to smoking.

I implore you to reexamine Bill HB2557 and modify it to reflect age based restrictions only!

Sincerely

Linc Williams

Bristow VA

703-606-2939

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lindamdup@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:09:28 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Dupler
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lindamdup@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to any bill that would make it more difficult for those of us who have finally been able to quit cigarettes. I am 70 years old (smoked for 50 of those years) and tried every quit smoking method imaginable. When I picked up a personal vaporizer, I was finally able to quit cigarettes altogether a year ago. My doctor has investigated electronic cigarettes and tells me that they are as harmless as a pacifier is to a baby. Since I'm widowed (my husband died of lung cancer two years ago) my income is solely from social security. Heavy taxes on personal vaporizers would probably cause me to go back to cigarettes. I'm well aware of the fact that the manufacturers of tobacco cigarettes want any legislation that would up the cost and limit the use of electronic cigarettes. They have strong lobby groups and donate heavily to legislators that will curb their competitors. In England, they are promoting the use of personal vaporizers as a healthy way of "smoking" without harm to either the user or anyone around them as there is no "second hand" smoke. Please don't do anything to deter adults from the use of electronic cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lindajeancbs@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:49:30 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Sneed
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lindajeancbs@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This is a tobacco free product. The closest thing to smoking without the harmful side effects to anyone.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Ishariq77@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:34:58 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: linsey shariq
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Ishariq77@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I have smoked for 15 years and for my health I have finally quit and switched to Ecigs. It helped immensely and will save uncountable bills later in health expenses. It seems this health benefit should offset the need to tax every part of an Ecig. If anything must be taxed, the nicotine only should be. Dont discourage this great product!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lisabelle.artist@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:30:02 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lisa Bell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lisabelle.artist@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Nicotine is extracted from taxed tobacco, the taxes have already been paid. An American that values freedom to choose a safe alternative to smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lisacandler@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 6:00:55 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lisa Candler
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lisacandler@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dserafini0@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:10:15 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lisa Serafini
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dserafini0@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: eleustephens@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:59:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: liyla stephens
Organization: Individual
E-mail: eleustephens@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lokelani0@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:38:11 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lokelani Tynan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lokelani0@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lnativs@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:42:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Loren Natividad
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lnativs@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: LAhawaiiistateleg@measol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:26:12 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lori Anderson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: LAhawaiiistateleg@measol.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I agree that nicotine products should not be sold to minors.

I do not think that these 'personal vaporizers' (electronic cigarettes) should be taxed any different than nicotine patches, nicotine gum, etc...

I smoked over 3 packs of cigarettes a day for over 25 years. Have tried to quit with every possible remedy. Now, with my personal vaporizer, I have not had a cigarette in 11 months, and, am feeling so much better - no coughing, wheezing, etc... these devices are not harmful, like cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco or any other tobacco product - so please do not treat them as such.

Thank you for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lrice10398@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:57:05 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lori Rice
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lrice10398@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I do not think that Electronic cigarettes should be classified and taxed the same as a tobacco product. I was a smoker for over 30 years and without this devise I would still be smoking. I think the savings vs the loss from taxation on regular cigs will more than outweigh the loss with healthcare and enviromental savings. I do not live in Hawaii but I would certainly give serious consideration to visiting in the future as a result of what I feel is unfair tax on people that are making a gient step towards a healthier lifestyle. Thank you,
Lori Rice
Longwood FLorida

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: smokinvapor@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 5:13:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lori
Organization: Individual
E-mail: smokinvapor@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

Are we going to also raise the tax on nicotine patches or nicotine gum too? The only thing they are missing, over electronic cigarettes is the water. As far as ingredients go that is. Since they are exactly the same as the vaporizers I used when my kids got sick, only smaller, much smaller, I don't understand the taxing? There's sterilized water, propylene glycol, food flavoring and nicotine... in a very tiny vaporizer. A vaporizer that people can build in their homes very very easily. How are you going to tax them? By the kind of spring people use to build them? By the sterilized water they buy off the grocery shelf, Because then you are going to be taxing parents that buy that water for making their baby's formula.

Since the FDA is going to be regulating these things anyway. Why not wait until then and see what they are going to do? Just seems to me that people are getting more uptight about these things than other, more important, things going on in our society. Finally people are putting down the very product that you have all wanted them to put down. And what does everybody want to do? Make it more difficult for them to do that? Does our government really want people to quit smoking, or not? It looks like our own government wants those tobacco tax dollars so much that the protection of it's own citizens is last in the hearts and minds of our own leaders that are suppose to work , for us.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mincher75@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:22:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lorinda Landavazo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mincher75@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cliff_hatch_1@juno.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:33:47 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: lorus hatch
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cliff_hatch_1@juno.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: fsazone@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:04:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: louie caday
Organization: Individual
E-mail: fsazone@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lyle.sharp@advotechllc.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:13:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lyle Sharp
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lyle.sharp@advotechllc.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Millions of Americans and thousands of Hawaiians struggle with addiction to cigarettes. Electronic cigarettes that contain tobacco are an inexpensive alternative to traditional and less successful tobacco addiction therapies such as Nicorette gum and the dangerous drug Chantix. Taxing what may turn out to be the most viable alternative product on the market today as if it were an actual combustible cigarette would destroy the price incentive for users to switch to a less dangerous product and possibly remove the product from shelves across Hawaiian stores. As legislators, you should only tax things you want to curb like real cigarettes and leave useful alternatives in the normal sales tax arena.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: wiredghost@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:19:49 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lyndon Spear
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wiredghost@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

It would be idiotic of you to tax a product that is not tobacco as tobacco.

And you would be putting those businesses at a disadvantage causing them to leave your island in order to compete on level ground with other e-cig vendors out there.

Would you rather pay smokers hospital bills then have healthy people on your island?

Less government not more.....that's why the country is in the toilet now.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lynettwilson67@me.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:51:15 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lynette Wilson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lynettwilson67@me.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cigarbabe@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 8:12:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: M.R. Coleman-Dion
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cigarbabe@comcast.net
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

Vaping saved my life. I wasn't able to even walk up the few stairs in my house before I started vaping and within three days of purchasing an ecig I had quit smoking quite by accident. I beg you to exclude ecigs from the proposed legislation.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Mayve.lyon@dfs.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:18:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Magreline Lyon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Mayve.lyon@dfs.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tilton95@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:11:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: makana tilton
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tilton95@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tsi-inc@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:42:55 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marc Brumlik
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tsi-inc@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

It's very simple. Electronic cigarettes have helped a very large and growing number of tobacco users to quit the habit and lead healthier lives.

This bill contains two measures which should be completely separate bills.

The first measure, designed to ensure that these devices are not available to minors, is absolutely sensible.

The second measure, intended to reclassify these devices as tobacco products for the purpose of taxation is about revenue (not morality or safety).

This legislation should clearly be two separate bills! By bundling them, the OBVIOUS vote to protect minors forces a QUESTIONABLE vote against users of these devices (which are not tobacco-related).

I've always found it clever and distasteful that dissimilar issues are bundled together in this way, creating a situation where voting for something compelling forces a vote on any other included measures.

My comment:

SPLIT THIS INTO TWO BILLS

Then vote to protect the minors

And vote to protect ex-smokers (from targeted taxation)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: gabayani28@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:41:21 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: marcella strickland
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gabayani28@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: djsp1_90@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:56:44 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marco G.
Organization: Individual
E-mail: djsp1_90@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This bill is an outrage. I believe this is the slow start of the SOPA and PIPA being put in place. Kids can watch pornography and yet that isn't enforced strictly. All that lies between kids and explicit sexual content is a banner asking simply "Are you sure you are 18?" That is the true outrage. Minors i believe can't get away with buying 70 VAPING equipment without their parents noticing. If this law were to be put in place it would danger revenue and also make potential beneficiaries not eligible to buy a healthy alternative to tobacco. JUST SAY NO!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: marco.stracciari@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:26:57 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marco Stracciari
Organization: Individual
E-mail: marco.stracciari@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mercyrain@embarqmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:22:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marcy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mercyrain@embarqmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Hello. To tax the electronic cigarette would ruin the electronic cigarette business in Hawaii. I would have to buy somewhere else. Furthermore, It is terrible, when society finds something good to help the health of others, by aiding them to stop smoking, for government to come in and impede this process, is nothing but greedy. It angers me, and I would take my family vacationing somewhere else.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: islanddreamer_808@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:28:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Margaret Franks
Organization: Individual
E-mail: islanddreamer_808@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: maggieberyl@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:43:14 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Margaret Shigematsu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: maggieberyl@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Please support the people who no longer use tobacco products.
Do you seriously want us to go back to smoking tobacco?
Clearly, you do not care as long as we pay tax.
We are encouraged not to smoke cigarettes, but now you miss the tax we paid on them.
You can't have the bun and the penny.
Our health is a poor second to your tax revenue.
I am appalled and dismayed.
We own 2 houses in Honakaa. There is no possible way we would live there under these conditions.
Margaret Shigematsu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: margoslice@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:52:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: margo hartford
Organization: Individual
E-mail: margoslice@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I was a smoker for 14 years. I TRIED EVERYTHING TO STOP SMOKING. I TRIED THE NICOTINE PATC AND CHANTIX. NOTHING WORKED. SINCE I HAVE STARTED WITH THE VOLCANO E CIGARETTE, I HAVE NOT SMOKED FOR 9 MONTHS. MY HEALTH HAS IMPROVED. IT HAS SAVED MY LIFE.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mariansue@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:57:16 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marian Sparks
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mariansue@msn.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. Nicotine has a bad reputation due to it's association with cigarettes, but it is not a bad drug. Nicotine may account for the addiction to cigarettes but it does not cause death or disease, it is the chemicals found in cigarettes which are added during the production process that account for the consequences of smoking, not nicotine.
After 35 years of smoking cigarettts I was FINALLY able to quit when I discovered vaping.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: arqmariopalacios@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:09:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mario a palacios
Organization: Individual
E-mail: arqmariopalacios@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Placing ecig in tobacco products it's wrong, these does not have tobacco on them I'm a user of these products and it help me stop smoking for 4 months now, if the Principal interest is the health of the public over tax dollars for the government you should not pass this greedy law.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: markstiens@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:37:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark Kerstiens
Organization: Individual
E-mail: markstiens@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
Freedom. Don't punish the innocent.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: markatschool@cox.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 5:27:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark May
Organization: Individual
E-mail: markatschool@cox.net
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hawnkane808@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:17:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark Naauao
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hawnkane808@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Mniswonger@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:51:54 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark Niswonger
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Mniswonger@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

The government should not tax electronic cigarettes based on tobacco purposes. Not all liquids/e-Juice contains nicotine, so in fairness you would have to raise taxes on all equipment that utilizes PG and VG compounds. This taxation is ludicrous,

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mastar6@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:55:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mark starling
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mastar6@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mark.swortwood@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:06:43 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark Swortwood
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mark.swortwood@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Government greed will only make products more expensive doing nothing for the consumer. Money raised would only benefit politicians and do nothing for the general public. Why is there not a tax on stupid proposals? They come everyday in abundance.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: markt.mallis@xerox.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:51:13 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark
Organization: Individual
E-mail: markt.mallis@xerox.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I have no issue with prohibiting sales to minors but to group it broadly with tobacco when it is not for the purposes of taxation is over reaching the legislature powers.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: msmarti58@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:02:04 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marti Andrews
Organization: Individual
E-mail: msmarti58@live.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
Ridiculous! I am an e-cig smoker and oppose this!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mjstarr@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:08:10 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mary jane starr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mjstarr@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

electronic cigarettes are very important to the health and wellbeing of ex and current cigarette smokers. This is the only smoking alternative that has offered me any hope of freeing myself from a dangerous and insidious addiction. if these products are taxed at the same level as real tobacco products millions of users may return to actual cigarettes. this bill is contrary to the good of the people. i do however agree that they should not be sold to minors. thank you

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bbblu88@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 11:46:04 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary Joyce Guira
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bbblu88@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: smaetk@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:20:35 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary Nosalski
Organization: Individual
E-mail: smaetk@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mmallis@rochester.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:42:55 AM
Attachments: [I strongly oppose this bill 1.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marybeth Mallis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mmallis@rochester.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Taxation of this product as a tobacco product is reprehensible. If the intent is to encourage a tobacco free, healthier America, then I believe financial support of this product, in terms of tax relief, would be the more responsible action!

I strongly oppose this bill. What I oppose is precisely:

Description:

"Tobacco products" means tobacco in any form, other than cigarettes or little cigars, that is prepared or intended for consumption or for personal use by humans, including large cigars and any substitutes thereof other than cigarettes that bear the semblance thereof, snuff, chewing or smokeless tobacco, [and smoking or pipe tobacco, and electronic cigarettes as defined under section 709-908, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Places e-cigarettes with other tobacco products as items prohibited to be sold to a minor and amends the definition of "tobacco products" for purposes of taxation.

The electronic cigarette like no other method, aided me in quitting the habit of cigarette smoking. To place a taxation on an alternative method quitting cigarettes. This device contains no tobacco and offers the opportunity to replace an extremely unhealthy habit with a healthier alternative. It is the only method that has worked for me. I have tried the patch, gum, pills, hypnosis, and even acupuncture. I am thrilled with the results – so much so that I have sponsored and continue to sponsor others in their fight to quit the tobacco habit.

My family and friends now enjoy a smoke-free environment, would you really take that away from others?

I support restriction to the sale of minors whole heartedly.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Mallis

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Wellman.Matt@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:26:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matt Wellman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Wellman.Matt@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

e-cigarettes from volcano, a small business in Hawaii, have helped me completely quit smoking. Please do not over regulate or assume any unfounded information about them. Consider that these products are helping people quit and are not geared towards children. As evidence of this a child is far more likely to buy a \$5 pack of cigarettes from a store rather than \$75 on an e-cig kit on-line. Also consider that there is no tobacco in these products.

Thank you for your time,

Matt Wellman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mryounger1027@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 8:32:32 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matt Younger
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mryounger1027@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
Obsurd.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lumberjack73@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:20:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: matthew burke
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lumberjack73@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

While I agree with the prevention to minors aspect to this bill, however the act of vaping is NOT a tobacco based product and therefore should not be taxed as such.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: matthewjehrman@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:40:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: matthew ehrman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: matthewjehrman@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I do support the fact that minors should not smoke, or have access to smoking methods. However I am 21 and I use the e-cig as a method to stop smoking cigarettes. To increase this tax to this high level I will not be able to continue the purchase of buying e-cig products. This is way I am highly opposed to this. Thank you

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mjgigliotti@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:40:22 AM
Attachments: [Please consider.dotx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matthew Gigliotti
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mjgigliotti@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Please consider: E-cigarettes helped me quit regular cigarettes & now I smoke them with no nicotine at all. I think this is a terrible idea. This will effectively force e-cigarette companies out of your state. The E-cigarette business is largely online-only, and should this legislation pass Hawaii E-cigarette business will effectively be unable to compete with other online companies on price. They will be forced to move out of state or go out of business.

Please do not tax E-cigarette's as it would be bad for people like me and it would force business out of Hawaii.

Please consider: E-cigarettes helped me quit regular cigarettes & now I smoke them with no nicotine at all. I think this is a terrible idea. This will effectively force e-cigarette companies out of your state. The E-cigarette business is largely online-only, and should this legislation pass Hawaii E-cigarette business will effectively be unable to compete with other online companies on price. They will be forced to move out of state or go out of business.

Please do not tax E-cigarette's as it would be bad for people like me and it would force business out of Hawaii.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: matthewedwardhull@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:03:42 PM
Attachments: [SB2819.txt](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matthew Hull
Organization: Individual
E-mail: matthewedwardhull@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

My name is Matthew Hull, and I am writing today to voice my opposition to the bill SB2819. I believe this bill would be bad for both the state of Hawaii and the future of the electronic cigarette industry for two reasons. The first is that despite my being a California resident and having many different local options to choose from when it comes to buying my ecigarettes and supplies, I went with the Volcano company which is based in Hawaii instead. I will continue to shop from them for their competitive pricing and top notch service for as long as they hold these values. I do however fear that classifying their companys products and accessories as tobacco products for the purpose of taxation would cause prices to increase. In turn this would probably cause myself and the other seven employees at my place of business who also use Volcano products to have to look elsewhere for competitve rates. This could result in the company losing sales, and in turn not being able to continue to expand.

My other concern with the classification of this product as a tobacco product is that it may provoke other states may attempt to also classify local ecigarette business products as tobacco products. My personal story matches almost all my friends I know of who use ecigarettes. We feel they are a fiscally responsible, less instrusive and healthier substituion to smoking. Companies that produce these fluids have created jobs at companies both big and small, and will continue to do so if left with the opportunity to succeed. In these tough economic times, it is encouraging to see companies able to capitalize on new industries and ideas, thus creating new jobs. But it worries me when states begin to suppress the growth of new industries by reclassification and heavy taxation.

Again in closing, I am writing today to voice my opposition to SB2819 because I feel that it would cause Hawaii to lose my business and the business of my fellow ecigarette users due to price increases provoked by taxation. I also feel that the classification is not only incorrect, but will cause the loss of potential jobs in a new industry.

Thank you for your time,

Matthew Hull

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: matt@plumbmastersllc.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:55:09 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: matthew wood
Organization: Individual
E-mail: matt@plumbmastersllc.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I was a former 3 pack a day smoker who found Volcano Ecigs online and ordered from them. They are located in your state. I am strongly opposed to any additional taxes being placed on this product. First, an Ecig is an electronic device and contains NO TOBACCO. So, I'm not sure how it qualifies under any tobacco taxation law. More importantly though, for most people Ecigs are a smoking cessation device no different from nicotine gum or nicotine patches. I doubt you place a tobacco tax on those products, and shame on you if you do. In my state the legislature is constantly crying about medicare/medicaid costs and increases tobacco taxes to cover these costs citing the rising medical costs of caring for smokers. Wouldn't it make sense to want to promote the use of Ecigs by smokers to help reduce the states' medical costs? Adding extra taxes also helps ensure that the cost of the Ecig products stays prohibitively high and people continue to buy tobacco products. This seems to be a no brainer to me. An ecig is NOT a tobacco product and doesn't carry the same health risks as tobacco products. So is the extra tax just an attempted money grab from ex smokers? And what's that tax actually for? It seems like "feel good" legislation at best in that since it looks like a cigarette (sort of) it must be bad. Nonsense... I urge you to do the right thing and not tax this product based on the phony premise that Ecigs are the same as actual cigarettes. They clearly are not.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mixup@maximpulse.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:02:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Maxim Hurwicz
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mixup@maximpulse.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Please don't tax ecigs as you tax tobacco products. I know so many people, including myself, who have used ecigs to quit smoking cigarettes. You don't tax nicotine gum or the patch, do you? Don't take a giant step backwards and mess up ecigs. Please...think twice before screwing this up for so many people. Thank you for reading this.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mgcasem@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 2:58:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: maybelline casem
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mgcasem@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
you try and stop smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: maynardmaxx@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:52:54 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: maynard maxx
Organization: Individual
E-mail: maynardmaxx@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I prefer inhaling vaporized propylene glycol for means of nicotine ingestion in lieu of traditional, cancerous, chemical-laden, corporate sponsored tobacco cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mrs.meganohara@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:21:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Megan O'Hara
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mrs.meganohara@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I 'vape' electronic cigarettes, and they have saved me from from my addiction to smoking cigarettes. No longer do I have to breathe in the 5000+ chemicals in cigarettes that would have surely left me with health issues in my later years. I, as well as every single 'vaper' I know, support legislation banning the sale of any nicotine product to minors. However, these are NOT a tobacco product, and they should NOT be classified and taxed as such, for many reasons. For one thing, a big part of the taxes on tobacco products is due to health issues that are proven to occur in tobacco users- there are NO known health risks of using nicotine vaporizers (also known as electronic cigarettes, but that is a misnomer). Taxing nicotine products and accessories that do not actually use tobacco would not be fair. I purchase many of my supplies from Hawaiian businesses, and this law would effectively put them out of business- is that how we want to help stimulate the economy right now??? Bottom line, this bill is unfair and prejudicial, and risks the health of 100's of thousands of people who have successfully quit smoking using them. Yes, laws should be enacted to keep them out of the hands of minors, but this law is far overreaching and unjustified- just like the internet censorship bills- they are too broad and should be rehashed until they make common sense based on proven facts. I assure you, if this bill passes, I will take my tourist/vacation money elsewhere in the future.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: minerehanohano@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:09:54 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melanie Inere-Hanohano
Organization: Individual
E-mail: minerehanohano@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: astrabulla@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 12:41:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: melissa gunn
Organization: Individual
E-mail: astrabulla@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mercereast@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 11:01:05 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mercer East
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mercereast@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

Stop supporting the tobacco companies. They are the ones driving this. how can you tax me on something that has no tobacco in it the same way you tax tobacco. The state taxes too much already.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: micahganske@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:10:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Micah Ganske
Organization: Individual
E-mail: micahganske@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

While it's important for there to be an age limit on who can buy electronic cigarettes, imposing a "tax on this new technology would be a horrible error for several important reasons:

1. E-Cigarettes have never proven to be toxic or harmful.
2. They are extremely effective as a smoking cessation tool.
3. Because of reasons 1 and 2, they could help reduce healthcare costs by reducing cases of cancer.
4. It would effectively force a local startup that has achieved national success to either shutdown or move to a different state.

These four simple points should tell you that this bill in its current form is harmful to both the health and economy of the state.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: pomichaelman@verizon.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:50:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: michael bohr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pomichaelman@verizon.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

i had kidney cancer from smokeing cigarettes i was so addicted to cigarettes i could not quit even having cancer.then i found volcanoecigs where i could still have just nicotine and not tobacco and my cancer has not returned iand i can still have the satcfaction from electronic cigarettes from places like volcanoecigs.the price of these with what you are proposing to do will cause people to stat smoking cigarettes again and most likely have some medical issues or even death from cigarettes and these ecigs can save so many people lives.i hope you take the life of a smoker into consideration before taking these steps.thank you

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dopeshat@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:36:36 PM
Attachments: [January 31.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael D. Harris
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dopeshat@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

January 31, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Opposition to SB 2819

Chairman / Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

Hello, my name is Michael Harris and I am opposed to legislation that would amend the definition of tobacco products to include Electronic Cigarettes for the purpose of taxation. Published surveys suggest that e-cigarettes have helped a significant number of people remain abstinent from traditional cigarettes. Furthermore, despite fear-mongering by activist groups, tests performed on e-cigarette liquid and vapor demonstrate that the product is no more toxic than other nicotine-replacement therapy products such as the nicotine patch, gum, and inhaler.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to Bill #SB 2816

Michael D. Harris
3816 Anselmo Lane
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: protosports@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:27:55 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael de Leon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: protosports@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mike_degidio@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:08:49 AM
Attachments: [Testimony of Opposition.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mike_degidio@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Testimony of Opposition

Bill SB2019, Hawaii

Michael D'Egidio, Albuquerque New Mexico

To Whom It May Concern regarding SB2019,

It has been brought to the collective attention of the E-cig consumer base that SB2019 is currently a bill currently undergoing the formal process of becoming law. We the consumer base population and supporters of the free enterprise system and fair legal commerce actions do oppose the bill's unjust and unnecessary requirements and contingencies placed on the entities it so attacks.

I have been a consumer of e-cigarette/e-cig products for the better part of two years. It has been a life altering decision for not only my own personal health, the health of my home, family and friends and others around me. I began with the full flavored nicotine juices and was able to gradually step down to a completely nicotine free vapor juice. Along with the extensive life changing properties that quitting regular cigarettes, is the even better deal of being able to consume a more affordable product that e-cigs have offered. Buying a carton of cigarettes in and of it's own at close to \$80.00 and the carton lasting only two weeks, before I am needing to re-supply. Anti-smoking devices such as gums, patches, pills, prescriptions aren't much more cost efficient either. In fact, your basic marketed cigarettes are going to be cheaper than these methods to quit. Right now I am able to buy a 6ml bottle of vapor e-juice for around \$12.00 which lasts me close to 2 months! I'm not a mathematician but the difference between these figures is night and day when looked at on grander scales say per year, multiple years, etc. This was a far better product in helping me to quit the nicotine dependence. Though for others it's not used as an anti-quit device but more on a recreational basis, but it was something that worked for me and there are testimonies for days on the WebPages and personal blogs for consumers who have done the same.

With the basic logistics covered and in review of the current bill These bills would unfairly tax the sale of electronic cigarettes and every electronic cigarette accessory in Hawaii, regardless of whether or not it contains tobacco/nicotine, at a rate of 70% of the wholesale price. This tax in turn would force companies like Volcanoecigs to move out-of-state or close down due to the tremendous competitive disadvantage that would be placed on them. What kind of government would eliminate their local businesses and representation in that manner? What is the rationale behind causing the loss of so many jobs locally which would be outsourced to other countries? The company would be forced to close, move, or find alternative ways to function perhaps illegally just to avoid the ridiculous legislation so that they can still make a product and a profit. There is no justification for the bill to relinquish the rights of business owners and consumers as a means to squeeze more money out of the company by railroading terms and definitions in a local bill is completely asinine and anti-productive.

These bills would also force your own local Hawaii electronic cigarette users to either purchase supplies from out-of-state and international vendors (who are not hampered by this unfair tax) or force those users to resort to smoking again. Making inappropriate taxes on these companies at the personal peril of others? Who wants that blood on their hands? I love the fact that my e-cig providers are based in the USA, the juices are American made and I believe in supporting our own American businesses.

Having said the disadvantages of the bills I will agree with the one aspect the bill touches on to keep devices out of the hands of minors. I can agree with this. Minors and smoking have always been a problem and the numbers continue to rise. I don't believe any e-cig company is in for marketing and supplying their products to children and minors. They are reputable and responsible and they provide a product and a service to consenting adult consumers. The consenting adult populace shouldn't suffer needlessly just because these products are just as easily accessed by minors. Minors will find the way to tobacco products, e-cig products, illegal narcotics and alcohol because we also live in a country of choice and opportunity. Despite ANY of the most recent anti-smoking bans in public areas, parks, restaurants, bars, offices etc along with adding the new grotesque pictures printed on the packs of cigarettes regardless of what the tobacco companies are complying with to appease the number of a few empty suits, the bottom line is they are still making money, people are still smoking, and none of the propaganda is really working. People are going to make a choice for themselves, plain and simple. Government legislation is never going to be able to take the will and choice of the people regardless of consequences, people will take the risk despite the consequence. Unless the company is selling illegal substances or violating business laws there shouldn't be any reason for the government to horde in on the e-cig business just so they can make an extra profit, they are hurting more people than they are helping. Thank you very much for your time.

Michael D'Egidio

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Islandmagic@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:31:55 PM
Attachments: [Aloha Bill.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Erickson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Islandmagic@live.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Michael “Kekoa” Erickson. I wanted to voice my opposition to the proposed bill that would essentially wipe out the E-Cigarette industry in Hawaii in one fell swoop. While I do not endorse the sale of E-Cigarettes or their use to minors, I do however believe that this bill would do nothing in the way of stopping kids from getting their hands on them. I also feel that minors are more likely to obtain alcohol and/or drugs before an E-cigarette.

I have been using the E-cigarette for a while now and it has saved my life. I was a heavy smoker before finding the electronic cigarette and will never go back to smoking traditional cigarettes. I also strongly feel that E-cigarettes should not be classified as a “Tobacco” product. If anything, an E-cigarette contains nicotine...there is no tobacco present.

Please take into consideration my plea and do not pass this bill. There are many people who use this product and it has changed their lives, like it has for me...for the better. Putting such a high tax and restrictions on E-cigarettes is not the answer.

Thank you for your time,

Michael “Kekoa” Erickson
February, 1st, 2012

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: michaeljfelipe@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:55:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Felipe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: michaeljfelipe@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I oppose the tax on e cigs. It has provided health benefits because it really helped me quit smoking. Which is superior than other methods of quitting cigaretts.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mglod13@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:32:31 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Glod
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mglod13@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I strongly support any measure that would ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors. However, to classify the product and every accessory associated with it as a "tobacco product" for the purpose of taxation is wrong. you are not smoking tobacco , but you are vaporizing liquid which may or maynot contain nicotine. NOT TOBACCO . nothing is burning and well the real true point IS ITS NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT . so it shouldn't fall under the category of " tobacco product ";

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Buildermike@embarqmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:58:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Hansen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Buildermike@embarqmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
I will not be buying in Hawaii if you pass this bill. Period.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mjag2000@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:31:46 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Jager
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mjag2000@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to any bill that would associate ecigs or vaps to real tobacco. It has nothing to do with the unhealthy nasty smelling habit of smoking a cigarette. I am a 43 year old male non-smoker. I cannot stand the smell of cigarette smoke! It is a disgusting habit. As I said I don't smoke but I do enjoy the flavor of my vaporizers. I have chronic back pain and using the vaporizers is relaxing and takes my mind off the back pain. It by no means helps the pain or numbs it. In fact half the time the liquid I use in my vaps have no nicotine. I simply enjoy the flavor and taste.

I take great offense to anyone that would associate a vaporizer with smoking! A vaporizer is odorless and there is no second hand smoke. It creates only harmless water vapor.

If children are getting hold of vaporizers and abusing them, then it's the job of their parents to set them straight. NOT the government!

Please put this bill down! And, lets move on to the real important matters. Getting this country back on its feet!!!

Thank you for your time,
Michael Jager

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Oodyoko@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:26:11 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Kemm
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Oodyoko@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

To prohibit the sale of electronic vaporizers to minors would be beneficial.
To treat them as a tobacco product and tax them as such would not.
Revision of this bill is a nesessary public duty.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kahaluuboy@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 9:24:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Knock
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kahaluuboy@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mike69101@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:58:01 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Montalbano
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mike69101@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

"The electronic cigarette is a batterypowered nicotine inhalation device that delivers nicotine to the user through a vaporized propylene glycol solution from cartridges which contain high levels of nicotine, along with other potentially dangerous substances."

What "other potentially dangerous substances"? Why don't you list them? Nicotine is no different than caffeine. Why don't we throw some regulation and taxation on that too? If taxation is implimented, it needs to be at a national level so that e-cig distributors have an even playing field. The good part about the current and future regulations is that it will be plainly obvious which entities are looking out for the publics health and which are filling their pockets with special interests funds.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tresev@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:43:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: michael neal
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tresev@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This is a product that helps people stop smoking. Government pays for stop smoking programs already. Why tax this product if it will make this style of stopping smoking less accessible to lower income families and individuals??

Please consider the cons of this tax.

Michael Neal

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: turbobug02@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:03:42 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Robert Getz
Organization: Individual
E-mail: turbobug02@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This bill is unAmerican, unethical and unhealthy for native Hawaiians and the rest of us! Volcano e-cigs helped me quit smoking. Electronic cigarettes are healthy and about as harmful as coffee. What's next? Overtaxing coffee products? There is no association or remote similarity between electronic cigarettes and tobacco. Electronic cigarettes REDUCE HEALTH CARE COSTS BY GETTING MORE PEOPLE OFF TOBACCO!! INHIBITING AN ALTERNATIVE TO SMOKING IS RETARDED.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mjsantos@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:18:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: michael santos
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mjsantos@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: michael.srisuwan@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 11:10:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Srisuwan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: michael.srisuwan@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mikee_60453@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:26:09 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michele Zaremba
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mikee_60453@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: michele.ladao@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:55:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: michele
Organization: Individual
E-mail: michele.ladao@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: citresures@charter.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:46:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: michelle burgstgalen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: citresures@charter.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

We all agree that any form of tobacco product should not be sold to minors. HOWEVER, this measure should be denied because it unfairly categorizes electronic cigarettes with tobacco cigarettes in regard to taxation. This would be an incredible injustice to the makers of electronic cigarettes, and, in turn, to the purchasers of e-cigarettes. Those of us who are trying to save money and improve our health. Please do NOT pass this measure, it would have a devastating effect on manufacturers AND users.
Sincerely, michelle burgstgalen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: michelle.limpahan@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 7:55:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: michelle.limpahan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: michelle.limpahan@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: superluckygirl@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:01:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: michelle liporto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: superluckygirl@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Jessie is the best rep for your store, very helpful and you can tell she likes her job.she is very professional!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: inboxutah@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:41:22 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michelle Rasmussen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: inboxutah@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I'm in opposition of any bill that would consider electronic cigarettes or it's products as a tobacco product. We have come so far to create and support these products as a safe and affective way to quite using toxic tobacco that harms people and our environment. Any bill or suggestion of electronic cigarettes being considered a tobacco product should be opposed by every law maker and State as a terrible step backwards on improving health, our society and our environment for everyone.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: turtle.michelle@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:59:07 AM
Attachments: [Volcano testimony.txt](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michelle Rinehart
Organization: Individual
E-mail: turtle.michelle@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

The Volcano is a great tool for helping break addiction to the very real and dangerous alternate of tobacco products. Lost jobs will devastate an already rocky employment situation. There are so many reasons not to include this in a tobacco tax bracket and the most notable one is that it is not. That tax is suppose to try and detour people from picking up the habit, to keep them from buying them to better the health of the American people. If you include this along with the dangerous ones you are sending a clear message that it is about money and that you are willing to make quitting even more challenging by charging more for the alternative.

Volcano testimony

I began smoking cigarettes at the age of 14. My parents smoked and it was only natural that I would also pick up the habit. From 1988 through 2009 I smoked a pack or more nonstop. In 2009 I started the process of breaking free from the chains of addiction and found Volcano. I purchased two started packs and multiple boxes of cartridges. Over the next several months I prepared myself for the big day. On 12/2/2009 I woke up and decided I had enough. From the moment I woke up the Volcano went with me everywhere. I used it pretty heavy the first 3 or so weeks then just kept it with my in case of an emergency. I carried it for almost a year then gave it to my brother in hopes that he could do the same. It is now 1/31/2012 and I am still tobacco free. This tobacco-less product was there for me when nothing else could be.

This addiction is nasty and very tough to break. I truly believe this alternative could help break the cycle of kids picking up smoking from their parents. It is not smoking a cigarette and the long term effects are nothing compared to small cell lung cancer which my mother now has due to over 40 years of smoking them. Kids are going to smoke no matter what laws are passed. At least this is a safe legal alternative that may help keep some of them from adopting the addiction for the very dangerous tobacco cigarette.

As far as taxation goes, I think it is sad that there are people trying to push this into a category of highly taxed tobacco products for financial gain, even if it really does hurt giving people a safe alternative. If you put a heavy tax on the manufacture of these in your state, trust me I and many others will just send our money elsewhere to avoid the tax.

Seems only logical that the State of Hawaii would want to keep people employed and gain from the sales tax that would most definitely be lost if the company moves out of state. The trend of government legislating small businesses for financial gain without considering the risks and dangerous to the people is sickening.

I hope you reconsider this bill and keep this business local. Make sure the piece of paper this new tax bill will be written on is worth all the lost jobs and lost revenue since that is what you will be left holding in the end.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mikael.bonnevie@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:18:29 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mikael
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mikael.bonnevie@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

this is in my opinion an unfair bill that will only high-jack the prices of electronic cigarette and kill the only alternative for smokers who doesn't want to be nuisance for others.

I support the part of the bill which ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors. However, a %70 increase in prices due to taxes would push me to stop ordering from Hawaiian suppliers.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mike.ebben@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:23:58 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mike ebben
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mike.ebben@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mikeramos420@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:26:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mike ramos
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mikeramos420@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mikestoguchi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:51:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mike Toguchi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mikestoguchi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mike.urquhart@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:30:01 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mike urquhart
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mike.urquhart@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

The so-called "e-cigs" such as the ones produced by Volcanocigs allowed me to stop smoking immediately after 50 years of smoking. There is no tobacco in ecigs and I believe can they really help smokers quit. Now I cant even stand the smell of cigarettes. Please dont tax this product like you do cigarettes.....if anything the E-cigs should be dispensed as a free item for people trying to quit smoking. I am smoke free for a year now, and it was easy.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mw93@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 8:10:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mike warthen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mw93@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mkkeawe@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:27:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mikela Keawe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mkkeawe@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I have tried the patch and it didn't really help me quit. So I am purchasing a electronic cigarette in hopes of quitting completely.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: appraisalsmindy@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:51:08 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mindy Nielsen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: appraisalsmindy@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This is ridiculous. This is a stop smoking agent that can and will save thousands of lives. There is NO tobacco in this product and has made a huge difference in mine and my husbands lives. We haven't had a cigarette since we started using this product and there is no danger to other peoples health.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mistydemello@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:46:18 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Misty DeMello
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mistydemello@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I feel this bill would have negative consequences if passed for various reasons. There is no tax on lighters and they are used for cigarettes as well as matches, cases or various other means that people use along with there tobacco products. We are not taxed for batteries , chargers or heating elements of any other kind. This bill is unfair in part due to classification of everything used with ecigs would be classified under tobacco. This would put small local businesses out of business. As well as force so many who are trying to change their lives by quitting cancer causing cigarettes to go back to smoking. I feel this bill is negative for Hawaii as a whole in the negative effects it would have on our state. I believe that someone needs to do thier research on ecigs and on the small businesses that sale ecigs to revise this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: monahusni@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 3:03:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mona Husni
Organization: Individual
E-mail: monahusni@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

Please keep these affordable. They don't produce any second hand smoke and are a much better alternative than smoking, for everyone!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: monicakc1@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:46:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Monica
Organization: Individual
E-mail: monicakc1@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Please don't pass this... Ive been vaping since October of 2011 & my body & health has improved drastically. I really do believe this helps me a lot. I can actually walk up stairs without having problems breathing. Please don't do it! My health is so much better since I stopped cigarettes. Thanks!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: skin_dancer@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:30:13 AM
Attachments: [eciq_hawaii_bill.txt](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Monty Montgomery
Organization: Individual
E-mail: skin_dancer@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Please oppose this and amend it to reduce the amount of taxation for the nicotine and remove the inclusion of the hardware. I agree with the age as I believe that even caffeine should be restricted by age personally as it is an addictive substance.

ecig hawaii bill

Distinguished members of government,
This bill was brought to my attention by an E-cigarette vendor I purchase goods from for friends who are trying to stop smoking. I wanted to take a moment to request your opposition to this new bill. While the government does not allow companies to claim that E-cigarettes aid in stopping smoking I have friends who have been aided in doing just that with the products. Now this being said, I fully support a moderate tax on the nicotine juice used in the electronic devices. However to tax the hardware is absurd. We do not currently have tobacco taxes on lighters or rolling papers, and this is the equivalent of this action. I do support age restriction as with tobacco. Electronic cigarettes have provided a healthier alternative to several friends of mine who enjoy smoking but wish to avoid the huge list of chemicals tobacco contains. While nicotine is still a negative component it is better than the 1400 other chemicals that tobacco brings to the table. There is no harmful smoke involved with these devices merely water vapor. Nicotine and Caffeine are very similar in effect so calling out the one without the other is also absurd. I believe in American values, I personally am a moderate who believes two things should not happen. One is do not legislate morality and the other is do not restrict my freedoms by legislation. I am sure a balance can be found in this path to taxation and I hope that you will find the strength to be moderate in action.

Monty Montgomery
Texas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: thstore@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:49:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Myles Ibara
Organization: Individual
E-mail: thstore@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I agree with restricting sales to adults only but do not feel that ecig products should be regulated as tobacco products.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: monkeyfi112@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:24:21 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: myron davidson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: monkeyfi112@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nooley17@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 5:14:10 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nalehua Wise-Hurst
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nooley17@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Nate-Dogg@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:55:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nathan Martin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Nate-Dogg@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Negarhajebian@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:03:30 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Negar Hajebian
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Negarhajebian@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
I OPPOSE!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nel2be71@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:28:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: nelson bueno
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nel2be71@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nbmtg@ite.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:12:59 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Neri S Blas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nbmtg@ite.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am a 40 year cigarette smoker, and I have been trying to quit for many years. Unfortunately, I was never successful.

I had been experiencing shortness of breath and was regularly getting sick. I was really worried of getting hooked up to an oxygen tank as part of my daily life.

Three weeks ago, I decided to try the E-cigarette, from a local company in Hawaii. I was previously exposed to it once from a source in the Orient, but, I was more afraid of dying of some other ailment related to the manufacturing of the product from China.

I figured that trying it would not be too much of an investment compared to what I already spend on cigarettes.

I am extremely happy to tell you that for the past two weeks I have been cigarette free. My breathing has improved, my face is not as built up and smelly, not to mention my breathe, clothes, my car and my home. I can only imagine what quitting has done to my health.

You pass any law that taxes or increases the cost of the products associated with the e-cigs, and/or the e-cigs themselves, you may just as well be the person/s that pull the plug on my life.

I may just go back to smoking cigarettes for it will be cheaper, and of course you will get your taxes, but just for a short time until the plug you pull would cause my demise.

Pls reconsider your intent. I pray that you think of the consequences to your people and set aside the money (taxes) that you can accumulate from this bill/law. You must place the best interest of your constituents first, and the opportunity to get the almighty dollar last. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Neri Blas
(671)727-3325

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: docholiday@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 7:25:05 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: nicholas gerard
Organization: Individual
E-mail: docholiday@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nicholashughes7@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:49:37 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: nicholas hughes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nicholashughes7@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Electronic Cigarettes are actually vaporizers that heat a liquid. I find it hard to classify a product as tobacco related when it contains no tobacco.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nmatern@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 8:16:19 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nicholas Matern
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nmatern@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

I don't live in Hawaii, but I buy electronic cigarette supplies from a Hawaiian company. And while it's a good idea to not sell e cigarettes to minors, this tax will remove my money from the Hawaiian economy. I'll buy elsewhere.

Tobacco taxes were imposed to offset the cost of medical care for smoking related illness. The entire purpose of electronic cigarettes is to negate the harm of tobacco. A 70% tax on electronic cigarettes is not only unjustified, it will backfire because people will cease to buy electronic cigarettes from Hawaiian companies.

After 27 years of smoking a pack a day, the electronic cigarette has finally helped me quit. It's been 22 months since I smoked and my health is the best it's been in 10 years. People are quitting every day with electronic cigarettes and the fact that the government is looking to to put a stop to it makes me seriously question your motives.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Neostalker_2917@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:36:25 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nicholas Mendez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Neostalker_2917@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nickykimnicky@hanmail.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:11:28 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nicky Kim
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nickykimnicky@hanmail.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: brooksi76@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:46:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nicolaus Brooks
Organization: Individual
E-mail: brooksi76@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nicolehuntc@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:26:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: nicole hunt
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nicolehuntc@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nicpaigetiger@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:18:46 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nicole Lyon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nicpaigetiger@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: spikedlorelei@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:43:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nicole Taylor
Organization: Individual
E-mail: spikedlorelei@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This letter of opposition comes from a citizen who does not use tobacco or nicotine in any capacity. I do, however, as an educated citizen, strongly support that smokers switch from smoking cigarettes to vaping with e-cigarettes.

Although I would support a law banning the sale of electronic cigarettes and related supplies to minors, I believe that taxing e-cigarettes is a mistake.

First, an e-cigarette and a regular tobacco cigarette are NOT a 1:1 equivalent product and it is possible and even common to "vape" an e-cigarette that does not contain tobacco, or even without nicotine. It would be wrong to tax it all as if it were the same.

Two, it would serve the public vastly more good if more smokers were to switch to e-cigarettes. By making them more expensive, much incentive to switch is gone. If you understand what e-cigarettes are, then you undoubtedly know that switching saves money in many ways, by saving the smokers' health. Sick people cost everybody money, and if everyone switched to e-cigs, there would be eventually the end of lung cancer and other illnesses from smoking. If anything, the role of government should be to encourage people, adults, to make the switch. Instead of taxing companies that are making a positive difference in the world, you should subsidize them. This would not prevent you from also working to keep nicotine away from minors.

I hope you will not make a decision without fully understanding the difference between smoking and vaping and will give the matter due consideration. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nirie@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:56:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nicole
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nirie@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

It doesn't seem fair to me that all electronic cigarette items would be taxed at that rate. I believe that e-cigarettes have helped many people quit smoking regular cigarettes and heavily taxing these items would limit access of these products as an alternative to smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: olimpiuciocotisan@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:58:43 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Olimpiu Ciocotisan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: olimpiuciocotisan@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

E-Cigs are NOT tobacco products. they contain no tobacco. They are a safe alternative to smoking and have helped a lot of people quit as well. It isn't harmful to anyone around it. It is water vapor and if your going to ban that then you should also ban the use of fog machines and humidifiers because its the same thing. Also, because it does contain nicotine if your banning the use of e-cigs than you should also ban the use of nicotine gum, lozenges, patches, and the sort because that's all that is in the e-cig (if you choose to have nicotine in it. There are options with no nicotine)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ozzy0777@tahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:52:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ozzy Shaheen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ozzy0777@tahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This is a product that helps people, like me get of cigars & cigs. Why in your right minds would u want to endanger the lives of people who are trying to quit? Raising the tax will not help people. Prohibiting the sales to minors is fine but not the tax. E-cigs are not tabacco . Please make the right chose if you really care. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: susietj18@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:20:15 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pam S. Pajack
Organization: Individual
E-mail: susietj18@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill using e-cigs on a regular basis has helped me stay away from real cigs.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: pamela@pamelahazelton.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:54:54 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pamela Hazelton
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pamela@pamelahazelton.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

It is not logical to tax a non-tobacco product as a tobacco product. Electronic cigarettes themselves are simply an electronic device. On their own, they are nothing more than a device that circulates air.

It is specific liquid that provides the release of nicotine, which, by all definitions, is not tobacco. To tax one nicotine product, and not others (such as patches and gum) is gross misuse of power.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: illsu100@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:22:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: park john yohan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: illsu100@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dogusmeatus@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:30:26 PM
Attachments: [Testimony re.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pat Miller
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dogusmeatus@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Testimony re: Bill to Tax Electronic Cigarettes

1/30/2012

It makes perfect sense to eliminate the possibility that minors might obtain these devices or the accessories of electronic cigarettes. That being said...

Most reasonable people would perceive that a device such as these which help people quit smoking more harmful tobacco products would be desirable. Ironically our Government portends to have our best interests in mind. Generally cigarettes and cigars have been regulated and banned in many areas due to public health considerations.

If it is desirable that people quit smoking harmful cigarettes it would be logical to assume that a product such as electronic cigarettes which are even endorsed by doctors over regular cigarettes would be something which would be encouraged to help people quit smoking.

Ironically your State seemingly cannot wait to grope for the tax dollars that might be available through the sale of these devices and the associated products that are sold with them.

I happen to buy these products from a company in your state. I am one of those people that quit smoking easily by substituting the electronic cigarette. I also ordered a set for my brother, sister, and have gotten several friends and neighbors to get them as well. I can't say they all have quit smoking regular cigarettes, however about half of them including me have.

It would in my opinion be a shameful act on your legislatures' part to destructively add a tax to the product which in turn will discourage people from quitting smoking. In fact I would go as far as to state that you would be complicit in playing a part in hurting the people's health, the very people which you so proudly portray yourselves to protect.

Most people are very weary of the depiction of Government officials claiming to "serve" when in fact they only serve to deny "common sense".

These are good products which help people which smoke to become healthier by quitting or in some cases maybe just cutting back. I know, I quit with these products.

Now I have no "skin" in this game. I can buy them elsewhere and hurt your local company(s) if that is what you choose to do. But if there is any conscience left, any sense of responsibility to your people, your businesses, and concern over public health, then you should drop this needless, harmful legislation and work on a more meaningful pursuit and serve the people which elected you rather than taxing them for doing something they need to do... like quitting smoking cigarettes.

Here in a nutshell will be the result of your legislation.

1. More people will continue to harm themselves with smoking regular cigarettes, make no mistake, because of your actions.
2. Your businesses will suffer losses due to the fact that people who use these products will find other less expensive sources in other states or countries.
3. More of your citizens will suffer health consequences of smoking regular tobacco products as a result of your actions.
4. I for one will have one more reason to believe that "Responsible" Government is a relic of the past and Hawaii exemplifies that fact.

Demonstrate that real leadership still exists in Hawaii, do the right thing and bury this legislation. Again I do not have a dog in this race. I do not sell these products, nor have anything to do with their distribution other than the fact that I buy the products from a company in your state. Yet I felt strongly enough to take about twenty minutes of my life to draft this letter. I hope you take at least that much time to consider the consequences of the proposed legislation.

Lastly, as a resident of Indiana, I have always perceived Hawaii as a place where common sense still prevails. Please say it ain't so, that you too have gone the way of Big Government dipping into the till at every opportunity even if it hurts those which have entrusted you to serve.

Respectfully,

Pat Miller

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: patiencenishikawa@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 2:44:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patience M. Nishikawa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: patiencenishikawa@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: patticakesbakery@verizon.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:07:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patricia /dodd
Organization: Individual
E-mail: patticakesbakery@verizon.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: barrett.p.k1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:16:46 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patrick Barrett
Organization: Individual
E-mail: barrett.p.k1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: pattikoonce@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:51:19 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: patti koonce
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pattikoonce@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Electronic cigarettes aid smokers in quitting or at least reducing the effects of cigarettes. Do not include them as tobacco products as they are not. Don't sell to minors as we don't sell alcohol or other genuine tobacco products. Don't penalize people who are attempting to lessen the adverse health effects of cigarettes.

To collect a few tax dollars and causing more government regulation, you are adversely affecting smokers who are trying to do the right thing for their health.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: paulbatallia@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:38:37 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: paul batallia
Organization: Individual
E-mail: paulbatallia@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: paulfarrell57@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:37:47 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul Farrell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: paulfarrell57@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill passing as written as I believe the unintended consequences will be powerfully negative. A huge advantage to using electronic cigarettes is the elimination of many of the harmful poisons that exist in a regular cigarette. As a smoker who has found relief in the use of electronic cigarette products, especially American ones, I am concerned that the quality and purity of the American products I rely upon will be compromised by this bill. I will be forced to use foreign products I do not trust or switch back to regular tobacco. This tax squeezes out American manufacturers of this product and you will have done a great disservice to us all, especially those of us who benefit as users of this product as a cigarette alternative. You will also cause harm to those employed by its production when American manufacturers leave or shut down.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: wikupple@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:47:25 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: PAUL GRUBE
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wikupple@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

As a legal citizen of the U.S.A. I oppose bill SB2819 as the nicotine contained in electric cigarettes is NOT Tabacco and should not be taxed as such! Contrary to the ignorance on which this bill was proposed, the nicotine in e-cigs is actually good you; i,e,:

http://www.scienceagogo.com/news/20031012195753data_trunc_sys.shtml

Thank you for your time. ~Paul

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: navtmcss@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 8:46:49 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul Leone
Organization: Individual
E-mail: navtmcss@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

I have seen this product help several people quit smoking. Why not promote this product across the board. To limit peoples ability to purchase this product, and have the state tax it because of there own mismanagement is a poor excuse at leadership.
ess

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: local1boy@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 12:55:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: paul perri
Organization: Individual
E-mail: local1boy@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:
keep hawaii money in hawaii .

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ptheorgood@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:57:42 AM
Attachments: [Bill HB2557.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul Theorgood
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ptheorgood@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen in regards to bill HB2557. I have been using electronic cigarettes since 2010. My health and the health of my children have vastly improved.. I tried for so many years to stop smoking and nothing worked, this worked. Please do not risk our health for this bill. I beg you.

The products I use come from a Hawaiian local company, Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes. Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes is a locally owned and operated Electronic Cigarette and Accessories retailer/supplier with 5 current retail locations and one warehouse/shipping center located in Honolulu. they have been in business for nearly three years and currently employ over 30 full-time employees locally and are one of the fastest growing businesses in the state. Bill HB2557, introduced by Speaker Say as a package put together for Governor Abercrombie, directly affects their local operation and jeopardizes their ability to continue operations in the State of Hawaii and I wanted to contact you to voice our concerns and ask for your help in getting this bill defeated.

The electronic cigarette, also known as an “e-cig”, “an e-cigarette”, “a personal vaporizer”, a “PV”, a “nicotine vaporizer” and many other things is a device used to vaporize liquid that can optionally contain varying levels of nicotine (and in many cases no nicotine at all). It is used currently by thousands of people locally and tens of millions of people nationally everyday as an alternative to cigarettes and in situations where cigarettes are not permitted. This product is intended for smokers and others addicted to nicotine who are looking for a less hazardous way to maintain, decrease, or otherwise eliminate their nicotine usage and avoid known risks to their own health caused by smoking and the health and safety of those around them.

Bill HB2557 aims to classify electronic cigarettes as a tobacco product, restrict the sale of the product to minors under the age of 18, and subject the sale of all electronic cigarette related products to a 70% tobacco tax regardless of whether or not the product actually contains tobacco. While I agree that products should be restricted from being sold to minors. The bill in its current form has many unintended negative consequences that will effectively end all future sales of the product in the state by local vendors and force thousands of users of the product to buy from out of state vendors via the internet or return to smoking altogether which has already been proven to be an eventual death sentence.

The bill as it is written shows a fundamental lack of knowledge of electronic cigarettes, how they are made, what it does, and how it is sold. An electronic cigarette is an electronic device made up of many different common electronic components such as batteries, buttons, metal tips, charging components, plastic bottles,...etc. All of these item are sold separately or as a kit and many of the components can actually be used in conjunction with many other standard electronic devices such as cellphones. In fact nicotine, which may or may not be derived from a tobacco source, only makes up about 2% of all the products sold. I think we can all agree that if I buy a battery from Volcano, that can in no way be perceived as retailing a "tobacco product". However the current bill proposes to classify all of the products as electronic cigarette related tobacco products and subject us to the standing 70% tobacco tax which was enacted with traditional tobacco products in mind.

The general cost of a fully functioning electronic cigarette kit is upwards of \$70, much higher than that of a pack of cigarettes. Levying a 70% tax on every component and accessory of an electronic cigarette would effectively make it much more expensive than a traditional tobacco cigarette and would effectively force locals to buy from out-of-state and international suppliers (who are not subject to this tax) via the internet or return to smoking altogether. Furthermore, this tax would ultimately make it impossible for Volcano to compete and would force them to either move out of state or close the business altogether. This means a loss of jobs, a loss of tax revenues that the state is already collecting, and ultimately forcing the will of the state on its smoking population by forcing them to purchase their products out-of-state or return to smoking.

I implore you to reexamine Bill HB2557 and modify it to reflect age based restrictions only!

Sincerely,

Paul Theorgood

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: paulwitt@cox.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:58:59 AM
Attachments: [Regarding SB2819.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul
Organization: Individual
E-mail: paulwitt@cox.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Regarding SB2819, this bill is exemplary of the lack of consideration for the far reaching consequences passage of such a bill would affect.

While it is important to ensure that the sale of Nicotine related products be limited to adults age 18 and older, this bill would have negative consequences obviously not considered by the legislature. Current laws already effectively prohibit the sale of electronic cigarettes and related products to minors. The negative consequences of the passage of such a bill would endanger the health and well being of electronic cigarette users not only in Hawaii but nationwide.

This bill would force local Hawaii electronic cigarette users to resort to smoking again. That would inevitable endanger the health of electronic cigarette users by forcing them to use dangerous and deadly conventional cigarettes, increasing the cost to the state in the form medical related and health costs. There would, as well, be a loss of current tax revenue by forcing these same users to purchase supplies from out-of-state and international vendors, who are not hampered by this unfair tax.

At a rate of 70% of the wholesale price, this tax in turn would force Volcanoecigs to move out-of-state or close down due to the tremendous competitive disadvantage that would be placed on them. This would result in a loss of jobs that can hardly be considered acceptable at any time but particularly in the current economic state of the entire country.

These bills could also be used as a roadmap to affect laws in all states, which could create a domino effect of state legislation across the USA endangering access for all electronic cigarette users to fairly priced electronic cigarettes and accessories regardless of where they are geographically located.

I strongly urge the State Senate to consider these ramifications while reviewing the bill for passage.

Respectfully,

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: palomalola@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:57:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paula Loforese
Organization: Individual
E-mail: palomalola@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Please do not add extra taxes or ban electronic cigarettes. Electronic cigarettes ARE NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT. Where do you see tobacco in an e cigarette? It is a product that delivers nicotine. Nothing more. I quit smoking TOBACCO 2 years ago, and were it not for electronic cigarettes I would not have quit. I realize the FDA does not approve e cigarettes for smoking cessation, however my experience is that e cigarettes are 100% effective in tobacco cessation. I have used electronic cigarettes since I quit tobacco 2 years ago. I can't imagine smoking a tobacco cigarette again, unless e cigarettes are banned or otherwise made very difficult to obtain. Everybody is hooked on something. If you want to increase taxes on something, increase taxes on sugar products, fast food, and junk food. That will be a far greater benefit to health than over taxing or banning e cigarettes. Since I quit tobacco, I no longer cough or wheeze, I no longer stink. I no longer pollute my environment, and will less likely become ill with cancer. Electronic cigarettes are clean, no smoke is emitted only vapor, that does not stink, or cause cancer. I am sick and tired of the discrimination against cigarette smokers, even though I quit tobacco. This bill is just an extension of the ongoing discrimination. It really angers me that alcohol and drug abuse seem to hold less "stigma" than any form of cigarette use, whether it be tobacco or electronic cigarettes. It angers me that an individual can board a plane, and get totally drunk, but God forbid I should use my very safe electronic cigarette on an airplane. It also angers me that any drug addict can travel on a plane and go into the bathroom and snort their drugs, or pop their pills, with no discrimination or repercussion whatsoever. In fact the above scenario can happen anywhere, while tobacco users are sent out in the cold, rain, etc to smoke. And it is happening again in the form of this bill that is being proposed. I do not agree that e cigarettes should be sold to minors, however, if it helps them stay off tobacco or quit tobacco, it may be beneficial. While you are at it, you might as well attempt to tackle the marijuana problem plaguing our youth. I could go on and on, but I won't. Suffice it to say that the tobacco industry does not want electronic cigarettes to be easily accessible, because they will lose money. So who's side are you on? Big tobacco companies who have big bucks, or the little guy just trying to stay away from tobacco and pay less money doing it. Think about it.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: paulojr@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:38:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: paulo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: paulojr@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

After smoking for 21 years water vapor smoking have helped me quit. I have'nt smoked a cigarette in 3 months and the biggest benefit is for my son. He does'nt have to be around the second hand smoke.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: pgregory3307@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:30:40 PM
Attachments: [E Cig Testimony By Peter Gregory.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Peter H Gregory
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pgregory3307@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

2/4/12 Testimony about how I quit smoking by replacing regular cigarettes with e cigs

My name is Peter Gregory and I reside in Valencia, California. I'm 55 years old and started smoking cigarettes when I was about 14 years. By the time I was 20 years old I was smoking two packs of cigarettes a day, and I continued that until I was 54 years old and discovered Vaping. Through the years my health declined and I tried just about everything to quit smoking. I had a chronic cough and a common cold took forever to recover from. I used nicorette gum for a long time, but eventually started smoking again while I continued to chew the gum. Now I was addicted to both the gum and the cigarettes! Not a good thing! I finally just accepted the fact that I would continue to smoke until it killed me. I often felt like I was slowly committing suicide, every time I smoked a cigarette. I felt helpless and hopeless, but I was stuck!

In around May of 2010 I discovered E Cigs. It was my primary care physician that actually recommended I give e cigs a try. I found Volcanoecigs.com online, and placed my first order. I really wasn't expecting e cigs to work, so I wasn't optimistic about quitting cigarettes. I'm now happy to report that I haven't smoked even one regular cigarette since the very first day I started with e cigs. Even better, I've never even had the urge for a regular cigarette, not once! I've been smoke free since 5/2010 and I now feel great. Yesterday I went to my local swimming pool and swam for 45 minutes, non stop. I wasn't capable of anything close to that two years ago! My doctor says I'm healthier than I ever was and I no longer have that chronic cough or any of the other health issues resulting from smoking. Yes, I still take in a very small amount of nicotine but I've been slowly cutting it back, and should be nicotine free within six months. Yes, I will still vape, because I enjoy it. Thankfully I can vape with little or no nicotine content. I'm now living a healthier and happier life and hope to have more years with my family than if I'd have continued smoking.

I can't imagine why anyone in our government would want to tax e cigs in a manner similar to cigarettes. It's just beyond my comprehension or understanding! Is this a joke? There are a lot of smokers out there that need this alternative. By adding this excessive tax, many of them might not even bother to consider the e cig option. How many more people must die as a result of smoking cigarettes? Believe me, if smokers would try a well produced e cig just once, they would stop smoking forever! I dare any smoker to try Volcano's latest and best e cig! I can almost guarantee, they'll never smoke again, if they try it just once!

Be advised, I'm a registered voter and will be paying close attention on this bill. I'll be looking to see who supports and who opposes. You can bet I'll be keeping track for future voting decisions. Let's see, who's running for president in 2012? Wonder what the candidates position is on this measure. I guess I'll find out in a few short days.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony regarding this matter.

Peter H Gregory
27890 Skycrest Circle

Valencia, CA 91354

E mail pgregory3307@aol.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: thesnomosnter@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:10:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Peter Owings
Organization: Individual
E-mail: thesnomosnter@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I have stopped consuming over 4000 bad ingredients thanks to "e-cigs" I became sick with pneumonia which prevented me from smoking for a 2 months. I know only vape with no nicotine just to have the habbit that I am still wanting. Although not proven, this is a greatly improved lifestyle as i am able to breathe easier and dont cough up a lung as I would traditional cigs. no need to tax e-cigs, only the prevention of sale to minors is needed.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mrspeedy4@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:20:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Philip Nones
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mrspeedy4@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: phillbosan@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:47:58 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Phill Moran
Organization: Individual
E-mail: phillbosan@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Sen Tsutsui et al.,

I had been a smoker for 24 years - or over half of my life. I was allergic to patches, gum and other products - and their cost was extraordinarily high. Hypnosis and Self Will failed.

I was referred to e-cigs by a friend who had the same issues as me.

Most users of e-cigs are like myself, former smokers - still working our way off nicotine, but off regular cigarettes completely.

Taxing e-cigs to 70% will send not only a very wrong message to the public (that you are anti giving up smoking) and remove a very cost effective way of doing so. The benefits (not proven admittedly) have been immense for me. I am healthier, not smoking and likely not to be a burden on our healthcare system in the future because of e-cigs.

I respectfully request that you do not continue with this bill and find other ways to both regulate and tax this growing industry.

Respectfully

Phillip Moran
Former Smoker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: pjk173@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:29:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: philip kaine
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pjk173@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

hi,

I was a long time smoker and now I vape ,its an affordable way to keep off the tobacco taxing it at a higher rate seams if taxes are more important than health think about that! I do agree none should be sold to minors
philip kaine

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sillacill1@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 5:36:10 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: priscilla reese
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sillacill1@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

There are, no second hand and it leave no after smells , not harsh chemicals, also theres no tobacco in it causing no tar build up

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dpuneet75@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:16:11 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Puneet
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dpuneet75@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Electronic Nicotine Delivery devices also commonly known as Electronic Cigarettes are not Tobacco products. We should limit their sale to Minors, but taxing it like tobacco. Come on. What does the Govt want next. Taxation on breathing air. This is not right in any common sense of law. But now the question is if common sense prevails at our Courts or not. This Tax is wrong and and immoral. I oppose it.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: pyroman951@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:16:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: quinten porter
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pyroman951@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

If this passed I'd never visit Hawaii again. E-cigs are not a tobacco product. It's a personal vaporizer. It's helped me quit smoking when nothing else could.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rbennett124@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:49:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: R Bennett
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rbennett124@comcast.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rkb777@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:43:18 AM
Attachments: [Before I tried electronic cigarettes.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: R. Burke
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rkb777@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Before I tried electronic cigarettes, I had given up hope of ever quitting smoking. I had been smoking for a long time- 37 years- and no matter how much I wanted to or how hard I tried, I had never been able to quit, or even cut down. Whenever new, and usually expensive, stop-smoking aids would come out, I'd give them a try; but none of them ever helped me deal with the intense withdrawal symptoms I always suffered every time I tried to quit. Eventually, I gave up all hope and resigned myself to the sad fact that I would probably be a smoker for the rest of my life- or at least until cigarettes were made illegal. I couldn't really imagine what I'd do after that, but the outlook was very grim. Then I heard about electronic cigarettes, and although I was skeptical, I gave them a try. I didn't smoke a single cigarette after that, for months. (Previously, the longest I'd been able to stop smoking was no more than a week.) That is quite an accomplishment, considering that I was up to about 2 and a half packs of cigarettes a day (or more, when stressed out) at the time.

E-cigs work because they give users the nicotine we've become addicted to by smoking. They also provide a convincing imitation of the act of smoking, for those who have the habit: by that I mean that it actually looks and feels as if you're smoking. If you don't know that someone's using an e-cig, it's easy to be fooled: it looks very much like a regular cigarette, and it can produce a vapor that looks just like smoke. However, e-cigs don't stink; most people find the vapor has a faint, pleasant odor. The nicotine-containing juice e-cigs use comes in a variety of flavors, which I appreciate as a former smoker: since it's not tobacco, there's no reason it has to taste like it. But numerous flavors of tobacco are also available; the ones I tried were not half-bad, especially when compared to the low-quality cigarettes increasing numbers of smokers are forced to start buying whenever governments drastically increase tobacco product prices. The juice also comes in various strengths of nicotine, or with none at all. I used cartridges and juices with the highest level of nicotine at first, which kept my mind off cigarettes- a miracle, to me- while the act of vaping, as it is called, kept me busy and helped break the habit of lighting up. It may interest you to know that the great author, C. S. Lewis, suffered similarly. I wish he had had the opportunity to try e-cigs.

People who smoke and want to quit but can't need real help. It doesn't help most heavily addicted smokers to continually raise the price of cigarettes, to outlaw their use in public places, to restrict their use to ever-smaller and more uncomfortable smoking zones, or to ostracize and condemn smokers. Those misguided (and sometimes downright mean) measures not only make smokers feel even worse than they already do because they can't quit: they also make a lot of them justifiably angry.

Now this Senate is considering applying similar draconian measures to e-cigs, which begs these questions: Are you interested in helping people quit smoking, or not? If cigarettes are as bad for people's health as we have been led to believe, why would you want to deprive the heavily addicted of what may be the only method that will enable many of them to quit?

The restrictions you are considering with this bill will do nothing to help; if enacted, they will only drive more people to continue or go back to smoking, since a major factor for many in trying e-cigs is the amount of money they will save if they quit smoking. These measures will force e-cig producers to increase their prices by 70%, which would remove that motivation entirely. In addition, it will negatively affect the businesses involved, and at a time when this would be most unwise.

The FDA, unfortunately, has made a huge mistake in coming out against e-cigs- without having studied their safety or efficacy. If they truly want to protect Americans' health, their concern, besides prohibiting the sale of nicotine to minors, should focus on ensuring that the products used in vaping are as safe as can be (e.g. regulating the quality of the items and the juices), not to simply increase their cost prohibitively without just cause. It should not be necessary to accomplish this by placing an exorbitant and unfair tax on all e-cig products.

I intend to use e-cigs again when I'm ready to give up smoking for good. It would be a shame, to say the least, if I wouldn't be able to afford or even be able to find what I need to break free when I'm ready.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rriggs4455@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:14:39 AM
Attachments: [Vaping.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rachel Riggs
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rriggs4455@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

To Whom It Concerns;

I recently started "vaping" as of 12/2010. I chose to use the electronic cigarette as an alternative to regular tobacco smoking and I have to say it has worked wonderfully for me. I can now vape in my home, car, and around my child without endangering those around or myself for that matter. I understand some of the liquids used for vaping contain very low amounts of nicotine but this is not by any means the same as smoking a regular tobacco cigarette. I am a medical professional and know that nicotine by itself is no more harmful than caffeine that we ingest as Americans every day. I have spent quite a bit of money to start using this product and cannot imagine having to change products or quit all together. As a former smoker I know what it is to be scrutinized for a LEGAL habit yet we get taxed more than most, we pay higher health care premiums, higher life insurance premiums, listen to commercials tell us how bad smoking is for your health and those around us. My problem with this is the government fights to pass bills to ban smoking yet continue to produce a product that is so addictive; more addictive than some illegal drugs but then a product comes out to help those of us who want to choose a healthier alternative we get taxed for this too. Vaping is not in any respect close to smoking a cigarette, just compare the ingredients or I should say chemicals in a cigarette to the 4 ingredients in the liquid used for vaping. I pray this bill does not get passed, if it does it will be for the money. That has been what it has always been about. I whole-heartedly am opposed to this bill being passed, please give this community a break. Smokers have very few alternatives out there. This is a wonderful alternative for everyone!

Thank You,

Rachel Riggs

Indianapolis, In

Rriggs4455@yahoo.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: raeshanahan20@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:21:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rachel shanahan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: raeshanahan20@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Since i have been working for volcano I seen how much this product has helped people, as well as my own customers that i have helped. I really believe in this product please don't pass the bill. It would be unfair to all those people, and you would be sentencing those people to an earlier death.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rachel.tuma@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:01:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rachel Tuma
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rachel.tuma@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Electronic cigarettes should not be grouped with "tobacco". I was a smoker for 15 years. After trying the electronic cigarette, I have successfully STOPPED smoking. Taxing electronic cigarettes would make them and the accessories so expensive, I could not afford them. Nicotine is the only ingredient in the e-cigarette that relates to tobacco. While i do not agree with the sale of these items to minors, taxing them as "tobacco products" is a bit far-fetched.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rachelle96732@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 7:46:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: rachelle crisp
Organization:
E-mail: rachelle96732@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rhayama@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:58:37 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: rahn hayama
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rhayama@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
they helped me quit and live a healthier life

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: travelnperl@verizon.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:04:21 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Randall H Perl
Organization: Individual
E-mail: travelnperl@verizon.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Ok, I have noticed millions of people smoking, ruining my freshness for air, then, disposing of them in your beautiful gardens and beaches.

Come on, this use of electronic vapor is not only pleasant to smell, but is not disposed of in an uncaring matter.

If you are a humanitarian, then this 70% tax (LIKE) tobacco is as ungreen as you can be. Clean the earth and promote a sensible method of satisfaction.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rmprrr@windstream.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:31:01 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: randolph rabish
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rmprrr@windstream.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
I agree with not selling to minors but not to taxing

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sol0569@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 11:19:52 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Randy Solomon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sol0569@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rclanahan@charter.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:58:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Randy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rclanahan@charter.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
Moronic Liberals!!!!!! Self explanatory... no additional comments required.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lcdrek@tx.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:34:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Raphael Kearns
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lcdrek@tx.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I would like to submit testimony in opposition to this legislation. I am not a resident of Hawaii however I am a frequent visitor and a user of electronic cigarettes. I also purchase these products from a company in Hawaii and this tax will force me to purchase elsewhere.

I firmly believe in a high tax on traditional tobacco cigarettes as this is a method to discourage their use. Electronic cigarettes on the other hand possess none of the harmful problems that are associated with tobacco. They are smoke free, contain no harmful ingredients and cause no problems with "second hand smoke". These are not cigarettes and should NOT be taxed as such.

This is unfair legislation. Companies in your state are able to sell this product and contribute to their communities and your establishment of this tax will drive them out of business. This will deprive them of their livelihood, their customers of a great product, and the State of Hawaii the tax money that they are currently collecting from these companies.

Thank you for you time and attention.

Sincerely,

Raphael Kearns
2556 Campfire Lane
Frisco, TX 75033

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: krieghund360@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:16:03 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Raul Donastorg
Organization: Individual
E-mail: krieghund360@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

While I do strongly agree in making this product unavailable to minors. I do not think it should be taxed as a "tobacco product", because there are options to buy the liquid without any nicotine content in it. And even when it does The primary therapeutic use of nicotine is in treating nicotine dependence in order to eliminate smoking with the damage it does to health. Controlled levels of nicotine are given to patients through gums, dermal patches, lozenges, electronic/substitute cigarettes or nasal sprays in an effort to wean them off their dependence. A 70% sales tax would only serve to promote the use of traditional cigarettes as they would be far less costly. In an sum i feel that the approval of this law would only benefit the Big tobacco companies.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: raul.kingjr@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 3:47:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Raul Quilingking Jr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: raul.kingjr@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: raven.malott@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:27:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: raven malott
Organization: Individual
E-mail: raven.malott@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I have been a smoker and have been looked down upon since I started smoking cigarretes im now trying to quite and i thought that this is the best way. and usingf the e cigg is helping me ween my self but if the senet ads a 70% tax on all supplys i might as well keep smoking .im not hurting anyone doing it this way i dont think vaperizers should be taxed this way it helps people quite the harsh stuff

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ray1221lau@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 7:12:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ray Laut
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ray1221lau@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rklbuilders@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:54:31 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ray lopez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rklbuilders@live.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
NOT A TOBACCO PRODUCT!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tiger032974@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 12:57:41 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Raymond Domingo Jr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tiger032974@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: becklamano@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:05:25 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rebecca Lamano
Organization: Individual
E-mail: becklamano@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am writing to ask that you Please reconcider passing this bill against Electronic Cigarettes. I do agree they should not be available to minors because they do contain nictotine. I think that e-cigs should be easier for adults that are wanting and NEEDING a smoking alternative to get..NOT Harder or more expensive. They have changed my life! I have tried to quit a half dozen times and nothing has worked. I was introduced to Volcano E-Cigs based in Hawaii and because of there HIGH standards and quailty of there products I tried it. It has truely made a difference in my life. An alternative to Tobacco cigarettes is exactly what people need. E-cigs are free of the harsh chemicals and toxins that make combustable cigarettes so deadly. I got mine and have NOT touched a tobacco cigarette ever since. If they are taxed at a rate of 70%..that will Not only prevent people from being able to afford them but it will cause an Outstanding Company to go out of business and for people to lose jobs. E-cigs are a "Stop Smoking" tool for most of us and if they are not available or more expensive, those of us that have stopped smoking will go back to the Nasty Tobacco Cigarettes that are hated by everyone(even smokers) and deadly. PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL! I am a happy Non-Smoker thanks to Volcano-Ecigs based in Hawaii. I am planning to take a trip to Hawaii from FL for my husband and myself with the money we are saving on cigarettes this year by switching to e-cigs and would hate to think that won't be possible because of this bill. I know lots of people that are doing the same thing as reward to ourselves to making the switch. This bill will not only affect peoples health but it will affect the economy of Hawaii too. Not only will it cost people jobs by companies closing or leaving Hawaii to another state without this law but also Tourism will be affected with those of us that won't be able to make the trip.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rodaki@windstream.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 5:22:29 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rebecca Taylor
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rodaki@windstream.net
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

Electronic cigarettes are not tobacco products and should not be taxed or regulated as such. If tax policy were amended so that wealthy individuals and corporations paid their fair share of taxes, there would be no need to tax small businesses, such as those that sell electronic cigarettes, into oblivion.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: thebekkster@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:21:20 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rebekah Alferd
Organization: Individual
E-mail: thebekkster@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: poets808@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:42:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Reese
Organization: Individual
E-mail: poets808@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From smoking 2 packs of analogues a day to overnight quitting with e-cigs it really changed my life and the lives of my family as well. I really hope that there will be no extra taxation for mw to continue this heathier lifestyle.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: regina.miller@compuware.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:50:49 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Regina Miller
Organization: Individual
E-mail: regina.miller@compuware.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Not all e-cigarette use involves/contains tobacco/nicotine and should not be considered as such. These products have helped me quit smoking tobacco at a reasonable price. I am currently mixing nicotine and non nicotine liquid and after this bottle will discontinue nicotine. Changes to the pricing of these products would keep others from trying to quit smoking or some may begin smoking again should the price become too high.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: REIKOCORIA@HOTMAIL.COM
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:01:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: REIKO CORIA
Organization: Individual
E-mail: REIKOCORIA@HOTMAIL.COM
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

THIS PRODUCT IS FANTASTIC! I HAVE BEEN A SMOKER FOR OVER 20 YEARS AND I NO LONGER SMELL LIKE A CHIMMNEY! MY KIDS ARE THANKFUL THAT THIS PRODUCT IS AVAILABLE AND THAT I AM ON THE ROAD TO FINALLY QUITTING!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: idalianaomi@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:37:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: renee eastling
Organization: Individual
E-mail: idalianaomi@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am upset and I think adding tax onto an electronic is nuts. selfish when all we want to to is help people quit smoking. you add tax onto a good thing. ass holes

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rhen_100806@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 8:45:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: renie eladyo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rhen_100806@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: r.agonoy@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:58:34 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: rex agonoy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: r.agonoy@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jrex80@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:02:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rex Johnson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jrex80@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I have used ecigs for 9 months and have not smoked real cigarettes at all. I find that ecigs are a helpful quitting tool. I feel they should not be treated as tobacco products. Children should not be allowed to buy them but they are a wonderful tool for adults.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rhondasalessc@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 3:05:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rhonda Sales
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rhondasalessc@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rsbuchanan@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 11:27:01 PM
Attachments: [Testimony in opposition of SB2819.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Richard Buchanan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rsbuchanan@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Testimony in opposition of SB2819

I smoked cigarettes for 29 years. I have tried many different times to quit and have failed until I was introduced to the ecigarette. February 2011 I was directed to a reputable company that sells ecigarette models and accessories that is located in Hawaii. I can say that with the help of this product and the support of the people that work there I have not smoked a cigarette for 11 months. In addition I have referred no less than a dozen other people to this company that also have quit smoking while using their products.

While this product does have the means to provide a source of nicotine, many like myself, are now using the ecigarette that provide little or none. This means eventually I will be free of all addictive substances that tobacco provides.

I am in agreement that this product should not be provided to minors. I believe in my state such a rule exists. I am in opposition to taxing this product as a tobacco product.

I buy exclusively from one company. This company is located in Hawaii. If they are forced to tax their product at the same rate as cigarettes, I believe it would have a devastating effect. I, as many others, would be forced by economics to find another company located outside of Hawaii to give our business to. This would more than likely cause this company great financial hardship ultimately forcing them to close or relocate to another state that does not place the same restrictions on them.

I respectfully urge you not to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Richard Buchanan

Lakewood, Colorado

rsbuchanan@hotmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rkahuli@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:42:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: richard kahuli
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rkahuli@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

is u crazy 70%???? get real....state is already pushing up taxes on evrything else.let us atleast have this to help smokers quit and help locals out...

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: leer660@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:16:28 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Richard Lee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: leer660@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: richard.pope@parsons.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:53:21 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Richard Pope
Organization: Individual
E-mail: richard.pope@parsons.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I had been smoking tobacco cigarettes, one and a half packs a day, and after using the electronic cigarettes for four days, I've been off of smoking cigarettes as well as the electronic cigarette for two weeks. The use of these electronic cigarettes make me feel 100% better, my shortness of breath has gone away as well as the coughing from the effects of the smoke over the years.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rtamboa@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:53:47 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Richard Tamboa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rtamboa@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: robiniol@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 3:00:55 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: richelle ann robiniol
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robiniol@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hummuh808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 1:39:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rick Acosta
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hummuh808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: richagne@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:36:40 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rick Agnew
Organization: Individual
E-mail: richagne@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: iclark@centurytel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:40:46 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rickie Clark
Organization: Individual
E-mail: iclark@centurytel.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I am off tobacco and ecigs are the wonderful gift to of got me away from chewing. Why hurt jobs in America. The thing that is most needed. Taxes on all these things your doing is only hurting the companies and us that want better heath. I ask please to let e-cigs go as they are. I feel blessed to of gotten the great invention and it helps my heath and others will also.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rruiz@punaho.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:09:28 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rita Ruiz
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rruiz@punaho.edu
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rtaggart17@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:08:07 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rob Taggart
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rtaggart17@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I was a tobacco user for over 25 years, having tried several methods to quit smoking and failed. Over this time I felt the negative effects on my health and well being. Thanks to e-cigarettes i have been able to quit tobacco all together. There is not a trace of tobacco in the fluid that I purchase and use from Volcano, nor do I use nicotine any more. I think it is greedy and ridiculous that the State of Hawaii is trying to find yet another way to Tax people because they have quit smoking. All of the States in our great country ban smoking, are against smoking, but yet when a great alternative comes out to help smokers quit, then the state is not concerned about how this is helping it's citizens get healthier, their only concern is revenue from Taxes. Our problems in this country is excessive taxation, and the last thing we need is another tax. Do NOT pass this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: esposito.robert@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:17:55 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert A Esposito
Organization: Individual
E-mail: esposito.robert@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

My wife had smoked tobacco cigarettes for 45 years and tried to stop dozens of times, never for more than two weeks. Since taking up electronic cigarettes, she has been tobacco-free for three months. With electronic cigarettes, she is convinced she will never resume tobacco products. I purchase all of her electronic cigarette merchandise from a vendor in Hawaii and urge the Hawaiian Senate to stop bill SB2819 from being signed into law.

Thank you for considering my input.

Robert A Esposito

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: robotpcc@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:05:29 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Calabrese
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robotpcc@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
enough with the taxing and regulations already less goverment is better. People are trying to stop smoking and you will be making it more diffucult and expensive

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Rdowdrick@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:21:19 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Dowdrick
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Rdowdrick@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: georgeroofing@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:53:16 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ROBERT G JOHNSON
Organization: Individual
E-mail: georgeroofing@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I have been smoking 2 packs a day for over 35 years, To the delight and shock of family and friends i was able to put them down Oct. 2010 and am still smoke free. A lot of my family and friends as well as myself, never thought in a million years i could quit. well after seeing these i new that's what i needed, mainly something to hold in my hand and i can actually feel the vapor. I now can vape in the house or car and not bother any one. My hope is to put these down shortly which i believe i can do. For you to put these rules and regulations on the e-cig is just wrong, i question whether politicians are really interested in people quitting or just another money grab, i highly suspect the latter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rbivgq1734@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:11:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Ivan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rbivgq1734@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

i strongly agree that minors should not be able to purchase suh products. As it is the way with children it would most likely end up to smoking actual cigarettes. It is ridiculous to tax the sale of electronic vaporizers and there accesories. Nicotine is in the same family as cafeine, soda does not have such a hefty tax. Since when were liquids intended to be vaporized taxed. This is not the way to go, people who use these vaporizers are using it as an alternative to smoking. This is helping alot of people to avoid the medical issues assosciated with smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: 94robss@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:31:49 AM
Attachments: [Testimony.rtf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Larson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: 94robss@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

please do not pass this bill. it is such a cleaner way for people to get the realization of smoking when it is actually vapping. it is not smoke. i think its a good substitute for quitting smokers. also different flavored e-liquids are delicious.

all i ask in all due respect is Please oppose this bill.

Thanks

Robert Larson

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: obyming@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 7:09:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Mata
Organization: Individual
E-mail: obyming@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jumpingfrog187@windstream.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:19:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Myers
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jumpingfrog187@windstream.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I SMOKED CIGARETTES FOR ALMOST 14 YEARS TRYING ALMOST EVERY TRICK IN THE BOOK TO QUIT SMOKING, AFTER LEARNING ABOUT THE ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES , I WAS VERY SKEPTICAL. THE ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES STOPPED ME FROM SMOKING AND I WAS ABLE TO WEEN MY SELF FROM EVEN NEEDING THE ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES BY GETTING FLUIDS WITH LESS NICOTINE IN THEM. APRIL WILL MAKE 2 YEARS SINCE I HAVE TOUCHED A CIGARETTES. PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL FOR IT MAY AFFECT OTHER PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO QUIT SMOKING.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS
ROBERT MYERS

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: skrpionz@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:58:44 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Novak
Organization: Individual
E-mail: skrpionz@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I am father with 3 teenage daughters ...I have been using ecigs for awhile and got off of smoking because my kids had kept asking me too. I have not touched a regular cigarette since using ecigs I like using flavored ones, my kids like the smell better, they say it smells like candy, and they dont goto school smelling either and everyone breathes easier...ALOT easier. these are no different than nicotine patches because when someone quits smoking it's in two phases: addiction and physical habit(hand to mouth) By looking at all this all you guys want is money .. something that saves peoples lives and is trying to make it better for others around them to not have second hand smoke with the thousands of chemicals like analog cigarettes do.. I had thought of planning a trip to hawaii with my kids hopefully one day but if lawmakers make stupid laws like this I don't think I will. these type of proposals are just stupid look at the positives rather than the dollar sign

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rrsounder@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 3:57:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: robert rosner
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rrsounder@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This technology has been and will continue to SAVE LIVES. Place restrictions on sale to minors yes, but TO TAX this technology??? How dare any government do this! I am vehemently opposed to this draconian legislation!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: robertsoto1981@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 1:56:29 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Soto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robertsoto1981@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

It shouldn't be taxed because it's a liquid and does not contain actual tobacco leaves.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: stauffer@localnet.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:21:02 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Stauffer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: stauffer@localnet.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

At 54 years old I finally found a alternative to tobacco based products, a non tobacco product offered by the E-Cig industry, a more cost effective and safer way to relax, now, of course the government wants to get its greedy little hands on this due to its growing popularity, and lable it as a tobacco prodct, well there is no tobacco, it is a non tobacco product that is affordable, if you jokers pass this measure and cause a increase in cost I will go back to tobacco products, and have you to blame

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rtwombly@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:58:56 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Twombly
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rtwombly@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am not from Hawaii but as things usually go with governemnt, other states would follow suite if this bill were to become law. I have used nicotine alternative units, aka electronic cigarettes, for over a year and I can say that I have not had a regular buring cigarette in that time. I am not advocating the ecig as a "quit smoking plan" but i do believe it is an excelent alternative to taking something made of dried leaves and paper, sticking it in your face and setting fire to it.

I am absolutly for the limiting of sale of the units and liquid to 18+ individuals. I am also for the mandating of quality standards of the liquids. But I am 100% against legislation that would tax or regulate these units as tobacco products. In my opinion, these products are as much a tobacco product as the nicotine patch is. Or Nicotine gum, losenges etc.

Like I said in the beginning, I am not from Hawaii but I don't want this bill to pass and become a template for other states, including my own, to adopt.

Thank you for allowing my opinion.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bblack@instagraph.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:40:47 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Wayne Black
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bblack@instagraph.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This is ridiculous that this bill would tax electronic cigarette's as though they are a tobacco product. This product will save millions of lives from cancer. This product should not be sold to minors without the parents consent. If I had a child who had an addiction to tobacco I would certainly encourage this product as a solution.

Robert W. Black
Ca. 92832

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: precioushayn@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 3:20:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: roberta akana
Organization: Individual
E-mail: precioushayn@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I feel that it is ridiculous raising taxes on electric cigarettes when it is helping people to quit smoking the toxic cigarettes, further more you guys should be looking else where to add taxes like the rich.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: robinligsay@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:00:37 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robin Ligsay
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robinligsay@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

My boyfriend had been smoking cigarettes for 12 years and was up to 2 packs a day. He has been using Volcano ecigs for 1 month now and has not touched a real cigarette since.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hawaiianguitar@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:03:28 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roddy Lopez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hawaiianguitar@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
this is not a tobacco product

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cinrog@att.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:57:06 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roger Mobley
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cinrog@att.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am not opposed to the non sale to minors, but the tax increase is uncalled for. Because tobacco companies are losing money you want to increase taxes here.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rswhitson@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:17:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roger Whitson
Organization: ABBA RUthven Christian Ministry
E-mail: rswhitson@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This bill is yet another TAX grab from consumers.

These products are in no way, shape or form TOBACCO products!

They are, in fact, an healthier alternative to tobacco. Some 5000+ chemicals in tobacco...four in e-smokes.

Those with addictions claim better health, easier breathing and a general sence of well being with their use. This is WRONG, and should be defeated.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: keoni96706@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:33:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ROLAND
Organization: Individual
E-mail: keoni96706@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
better than smoking cigs that make u stink

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rrmapanao@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 2:04:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: rommel mapanao
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rrmapanao@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rshipe1@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:36:19 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ron Shipe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rshipe1@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This is ridiculous. We finally have a non tobacco product, made in America, that works to aid stopping smoking and you want to tax it out of existence. I smoked for 50 years until trying this product. Now I haven't smoked in close to a year.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ralgroupron@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:31:49 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ronald deleon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ralgroupron@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rpeeples2@triad.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 3:03:21 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ronald E Peeples Jr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rpeeples2@triad.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

Categorically oppose taxing of electronic vapor as it does not share any of the same scientific or molecular properties of tobacco.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ovlov1@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:08:59 AM
Attachments: [Hawii Tax.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ronald Winneberger
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ovlov1@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

1/31/12

I'm writing in protest of BillsB2819,

I totally agree with not allowing the sale of electronic cigarettes and supply's to MINORS! However taxing there sale to adults is a step in the wrong direction. It can't be justified for health reasons as they have the opposite effect, allowing user's to get off tobacco products, improving there health! I know this first hand as I use to smoke 2 packs a day! I started using electronic cigarettes from Volcano, a seller based in Hawaii about 3 months ago and now smoke maybe a pack a week. My doctor recommended I try the electronic cigarettes for my health, I'm 77 years old and have a breathing problem. Since using the electronic cigarettes my breathing has improved based on tests my doctor uses every 60 days. Plus I'm saving a goodly amount of money, which I need for food and gas, do to the higher cost of both. Being retired and on a fixed income every dollar I can save by not buying tobacco products and the better health condition, is important, to my quality of life. If you put a tax of the magnitude proposed I will be forced to seek other suppliers out side of Hawaii, like China, which is just the thing our president is trying to combat! You will drive Volcano Electronic Cigarettes off the Island as they will be at an impossible cost disadvantage to there competitors, both locally and on the internet! This is an ill advised move and hints of tobacco industry retaliation against there competition. Please reconsider this bill SB2819, as it's presently written and delete the absurd tax. Keep the restriction on sales to minors.

Ronald Winneberger
5204 Trackway Dr
Knightdale, NC 27545

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: marleyburn1@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:44:48 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ronald yi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: marleyburn1@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ronson.esteban67@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:11:09 PM
Attachments: [Opposition to tax electronic cigs.rtf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ronson Esteban
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ronson.esteban67@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This will affect many young adults like me, twenty two years old, who have been smoking for ten years or almost as long, like me. Why not support a healthy alternative? why tax items like batteries, tips, chargers and accessories? I vape, NOT smoke, Volcano electronic "cigarettes." their juices are FDA approved and a lot people choose not to smoke the juices with nicotine in them. SUPPORT HAWAII'S PEOPLE AND GIVE THEM THE HEALTH AND LIFE THEY DESERVE. please do not tax these products. please do research on all brands especially volcano products! these are not tobacco products and if hawaii gains money from taxing tobacco products you'll get the money you need from the real smokers who probably 3/4 do not plan on quitting and are hooked for life. Hawaii is a big part of my life and so is my choice to vape, not smoke, these products.. Hawaii will lose my respect and hope in becoming a better and healthier state.

Please do some research before passing this law to tax electronic "cigarettes." It is NOT a tobacco product and most users and many products do not even use the juices that contain nicotine for these devices. It would greatly affect the number of "vapers" or people who smoke these e-cigs by more than likely making their decision to continue using these. Something major to think about is that this does not help these people trying to quit and develop better health and maintain a healthier lifestyle. I strongly think that passing this tax on these ecigs would be unfair and unjust. WHY tax the items that are just accessories such as batteries, heating elements, chargers, tips, and empty containers? It does not make sense! If anyone cares about the people of Hawaii's health they would NOT pass this. Smoking this healthier and safer alternative would cost twice as much (or more) to smoke regular cigarettes! Sure tax the products that actually have tobacco in them and all the other unholy chemicals in them, but not electronic cigarettes. I do not know if other companies have juices that contain tobacco but if they do tax THOSE juices by all means but not the safe and tobacco free ones! I would not like to think that Hawaii wouldnt support its people and a healthy lifestyle that everyone deserves. I smoke Volcano brand ecigs and their juices are FDA approved and safe. Ive been a smoker for 10 years and i am only 22 years old. It would greatly have an effect on me as well as the many other kids like me who are quitting smoking and turning to this for help. IT DOES work! support this! If this tax will generate money for Hawaii you will definitely get the money you need from the regular smokers who probably at least 3/4 of them do not plan on quitting and are hooked for life. If you think that this is a good idea then obviously no research has been done and peoples voices who are against this tax were and are ignored! I've always loved Hawaii, its my home and a big part of my life, but so is my decision to smoke ecigs and stay off cigarettes. Put this tax in effect and Hawaii lose much of my respect and love for this place as I will then know that the state does not care about its people. The point is "smoking" these electronic "cigarettes" is safe, its NOT a TOBACCO product and if the government wants to pass this at least get your head together and tax the products that actually tobacco products and know that we are not smokers! we are vapers! its vapor. why would you want to tax that? why would you NOT support a healthy alternative?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: gilson@ieee.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 5:00:28 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ross Gison
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gilson@ieee.org
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

Oppose further taxation of e-cigarettes; support prohibition of sale to minors.

These products provide an opportunity for lifestyle change, with associated reduction in harm to smokers and the public generally, particularly with regard to health consequences and associated burden on medical resources and costs.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rweiden@cox.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:38:37 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ross Weidenhammer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rweiden@cox.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

To the Honorable Legislators of Hawaii. While I support the proposal to ban sales of electronic cigarettes to minors, I strongly oppose the taxation of such devices to raise State or Federal revenue. I began using these products to benefit from the lack of 4000 plus chemicals and carcinogens that are carried in traditional cigarettes. My overall health has improved since I gave up the traditional cigarettes a year ago. My Doctor has even encouraged me to continue using these products as long as I find it necessary. I have reduced my nicotine level to only 1/4 of what I had been ingesting and I foresee giving it up all together. Taxation of these products would prevent many others such as myself from taking an important step to minimize the effects of, if not completely overcome, an addiction to cigarettes. These items are similar to nicotine patches and chewing gums available over the counter at many stores and pharmacies. Taxation of these items is not the right thing to do. It would also sour my views on the Aloha State and would drive me to, in effect, boycott the State and anything the State supports or produces.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kylieri77@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 3:04:36 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roxanne Gapsin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kylieri77@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ranise@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:35:08 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roy Anise
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ranise@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

E-cigarettes are saving lives! How can you tax them to discourage people from using them and therefore supporting traditional cigarettes that are extremely toxic and killing 400,000 Americans a year!

Stop supporting Big Tobacco with your tax policy!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chadbravo22@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 10:32:33 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rudy Bravo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chadbravo22@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Aradi00@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 9:11:43 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Russell Leary
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Aradi00@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I have switch off from cigarettes to electronic cigarettes from June 21, 2010, I was a 2 to 3 day pack ex-smoker for roughly 26 years. My first electronic cigarette was a Volcano electronic cigarette which helped me switch from unhealthy after effects of smoking cigarettes, I have never gone back to smoking cigarettes since then. I am now still continuing to enjoy my personal habits without harming others by smoke from cigarettes, in private or publically.

My wife also bought a Volcano Electronic cigarette and an out-of-state electronic cigarette, she started on June 26, 2010, she was a casual smoker of 1 pack a day. Electronic cigarettes as her substitution for smoking gratification, has ended February 2011, and it helped her to stop smoking and stop using electronic cigarettes.

After reading both bills: SB2819, HB2557 I strongly oppose it, as it is incorrect and inaccurate information within the suggested bill.

The Federal law is still in formation, and hasn't formed its true classification on how Electronic cigarettes will be handle for taxes yet, and these proposed Hawaii bills comes to place with one of the most outrageous taxes for batteries and components which is obviously worded wrong for taxation. You can't classify batteries for tobacco products and at a 70% tax charge on wholesale.

I do believe that the admendments for the sale to minors; "must be 18 years or older" be treated as such, for electronic cigarettes, as most vendors, or retail outlets have been practicing it in their place of business or and online already.

There are some key points that I do agree with taxation, but not at the levels of 70%. Flavored nicotine needs to be regulated but until the Federal laws are placed, I don't see how Hawaii State laws can come into effect for taxation.

If these bills get passed at the current propasals , expect me to continue buying all my electronic cigarette goods from out-of-state online, and one less registered vote for everyone that proposed these bills.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: info@ecigsunlimited.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 9:58:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ry
Organization: Electronic Cigarettes Ultd, LLC
E-mail: info@ecigsunlimited.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

Dear States Men & Women,

We protest the move to classify Personal Vaporizing devices (aka Electronic Cigarette) as tobacco product or medical device. These are new industry, new future and are neither of these terms.

PVs or e-Cigarettes should be classed as "Recreational Smoke-Free Nicotine and/or Nicotine-Free Delivery Product";.

To act quick and class e-cigarette as something that it is not will jeopardize this new industry, the ventures associated, and any jobs linked with PVs.

We do believe in regulations, with age etc. but to adopt old laws with a new industry will not be beneficial for the future of e-Cigarettes, and may destroy it.

We hope this e-mail is well received.

Thank you for your time! :-)

Electronic Cigarettes Ultd.™, LLC
<http://www.ECigsUnlimited.com>
E-Mail: info@ecigsunlimited.com
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ECigsUnlimited>
Twitter: http://twitter.com/ECigs_Unlimited
Linkedin: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/electronic-cigarettes-ultd->

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ryanmarshall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 12:32:55 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ryan marshall
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ryanmarshall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: xero.x7@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:56:04 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ryland Eisele
Organization: Individual
E-mail: xero.x7@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sorlando@galco.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:12:04 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: sal orlando
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sorlando@galco.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I smoked for 34 years. I have had two heart stints put in. I went to e cigs a year ago.
I join the gym while I smoked and could not even do five minute of cardio training.
After I quit tobacco and went to e cigs I can now do 45 minutes of high intensity cardio. I do this four times a week plus body training.
There is no way I could do this if I smoked tobacco.

The benefits of the cig is this:

I get nicotine without the bad tobacco
No more coughing in the morning.
Less sick during the year.
My breath, house and car smell better.
On a very serious adult matter and one of the most important is this:
Smoking tobacco restricts arteries and blood flow.
Because of the increase in blood flow now in my vanes and arteries, I have a lot better erections. It's really incredible. If men are having ED issues, quit smoking and get on e cigs! I have turned back the clock 20 years in that area of my life.
Quit going after something that can help people get away from Tobacco!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: samjr_ph@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 11:36:42 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sam Villena
Organization: Individual
E-mail: samjr_ph@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sammyd9779@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 11:51:30 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: samantha dupont
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sammyd9779@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sameeann@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:07:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: samantha
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sameeann@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

If you pass this I refuse to visit hawaii. this is a ridiculous proposal! Ecigs have saved my life from smoking cigarettes. The US should be spreading the word on these lifesaving inventions and NOT making them even more expensive than cigarettes that KILL. I can understand a slight tax but 70 percent?! are you kidding?! they're already expensive technology. please don't do this to your people. Ill be ashamed of this country even more than I already am.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: speedeezone@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 10:22:29 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Samuel Justin Tarbet
Organization: Individual
E-mail: speedeezone@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

I have been trying to stop smoking cigarettes for years now and nothing has worked up until the introduction of electronic cigarettes. I understand the word cigarette is still in the name electric cigarette, but they are not the same. Tobacco products are harmful to the smoker and e cigs are much safer and healthier. I used to wake up coughing every morning and was on a path to serious medical problems. Without an e cig to wane me off tobacco I would still be harming myself and spending a fortune on future medical bills. Waking up and not caughing or feeling slugish and out of breath from tobacco is a thing of the past thanks to e-cigs.

We do not allow the sale of other products to minors, but to not classify them as tobacco. Spray paint and mature video games are not allowed to be sold to minors, but we do not call them tobacco.

These e cigarettes are a blessing for our healthcare system and individuals trying to get off of cigarettes. If e cigs become heavily taxed and cost prohibitive, we will just start smoking tobacco again and become a future drain on the healthcare system.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: samgkirwin@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 6:53:49 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Samuel Kirwin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: samgkirwin@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

Your taxation bill will have a NEGATIVE affect on the public - electronic cigarettes are helping people to switch over from regular cigarettes, and avoid the tar, and 700 toxic chemicals which come with them. Electronic cigarettes do NOT contain tobacco. Your bill will simply cause many to revert back to smoking, once the price advantage in using electronic vs regular cigarettes is eliminated. I strongly oppose this taxation. Thanks.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hanzawas@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 3:09:19 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandra Daniells
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hanzawas@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

It appears like a good product to help people quit smoking . Also it is healthier than real cigarettes to wean off. People need solutions and this could be one step towards that. Thank You.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sandyjasmine@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:20:09 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandra Gene
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sandyjasmine@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Personal vaporizers are not tobacco products and should not be taxed as such. They do contain nicotine and vapor. They have helped me and many other people quit smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tyleris4@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:08:10 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandra Robertson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tyleris4@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

By imposing this tax, you will be limiting people of the chance for a safer, healthier alternative to smoking tobacco. I have used e-cigarette's and e-liquid for almost two years now, and after having smoked cigarettes for 30+ years, have been able to stay tobacco free this entire time, thanks to e-cigarettes. I now feel better than I have in years. I may not be very expressive in my comments, but I plead with you to please do not pass this bill!! Thank you for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sandyszymanski@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 12:48:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: sandy szymanski
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sandyszymanski@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Sara@touchstoneproperties-hawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:47:19 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sara Smith-Kaya
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Sara@touchstoneproperties-hawaii.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Electroinoc cigarettes have helped thousands stop smoking tobacco cigarettes. To tax this product would be the same as saying smoke cigarettes and instead pay the cigarette tax.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: saveiro@hawthoeneocat.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:01:50 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: scott aveiro
Organization: Individual
E-mail: saveiro@hawthoeneocat.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rubyrhod54@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:10:31 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Scott Bruckbauer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rubyrhod54@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
On balance, this bill will do more harm than good.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: SHOLLIDAY@COMCAST.NET
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:37:31 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: SCOTT HOLLIDAY
Organization: Individual
E-mail: SHOLLIDAY@COMCAST.NET
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

stop this insane bill, you will lose many businesses in a growing market. And I personally will never vacation in Hawaii again. Find your budget shortfalls elsewhere. Do not punish the people trying to make their health better.. Raise the cigarette tax. Not the people attempting and succeeding in quitting.. Shame on you !!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: klintworth.scott@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:12:35 AM
Attachments: [VolcanoEcigs.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Scott Klintworth
Organization: Individual
E-mail: klintworth.scott@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Scott Klintworth

Hawaii State Legislature

Measure SB2819

31 January 2012

Volcano E-cigs

My name is Scott Klintworth, I am a freshman at the University of Nevada, Reno. I have never been to any of Hawaii's islands but the Hawaii based company Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes is a large part of my life. I have had asthma since I was very young. Any time I would exercise my chest would tighten, my airways would constrict and I could not physically breathe with the exception of short, gasping breaths. Even though I knew from an early age that tobacco smoke was bad for my asthma, I started smoking flavored cigarettes when I was 16. I switched to regular cigarettes before I was 18. Smoking was extremely detrimental to my health, but I did it because I was addicted to nicotine. I craved it so I smoked, and my asthma slowly got worse. A friend of mine who spent a few months in Hawaii recently introduced me to the volcano company. He showed me that their electronic cigarettes were a TOBACCO FREE way to get the nicotine I craved. Nicotine is one of the most common psychoactive drugs that Americans use, second only to caffeine. Nicotine is also only as harmful to you as a cup of coffee, the only problem with nicotine is its addictiveness. After doing some research I ordered an electronic cigarette from the company and I instantly cut back on tobacco consumption. The electronic cigarette was not very expensive so I was able to squeeze it into my

budget. Today I do not smoke cigarettes any more. My asthma has gotten much better and I feel healthier.

To classify electronic cigarettes as a tobacco product would completely incorrect. Electronic cigarettes are not used for tobacco like rolling papers. They also do not have any tobacco in them or the juice they use. Electronic cigarettes are a tobacco alternative, they are healthier and should be supported. Tobacco is taxed to discourage its use, therefore Hawaii state legislature should leave electronic cigarettes untaxed so more tobacco users will switch to the healthier alternative that is also cheaper. Volcano E-cigs is an exceptional company, I only use their products because they are more reliable than any other. If the state of Hawaii taxes the company, myself and hundreds of other recovering tobacco addicts across America will be forced to by from an inferior brand. The rise in Volcano E-cigs' price will cause a rapid fall in demand. Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes will be forced to move to the mainland or go out of business. I agree that minors should not be able to purchase nicotine. However, the other points in this measure are far to damaging to the local and national consumers as well as Volcano.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: slans041572@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:01:29 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Scott Lansberry
Organization: Individual
E-mail: slans041572@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

E-cigs are NOT tobacco products, what are you thinking. Someone in the government is sitting around, bored, looking for someone to pick on in order to get more money for the state. Here is an idea...stop voting for raises in your own paychecks and take a pay cut. Maybe you can skip out on the taxpayer paid vacations and actually act like one of us for a while. Sit in our seats and take a look around you to see how we are struggling day in and day out.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: skjiro@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 5:35:12 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: scott lee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: skjiro@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tervanustrmhanzz@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:17:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: scott
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tervanustrmhanzz@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This electronic cigarette/personal vapor has help me quit smoking regular tobacco cigarettes after 20 yrs.I,m so happy to have found volcano e cigs and hopefully i can lower my risk of heart attack and give me a better longer life.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bugah1967@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:02:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: sean higdon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bugah1967@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: seanp808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:56:25 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: SEAN KARL PEROS
Organization: Individual
E-mail: seanp808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Trying to tax on e-cig. U guyz are a fuckin joke. Trying to profit one way or another. Thats the reason why alot of people change to electrONic, because there safer and CHEAPER. U guyz suck.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Seanoso@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:35:34 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sean
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Seanoso@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

My family loves to visit Oahu. During a visit in October 2010, my wife and I purchased an ecig Frm Volcano kapahulu. We have Quit smoking traditional cigs from the help of ecigs. The economical benefit of using the ecig alternative, Is a motivating factor to continue healthy practice such as ecigs. This would be disheartening to see the state of Hawaii putting first the MONEY, rather than Heath and well being!

Pls do not unfairly tax the ecig in the state of Hawaii, This could very well set a negative signal out to the rest of the world on something new, healthier, better. This, healthier alternative, at least deserves more discussion before such a hasty tax is applied.
Respectfully,
A dear friend to the islands,
Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: seb@thirlway.demon.co.uk
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 4:03:15 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Seb Thirlway
Organization: Individual
E-mail: seb@thirlway.demon.co.uk
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

Ladies and gentlemen of the Hawaii State Legislature:

I am not a citizen of the state of Hawaii or even of the USA. I am writing in opposition to SB2819 because I believe the State of Hawaii would be making a damaging mistake, and setting a bad precedent for legislators worldwide, by passing this measure:

- a) In terms of justice
- b) In terms of the equity and clarity of purpose of State legislation, and thus the dignity and authority of the State government
- c) In terms of the public health of State citizens
- d) In blurring the clear distinction between the separate aims of protecting minors, assisting in the safety of adult citizens, and raising necessary funds to provide government services.

I personally agree with one purpose of SB2819: that supplies and equipment for the delivery of nicotine (such as e-cigarettes) should be restricted to purchase by those over 18.

However, there is no possibly excuse for abusing the strong arguments that exist for this first purpose to supposedly justify another, second purpose, slipped in under cover of the first: the second purpose of classifying e-cigarette equipment as "tobacco products" for the purposes of taxation.

Whatever arguments exist for taxing cigarettes at a high level, the State must make a case that those arguments also apply to e-cigarettes. That both classes of products share the common feature of being undesirable for general unrestricted sale to minors is not a sufficient argument.

I am convinced that the public-health benefits of e-cigarettes - and specifically the benefits of ensuring that they remain available and attractive to smokers at a reasonable price - are so strong that the case for punitive taxation on these products would have to stand up to serious scrutiny.

I myself have given up smoking cigarettes and am starting to enjoy the health benefits. This is largely thanks to the availability of e-cigarette products at a reasonable price, which has encouraged an informed, helpful, enthusiastic community of e-cigarette users and suppliers, many of whom are US citizens and businesses. A punitive taxation rate would have made, and could still make this kind of health benefit impossible.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dextah96708@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 1:06:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Serina Aki
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dextah96708@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Thacrudd@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:17:22 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Seth Myers
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Thacrudd@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am writing to you because I oppose a portion of SB2819. I am all for banning the sale of electronic cigarette products to minors. I believe that if they cannot buy tobacco cigarettes then they should not be allowed to buy electronic cigarettes and accompanying products.

The issue I have with this bill is the label of "tobacco product" for taxation. It is not a tobacco product at all. Placing a tax on electronic cigarettes will hinder the industry in a negative way, even if it starts with just your state.

I do not live in Hawaii, I live in Tennessee. I used electronic cigarettes for a year to quit smoking, which in turn I quit them as well. I would truly hate to see a positive industry hampered when so many ex-smokers have benefited from them, including myself, not to mention any Hawaii based businesses in this industry being forced to close due to the price increase and not be able to compete. I truly hope that you all would consider removing the taxation segment of the bill. Thank you for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: shadow_rhelm79@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:54:59 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shadow Rhelm
Organization: Individual
E-mail: shadow_rhelm79@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
Aloha Representatives,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen in regards to bill HB2557. I have been using electronic cigarettes since August 17, 2010. My health and the health of my children have vastly improved. I suffer from a horrible disease called Rheumatoid Arthritis; I have had it since I was 14 years old. Since I have stopped smoking I have shown remarkable improvement. I am not stuck in bed suffering all the time. My daughter, who suffers from a smoke allergy, is no longer becoming very sick from it just being on my clothing (and I never smoked in doors). My mother who has advanced stages of COPD and was not expected to live long has exceeded her doctor's estimates by switching to electronic cigarettes and is now healthier than she was before. She can actually walk to and from the bathroom without losing her breath. You see this option has not only allowed us to stop smoking, but is also allowed us to live healthy and has vastly improved our lives. I tried for so many years to stop smoking and nothing worked, this worked. Please do not risk our health for this bill. I beg you.

The products I use come from a Hawaiian local company, Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes. Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes is a locally owned and operated Electronic Cigarette and Accessories retailer/supplier with 5 current retail locations and one warehouse/shipping center located in Honolulu. they have been in business for nearly three years and currently employ over 30 full-time employees locally and are one of the fastest growing businesses in the state. Bill HB2557, introduced by Speaker Say as a package put together for Governor Abercrombie, directly affects their local operation and jeopardizes their ability to continue operations in the State of Hawaii and I wanted to contact you to voice our concerns and ask for your help in getting this bill defeated.

The electronic cigarette, also known as an "e-cig", "an e-cigarette", "a personal vaporizer", a "PV", a "nicotine vaporizer" and many other things is a device used to vaporize liquid that can optionally contain varying levels of nicotine (and in many cases no nicotine at all). It is used currently by thousands of people locally and tens of millions of people nationally everyday as an alternative to cigarettes and in situations where cigarettes are not permitted. This product is intended for smokers and others addicted to nicotine who are looking for a less hazardous way to maintain, decrease, or otherwise eliminate their nicotine usage and avoid known risks to their own health caused by smoking and the health and safety of those around them.

Bill HB2557 aims to classify electronic cigarettes as a tobacco product, restrict the sale of the product to minors under the age of 18, and subject the sale of all electronic cigarette related products to a 70% tobacco tax regardless of whether or not the product actually contains tobacco. While I agree that products should be restricted from being sold to minors. The bill in its current form has many unintended negative consequences that will effectively end all future sales of the product in the state by local vendors and force thousands of users of the product to buy from out of state vendors via the internet or return to smoking altogether which has already been proven to be an eventual death sentence.

The bill as it is written shows a fundamental lack of knowledge of electronic cigarettes, how they are

made, what it does, and how it is sold. An electronic cigarette is an electronic device made up of many different common electronic components such as batteries, buttons, metal tips, charging components, plastic bottles,...etc. All of these items are sold separately or as a kit and many of the components can actually be used in conjunction with many other standard electronic devices such as cellphones. In fact nicotine, which may or may not be derived from a tobacco source, only makes up about 2% of all the products sold. I think we can all agree that if I buy a battery from Volcano, that can in no way be perceived as retailing a "tobacco product". However the current bill proposes to classify all of the products as electronic cigarette related tobacco products and subject us to the standing 70% tobacco tax which was enacted with traditional tobacco products in mind.

The general cost of a fully functioning electronic cigarette kit is upwards of \$70, much higher than that of a pack of cigarettes. Levying a 70% tax on every component and accessory of an electronic cigarette would effectively make it much more expensive than a traditional tobacco cigarette and would effectively force locals to buy from out-of-state and international suppliers (who are not subject to this tax) via the internet or return to smoking altogether. Furthermore, this tax would ultimately make it impossible for Volcano to compete and would force them to either move out of state or close the business altogether. This means a loss of jobs, a loss of tax revenues that the state is already collecting, and ultimately forcing the will of the state on its smoking population by forcing them to purchase their products out-of-state or return to smoking.

I implore you to reexamine Bill HB2557 and modify it to reflect age based restrictions only!

Sincerely
Shadow Rhelm

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Shanlee78@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:51:50 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shalee Calarruda
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Shanlee78@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: shana.molale@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 3:57:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: shana molale
Organization: Individual
E-mail: shana.molale@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lindoshane@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:39:25 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shane LIndo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lindoshane@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kapon1523stloui5@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:18:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: shane
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kapon1523stloui5@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I smoked cigarettes for about 25 years and have successfully quit cigarettes using ecigs. If this bill were to go through than more than likely I would go back to smoking regular cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Shann_gonzales@bellsouth.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:10:36 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shann Cohrs
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Shann_gonzales@bellsouth.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

It's always about the money, in this case, revenue from taxes. Volcano, would just choose another location for their products. It's a terrific product and ever since I picked up an ECIG, I have not smoked a regular cigarette since. Find somewhere else to tax or perhaps try to provide on less for a change.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: anruitachibana@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:42:00 PM
Attachments: [testimony.txt](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shannon Anderson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: anruitachibana@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I will NOT be inclined to ever visit Hawaii if this bill is passed, and I will not hesitate to recommend that others NOT visit Hawaii as well. E-cigarettes are life-saving, non-tobacco devices that should not be regulated and taxed as tobacco products. Taking precautions to make sure they are not marketed to minors is perfectly acceptable and reasonable, but forcing a higher taxation price point is not. This course of action would not only harm the people of Hawaii, but also Hawaii economy, seeing as many local e-cigarette businesses would be forced to close down or relocate to out-of-state. Buyers would also be forced to purchase cheaper goods from out of state, or even internationally where the quality of product is suspicious and under-regulated.

testimony

We should point out the tax provisions would not only destroy existing e-cigarette companies in HI, but would prevent businesses from developing there in the future, and would prompt most/all e-cigarette consumers in HI (now and in the future) to purchase e-cigarette products online or by mail order from out-of-state, and that it won't be feasible for the HI Rev Dept to collect taxes on these purchases.

Bottom line, it could cost the HI Revenue Dept more to try collecting the tax than the revenue it would bring in. This is our STRONGEST point.

We should also pay attention to the bill's current definition of e-cigarettes to mock the bill, delay/defeat its passage, and/or at least to amend it.

"E-cigarette means any mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit, which can be used to deliver a vapor of nicotine or any other substances, and the use of inhalation of which simulates smoking. The term shall include any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, any cartridge or component of the device or related product, or under any other product name or descriptor."

I suggest we criticize inclusion of the term "mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit" because many of these products are used in many products other than e-cigarettes. Can the HI Rev. Dept even know if a mechanical heating element, battery or electronic circuit is intended to be used in an e-cigarette or another product? This clause may give the HI Rev. Dept the legal authority to tax any mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit it desires (to obtain additional revenue).

I suggest we criticize the term "whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold" as multiple taxation, which could impose a 70% tax when sold by manufacturers, another 70% tax when sold by distributors, another 70% tax when marketed by anyone else, and another 70% tax when sold by a retailer to the consumer.

I suggest criticizing inclusion of the term "or component of the device" as taxing the product's components twice (if the components are bought, assembled and subsequently sold in as e-cigarettes HI).

I suggest criticizing the term "or related product" as being so vague that it could allow the HI Revenue Dept to impose a 70% tax on dozens/hundreds of different products that their staff might consider related to e-cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: shannalanie@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:29:38 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: shannon norman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: shannalanie@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: passionlove4382@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:24:42 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sharlene
Organization: Individual
E-mail: passionlove4382@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: smatayoshi@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:56:53 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sharon Matayoshi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: smatayoshi@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: westomlinson@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:11:40 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sharon Tomlinson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: westomlinson@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sa_meeks@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:28:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shaun Meeks
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sa_meeks@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I switched from regular cigarettes to electronic cigarettes approximately 2 years ago.

Back then, I was asthmatic, overweight, starting to get high cholesterol (at 40), and had an blood oxygen saturation of about 92% on a good day. So I tried esmokes so I could *maybe* quit putting smoke into my body. It took getting used to, but within a few months, I couldn't stand real cigarettes anymore.

Within a year of esmoking, I could actually sing again (the juice is the same glycerin base as throat moistening sprays), and my oxygen was up to 95%! Now, 2 years later, I have actually been able to exercise and I don't have to take asthma treatments anymore. Because of my new lifestyle (that I don't think I could have found had I NOT found ecigarettes first), I am no longer being put on Crestor by my doctor. I weigh 44 lbs less. I can actually use an elliptical every day for 30 minutes without an inhaler. My last blood oxygen was 98% -- not shabby for an ex SMOKER of 25 years!

I don't think I would have made it here without the first step I took buying electronic cigarettes. If you tax esmoking paraphenalia (Taxing tobacco-based juices is fair game, I believe), you could be putting some of your very own citizens back on real cigarettes.

And, because of the vast price difference between esmoking and real cigarettes, it will be your lower income people who will pick up cigarettes again. You might want to consider what the long-term costs would be to your Medicaid program if you start having mothers pick up real cigarettes again because they can't afford the significantly less (see the Boston School of Public Health) toxic cigarette alternatives. Especially consider this if you think you are losing tax revenue from loss in sales of real tobacco. That revenue will be made up in the long-run in public health costs. I think I'm pretty average, and I tell you, my prescription bill alone has dropped by almost \$1200/year because ecigaettes sparked my move to a healhtier lifestyle. If I were a Medicaid recipient in Hawaii, I'd have saved you at least that much -- not to mention secondary savings like unborn children not being exposed to the hundreds of chemicals in cigarette smoke. Think of those mother's Medicaid-covered children not being exposed to passive cigarette smoke (passive esmoke vapor is water and glycerine -- it's safer than spraying deoderant on yourself next to children).

So I urge you, take an empirical, rational approach to taxing electronic cigarettes. There are juices made directly from tobacco -- and I can see them easily fair game. But taxing batteries, atomizers, chargers, or other esmoke-related, non-tobacco derivative devices is unreasonable. With all due respect, it actually looks like state government is very greedy, very ignorant, and very corrupt by going after the non-tobacco derivatives under a tobacco tax. I hope doing what is right and beneficial for your constituents in the long run will guide your votes on this legislation.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: spbreg@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:49:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shawn Alcorn
Organization: Individual
E-mail: spbreg@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Just because a product emulates some other product does not mean that it should be classified the same as the other product. Electronic cigarettes, or more properly personal vaporizers, are not tobacco products. The liquid that they vaporize does not have to contain nicotine, in which case there is no link to tobacco whatsoever. Every time you expand these unfair excise taxes, you cost people jobs as well as unduly taxing people of lower incomes. Excise taxes should be abolished, but I understand that you see them as a way to raise funds by taxing a small segment of the population. You will force businesses out of your state as they seek to avoid the excessive taxation, costing your economy more in lost jobs.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tazzz@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:53:27 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: shea hale
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tazzz@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lilwish9650@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:26:47 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: sheila segura
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lilwish9650@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: coffeetalk2me@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:27:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sheree
Organization: Individual
E-mail: coffeetalk2me@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I support the sale of e-Cigs in any and all States! It has been an extremely big help to me.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sherry.pongrac@numarasoftware.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:34:28 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sherry Pongrac
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sherry.pongrac@numarasoftware.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

While I wholeheartedly approve the idea of not selling ecigs to minors, I STRONGLY oppose ad huge tax. I would certainly curtail any further visits to Hawaii, on principal. A 70% tax on electronic cigarettes and supplies would probably lead me to go straight back to "real" cigarettes as there would no longer be a cost savings to the ecigs. Please do NOT pass this measure, or at least remove the part about the tax. If there MUST be a tax, how about 7%?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: shusuke.kurahashi@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 2:22:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shusuke Kurahashi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: shusuke.kurahashi@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: EC8@HAWAII.EDU
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 8:28:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: SILOX
Organization: Individual
E-mail: EC8@HAWAII.EDU
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: skylormaxon@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:19:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Skylor
Organization: Individual
E-mail: skylormaxon@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Don't tax a non-organic material as a tobacco product. If you want to keep minors hands off of ecigs, classify the smoke juice as a tobacco product and make it illegal for minors to purchase. To me this is the only sensible option as the smoke juice is the only substance that is consumed and actually contains nicotine most of the time but not always. You are literally trying to ban/tax a safe alternative to smoking. These "ecigs" should be promoted not demoted. Kids still get there hands on regular cigarettes despite the law. I have been smoking since I was 14 so to say that this bill will do anything besides closing down the company that made me healthier, it wont. I switched to ecigs last year and I feel BETTER.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sonjagiffhorn@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:33:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sonja Giffhorn
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sonjagiffhorn@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I had open heart surgery, and thanks to Volcano e-cigarettes I was able to stop smoking tobacco cigarettes. I feel it has saved my life....this is a help for society. Please do not tax as tobacco products. This e-cig is saving lives.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sonnyabrigo@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 2:10:55 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: sonny abrigo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sonnyabrigo@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: imdj12850@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:41:34 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sonny DeJesus
Organization: Individual
E-mail: imdj12850@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sdelacru2004@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:39:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stacey Dela Cruz
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sdelacru2004@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Why put a tax on a product that is not tobacco? Funny how the state always has to put a tax on something that wasn't their idea yet they authorize medical marijuana and cards are being handed out like candy.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ktntt@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:54:01 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stacey Shimomura
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ktntt@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Tobacco is tobacco. And that's what is being taxed. E-cigs have no tobacco. Leave it alone and spend more time resolving the wasted spending, instead of finding more ways to bring money in. People are trying to improve their health and you penalize them! Stupid, what a waste of taxpayers' money...

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sati25@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 6:01:53 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stacy Langmeyer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sati25@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. I am a Kentucky resident who has purchased ecigs from Hawaii in my efforts to quit smoking cigarettes. Electronic cigarettes have been one of the only things that has allowed me to quit smoking and taxing them may not allow other smokers to do so as well, making it too expensive for them. While I don't believe children should be using ecigs, taxing them as cigarettes is not the answer.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: triumph0675@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 7:31:48 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: stacy robison
Organization: Individual
E-mail: triumph0675@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: stansr@verizon.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 3:18:27 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stanley Osinski
Organization: Individual
E-mail: stansr@verizon.net
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

I don't believe you want to tax a product that has helped many people, including myself reduce our use of cigarettes. I have gone from 2 packs a day to less than a half pack per day and now you want to tax me for it!

I think your actions are just another way of taxing a group of people whom you ALL feel you can take advantage of!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: stephb77@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 6:48:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stephanie Boulos
Organization: Individual
E-mail: stephb77@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

There are, no second hand and it leave no after smells , not harsh chemicals, also theres no tobacco in it causing no tar build up

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: smegnicely@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:28:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stephanie E Tiller
Organization: Individual
E-mail: smegnicely@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This measure is detrimental to the health of smokers looking for a cheaper and healthier alternative as well as harmful to your own economy. Including this as a "tobacco" product would be the same as taxing toilet paper as one would a house. It is not even close to being the same thing.

My friends and I were planning to take a vacation to Hawaii, but this insanity has dissuaded me. I am sure that my group of twenty friends isn't alone.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mzz.steph@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:16:29 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: stephanie
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mzz.steph@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Westpowers@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:34:02 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stephen Powers
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Westpowers@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

While we can all agree on restricting nicotine products to minors, the proposed tax is another blatant money grab. When is enough enough? Does the state of Hawaii not have enough control over its residents and visitors? Is another tax the answer?

Why doesnt the state become financially responsible and cut the horrible tax policies?

Just for once, leave us, the people, alone. It's state sponsored financial attrition.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: steve_curl@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:35:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steve Curll
Organization: Individual
E-mail: steve_curl@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Electronic cigarettes and "e-liquid" have provided a more economical and safer alternative to smoking tobacco. Although not FDA approved, the ingredients are fully disclosed by all reputable vendors. This proposed legislation will have a crippling effect on consumers looking for a way out of addiction to much more harmful traditional cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: steve.gaffney@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:19:19 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: steve gaffney
Organization: Individual
E-mail: steve.gaffney@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I had tried to quit cigarettes for 20 years with the help of e cigs i have been off of cigarettes for three years and i can breath again my health is so much better and i have moved down the scale to a zero nic juice. I have helped 20+ other people to quit with theses

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: s.miller872@comcast.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:19:35 PM
Attachments: [RELATING TO SALES OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES..rtf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steven Miller
Organization: Individual
E-mail: s.miller872@comcast.net
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

My name is Steven Miller. I am a 23 year old truck driver in the state of Georgia where I provide for my wife and two kids. I started smoking at the age of 18 after a long downward spiral with some personal battles, and the nicotine helped me calm down.

Over the years I noticed the negative changes I had gone through while smoking cigarettes. My health had deteriorated to the point where I couldn't even run a few hundred feet without being completely winded. Most of all I got tired of the restrictive laws regarding smoking both indoors and outdoors.

In December of this year, I decided to switch over to an e-cigarette in the hopes of cutting back and eventually kicking the habit altogether. I had succeeded tremendously after one week of using my e-cigarette to the point where the cigarettes I had sitting around have already dried out and are no longer any good. I have kicked the habit 100% and haven't looked back.

One business within your state, Volcano E-Cigs, was my first choice due to it's very low cost in the long run. They carry a vast product line that can suit the novice e-cig user all the way up to the discerning user with specific tastes. I feel that the law you are trying to enact will harm, if not shut down this business which incorporates Hawaii into mostly all of it's product line.

I also feel that if this law were to go into effect as it stands it would cause my costs to rise to the point where it is no longer economical to continue use of their products, and therefore the tax revenue they generate from my repeated patronage would be lost to another company not affected by this law, or I would revert back to traditional cigarettes as I wouldn't have to wait for my shipment to arrive on a truck.

I do full-heartedly support the notion that these products should not be sold to anyone not able to purchase tobacco products (18 in most states), I do believe that taxing any and all products and accessories would be harmful to the industry and cause any revenue you thought would be generated to move out of the state or close down altogether. Taxing accessories is like putting a tobacco tax on lighters, cigarette pouches/cases, ash trays, and pipes. It makes no sense why these items aren't taxed while the e-cig industry is taxed on every item they produce.

Please reconsider this bill as it stands. Please pass a bill limiting the purchase and use of the devices to minors, but please DO NOT tax the industry as a whole. I love placing regular orders with the companies within your state and wish to continue doing so, as well as referring many new and future customers to their business.

Best regards,
Steve Miller
Richmond Hill, GA
304-559-6482

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sulan45u@windstream.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:00:55 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steven Ulan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sulan45u@windstream.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: smkohler@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:44:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Summer Kohler
Organization: Individual
E-mail: smkohler@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
Aloha

In my young age of 24, I have been around cigarette 2nd hand smoke my whole life. My family, like many others, have had to deal with the persistent tobacco companies and the illicit push to keep helpful products like ecigs, out of the industry by laws such as this. In my learnings of these ecigs, I have personally seen a great impact on how this specific product helps people to "kick" the tobacco habit. I know that in the signing of this particular law, not only will this put a worse reputation for the "HAWAII STATE CONGRESS" in a more unsupported state, it will also take away the opportunity for healthier living. What is Hawaii known for? Definitely not for taking away possible positive changes. Why would such a government take away a "healthy living" choice. Please take this pledge into consideration. As I am, a Hawaiian as well as an American. I believe in a better world. Give us a chance to have one.

Mahalo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Kanal27@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:38:43 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Kehaunani Waipa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Kanal27@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

Really!!

Why can't you people support something that is better than regular cigarettes. You block us anyway you can and it needs to STOP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jspettigrew@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:17:49 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: susan pettigrew
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jspettigrew@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I can not believe you want to treat an eletronic cigarette as a real one. If you pass this law you will just be making a whole lot of people go back to smoking real tabacco the e cig is NOT NOT NOT tobacco why would you even consider such an ignorant bill. The only thing I agree with is not selling product to minors. I for example quit smoking because of this product and use only no nicotene products come on now you want me to pay a 70% tax on a non nicotene product????? you can't treat a e cig the same as tabacco because it simply is NOT. If this passes I will be very upset and never ever visit haswaih. I am disappointed I was so excited to finally find a great AMERICAN made product and now as with everything you want to screw that up to. Please don't do the predictable government thing and tax this just because you can. I feel very strongly about this. YOU CAN'T TAX THIS LIKE A TABACCO PRODUCT BECAUSE IT IS NOT!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: susansimiele@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:01:21 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Simiele
Organization: Individual
E-mail: susansimiele@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

This is a mistake. This bill has many unintended consequences that endanger suppliers, supporters, and users of electronic cigarettes in Hawaii and nationwide. Being able to quit smoking using the electronic cigarette has resulted in an improvement in my health. The electronic cigarette has afforded me the opportunity to stay tobacco free for 2 years. Please do not approve this bill because doing such will result in unintended consequences that will affect my well-being. The electronic cigarette is a great boon to our society and does not deserve the current scrutiny.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: catdogpets50@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:23:07 PM
Attachments: [recording26673.amr](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: susan sutton
Organization: Individual
E-mail: catdogpets50@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I just want to reiterate that I am on social security disability and limited income. If this ridiculous tax is put on a product like Volcano products it would be a great injustice. However I do believe the products should not be sold minors. I am 53 years old and this is the first product that has gotten me this close to quit smoking. Please rethink your issues.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: vickiandmajor11@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:55:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: susan v miller
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vickiandmajor11@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am 55 years old and have smoked for 4 decades. I do not smoke tobacco cigarettes any longer. I have been smoking E cigs for over 3 months and have not even once thought of buying or smoking traditional cigarettes .I take care of a lady who chained smoked for many years and she stopped in November with E cigs. My neighbor has stopped smoking the same way.You tried taxing cigarrets to death and it made lots of money for someone>>> No one stopped... We have now. Do you want healthy citizens? Leave our Ecigs alone. Thank you Valcano..

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: suzanne33140@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:42:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Suzanne Robinson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: suzanne33140@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

A year ago I began vaping Volcano E-Cigs. In doing so I have STOPPED a 33 year of a horrible tobacco addiction. This bill that is up for a vote is inaccurate information. These have no tobacco, all they have is a small amount of nicotine, which is no worse for a person than caffeine. The other amazing thing that I have seen with the E-Cig, I have told my friends and family and now know of 18 people that I love dearly, who are no longer poisoning themselves with tobacco and numerous chemicals big tobacco includes in their cigarettes to keep everyone addicted.

These are life changing, and life saving devices...don't deny people this opportunity to get healthy by adding some ridiculous tax. If anything I think subsidy and promotion of the E-Cig are a much healthier route than trying to label them as tobacco.

Hawaii has always been a favorite vacation spot for me. If this law passes I will not return to your state, you will lose my tourism dollars along with all of my friends and family. It is a ridiculous bill that should never even have made it's way onto the floor for a vote.

Do the right thing, call E-Cigs what they are...TOBACCO-FREE!!!! And let's watch our population get healthier together.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Robinson

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tbyrd@tbyrdmedia.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:38:10 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tamara Byrd
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tbyrd@tbyrdmedia.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I buy the BEST electronic cigarettes and related supplies from a native Hawaiian company (Volcanoecigs.com). I was finally successful in quitting tobacco products because of these wonder devices. To impose a 70% increase in my cost, through taxes, would leave me with no choice but to return to tobacco products. These devices are more expensive than cigarettes to begin with, but have saved my life (I suffer from COPD). This is unreasonable and certainly not in the best interest of the consumer or public at large.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tamithadunn@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:14:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tamitha Dunn
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tamithadunn@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Using the pretext of keeping eCigs out of the hands of minors to actually pass a law to make the Hawaiian Government money is despicable. If this law is passed you will only end up taking revenue away from Hawaii. This law will make it impossible for eCig manufactures in Hawaii to remain competitive with eCig manufacturers on the mainland. Ergo, we will shop elsewhere for eCigs and Hawaiian companies will go under. Ergo, you (hawaiian government) still won't see any profit from this misguided endeavor. Find another way to make money, crippling local businesses in this manner is like a greedy king snatching every penny away from his starving subjects. A serf can't pay the King a single pence if the king has starved him to death. Hence, no money for any political endeavors , present and future. Raise the "tourist tax" a little, god knows there is enough of us (it's not like we will stop going to Hawaii). Just a little increase in the "tourist tax" would bring your gov more revenue than taking money out of the pockets of your people.

Tamitha A Dunn
8911 Matthew Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM
87112

Briefly a former resident of Hawaii...

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nolasses4me@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 5:25:41 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: tammy johnson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nolasses4me@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

Electronic cigarettes prevented me from smoking cigarettes after getting out of the hospital with massive bilateral pulmonary embolisms. Mother of three children who begged me to quit smoking. This was an alternative that we could all live with. Ban the children but since there is NO tobacco involved taxing it as such is unfair and in my mind proves the government may support smoking cigarettes because of the tax revenue despite the health care issues that it can cause later. Support freedom of alternative choices NOT tobacco companies and lung cancer!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: taniabrunes@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:21:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tania Brunet
Organization: Individual
E-mail: taniabrunes@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: martztj@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:17:29 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tara Martz
Organization: Individual
E-mail: martztj@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

There is no reason whatsoever to treat electronic cigarettes and any related accessories as a tobacco product. Unless of course you are playing to the pharmaceutical companies demands, who want to destroy the e cig companies so they can make money off the concept OR keep pushing their nicotine replacement shams. I have successfully quit smoking tobacco cigarettes along with the 4000+ chemicals that are in them! I tried the patch the gum , chantex (that was nuts)whatever to no avail, but made the switch to e cigs with no problem. You and your cronies just can't stand it, can you? We don't need your help or spend money on the pharmaceutical's products. Let the free market alone and stop the crony capitalism.

Thank you,
Tara Martz
Massillon, OH
(Potential Tourist to Hawaii)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: overt001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:25:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: tau over
Organization: Individual
E-mail: overt001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

this is a product that is going to reduce the amount of chemicals the body intakes and make people less dependent on the tobacco company. I am not a smoker and strongly OPPOSE this bill

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: teedykas@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:06:24 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Taylor Dykas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: teedykas@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

There should be no tax placed on an item that will help save lives.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: computer.ted@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:10:22 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ted Moore
Organization: Individual
E-mail: computer.ted@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

While I agree that nicotine products should not be sold to minors, exorbitant tax provisions would not only destroy existing e-cigarette companies in HI, but would prevent businesses from developing there in the future, and would prompt most/all e-cigarette consumers in HI (now and in the future) to purchase e-cigarette products online or by mail order from out-of-state, making it infeasible for the HI Rev Dept to collect taxes on these purchases.

Bottom line, it could cost the HI Revenue Dept more to try collecting the tax than the revenue it would bring in.

Electronic cigarettes only contain nicotine, a base, and flavoring. They do not contain tobacco, do not cause cancer and emphysema, and do not affect others with second hand "smoke" because they produce vapor, not smoke.

The reason for high taxation on cigarettes and other tobacco products is to offset the cost of health-care accrued from the damage caused by those products. Since electronic cigarettes do not cause the diseases that traditional tobacco products cause, it makes no sense to raise taxes on them to offset non-existent costs to society.

The goal of the electronic cigarette community is to help smokers find a healthier alternative to smoking which saves lives and reduces the financial and human cost that traditional tobacco consumption causes. The pharmaceutical industry has failed to produce an effective product for smokers who have trouble quitting. Curtailing the purchase and use of healthier alternatives by informed adults will only drive those smokers back to tobacco use and eventual death.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tthay111@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:38:07 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ted Thay
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tthay111@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I disagree with electronic cigarettes being classed as a tobacco product when it obviously contains no tobacco and produces no smoke. It would be a stretch to call said device a tobacco product for the ultimate purpose of taxing it as such. We rely on our government to represent its market and citizens fairly and urge the State Senate to uphold that integrity. With respect and advanced thanks for your fair and objective consideration.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tw3b2@bellsouth.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:22:50 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Teddy Stephens
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tw3b2@bellsouth.net
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I did smoke over two packs of cigarettes per day. Now I Smoke None. E-cigs are the Only alternative I have found that Works for Me. This tax will put them out of reach for me..

From: [ttcounts](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB2819
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:47:54 PM

Aloha Representative,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen in regards to bill HB2557. **Thanks to e-cigarettes I have been tobacco free for 9 months as of this writing. I am healthier and happier. I have shared my experience with others that too have converted from tobacco cigarettes to vaping. I spend much less money on vaping and am able to use that money for wiser causes than cigarettes. I cannot understand why ANYONE would want to jeopardize thousands of people who have quit smoking by forcing them back to it because of taxes or anything else. I smoked for 25 years and have tried EVERY stop smoking program available from Chantix to herbs to patches but none worked until I found vaping! I am no longer a smoker and so proud of it!**

Some of the products I use come from a Hawaiian local company, Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes. Volcano Fine Electronic Cigarettes is a locally owned and operated Electronic Cigarette and Accessories retailer/supplier with 5 current retail locations and one warehouse/shipping center located in Honolulu. They have been in business for nearly three years and currently employ over 30 full-time employees locally and are one of the fastest growing businesses in the state. Bill HB2557, introduced by Speaker Say as a package put together for Governor Abercrombie, directly affects their local operation and jeopardizes their ability to continue operations in the State of Hawaii and I wanted to contact you to voice our concerns and ask for your help in getting this bill defeated.

The electronic cigarette, also known as an "e-cig", "an e-cigarette", "a personal vaporizer", a "PV", a "nicotine vaporizer" and many other things is a device used to vaporize liquid that can optionally contain varying levels of nicotine (and in many cases no nicotine at all). It is used currently by thousands of people locally and tens of millions of people nationally everyday as an alternative to cigarettes and in situations where cigarettes are not permitted. This product is intended for smokers and others addicted to nicotine who are looking for a less hazardous way to maintain, decrease, or otherwise eliminate their nicotine usage and avoid known risks to their own health caused by smoking and the health and safety of those around them.

Bill HB2557 aims to classify electronic cigarettes as a tobacco product, restrict the sale of the product to minors under the age of 18, and subject the sale of all electronic cigarette related products to a 70% tobacco tax regardless of whether or not the product actually contains tobacco. While I agree that products should be restricted from being sold to minors. The bill in its current form has many unintended negative consequences that will effectively end all future sales of the product in the state by local vendors and force thousands of users of the product to buy from out of state vendors via the internet or return to smoking altogether which has already been proven to be an eventual death sentence.

The bill as it is written shows a fundamental lack of knowledge of electronic cigarettes, how they are made, what it does, and how it is sold. An electronic cigarette is an electronic device made up of many different common electronic components such as batteries, buttons, metal tips, charging components, plastic bottles,...etc. All of these items are sold separately or as a kit and many of the components can actually be used in conjunction with many other standard electronic devices such as cell phones. In fact nicotine, which may or may not be derived from a tobacco source, only makes up about 2% of all the products sold. I think we can all agree that if I buy a battery from Volcano, that can in no way be perceived as retailing a "tobacco product". However the current bill proposes to classify all of the products as electronic cigarette related tobacco products and subject us to the standing 70% tobacco tax which was enacted with traditional tobacco products in mind. The general cost of a fully functioning electronic cigarette kit is upwards of \$70, much higher than that of a pack of cigarettes. Levying a 70% tax on every component and accessory of an electronic cigarette would effectively make it much more expensive than a traditional tobacco cigarette and would effectively force locals to buy from out-of-state and international suppliers (who are not subject to this tax) via the internet or return to smoking altogether. Furthermore, this tax would ultimately make it impossible for Volcano to compete and would force them to either move out of state or close the business altogether. This means a loss of jobs, a loss of tax revenues that the state is already collecting, and ultimately forcing the will of the state on its smoking population by forcing them to purchase their products out-of-state or return to smoking. **Is it smart to force a non-smoker back to becoming a smoker?**

I implore you to reexamine Bill HB2557 and modify it to reflect age based restrictions only! And I hope you are flooded with emails asking the same.

Sincerely,
Teena Counts



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kcjdmama@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:36:49 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: teresa fagafa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kcjdmama@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tqueen@kc.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 10:41:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Teresa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tqueen@kc.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I think this is a terrible bill for a product that has improved my health. I have been an e-cigarette user for about 2 years. I immediately cut my smoking from 3 1/2 packs a day down to 1 or less packs and this last December was able to stop smoking cigarettes altogether. I am 65 years old and have smoked since age 22 and have tried to stop many times and this is the only thing that has worked for me. I feel much better and no longer have the hacking cough and breathing has improved tremendously. Please do not start taxing this product as a cigarette so myself & others can't afford it. It has been a lifesaving product for me. Thank you!!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sugashack1@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 4:12:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Terry Kahanu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sugashack1@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

love this product..It helped my mom stop smoking, she was a heavy smoker for more then 50+ years.
No more smell and great flavors...Please don't pass this bill, it would hurt a lot of people that are trying
to quit for a good reason. Thank you.....Terry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: terry.wilkison@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:45:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Terry R. Wilkison Jr.
Organization: Individual
E-mail: terry.wilkison@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

After being addicted to cigarettes for over 10 years I have been able to successfully stop smoking "traditional" cigarettes thanks to the use of electronic cigarettes. Fully understanding the addictive qualities of nicotine I fully support a measure to prevent persons under the age of 18 from acquiring the chemical in any form. I however find that while S.B. 2819 does aim to help prevent our youth from becoming addicted to nicotine it will cut off a invaluable asset to those currently addicted who are seeking a much safer, highly successful means of quitting traditional tobacco use. No official findings have been made on the long term effects of the use of electronic cigarettes but there are OBVIOUS benefits from this product. For example - No secondhand smoke, the user is only ingesting nicotine in a purified form free from thousands of other harmful chemicals that are found in traditional tobacco products, the reduction of litter, no more cigarette butts trashing our beaches, these are just a few obvious benefits that only require a little common sense to see. There are technical issues with this bill as well, why are electronic cigarette manufacturers and retailers subject to a %70 taxation on e cig RELATED components when traditional tobacco related components are not subject to the same tax? Should we not revise this bill to include all lighters, matches, ash trays, rolling papers, etc? This bill will not eliminate the use of these products, or prevent them from being distributed to minors, as soon as this bill is enacted (if it is) local retailers will close shop and either a. go out of business or b. move to a state that does not have this irrational bill in place. This leaves consumers forced to buy these products over the internet (which I definitely will) sending more revenue out of the state, instead of keeping it here in local small owned business. I further have to ask why is this senate wasting precious time attempting to pass such a bill when there are other much more pressing substance related issues. Take the growing issue of SPICE. I can walk into half a dozen "tobacco" shops in Waikiki alone and buy a substance labeled as popurri, when the reality is it is a synthetic cannabinoid substance that causes REAL harm to thousands of users. Emerging research is showing that these new drugs have some horrible and possibly fatal repercussions for the user. Users are ending up in our hospitals with heart arrhythmias, convulsions, respiratory distress, sensory deprivation, some of whom (reported by medical professionals) to be near DEATH. Why is this senate not successfully tackling this issue? I as a resident challenge you, our elected officials to do justice to the position that you have been placed in. You are in a position of power to serve the people of this state. Do not fail us.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tessadke@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:08:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tessa Ke
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tessadke@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: thejackal333@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:23:17 AM
Attachments: [I oppose the possible taxation of electronic cigarettes on any basis.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thom Cechowski
Organization: Individual
E-mail: thejackal333@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I oppose the possible taxation of electronic cigarettes on any basis.

Taxing electronic cigarettes and their parts is ludicrous. We currently do not tax cigarette lighters, ashtrays, rolling papers, rolling machines, cigar cutters, humidors, and everything else related to tobacco smoking. Allowing the taxation of electronic cigarettes and all their parts would be the same. The electronic cigarette uses a battery, battery housing, atomizer or cartomizer (heating element), and sometimes a separate mouth piece. An electronic cigarette needs a charger or charging cable, and wall adapter. The main ingredients to an electronic cigarette are FDA approved propylene glycol and/or vegetable glycerin, FDA approved food flavoring, and nicotine (suspended in propylene glycol and/or vegetable glycerin). Electronic cigarettes contain NO TOBACCO, every state's current cash cow.

Even if you believe nicotine should be taxed think again. Nicotine is NOT tobacco exclusive. Nicotine can be derived from eggplant, cauliflower, potatoes and tomatoes, as well as a handful of other common foods. If you tax nicotine, you tax these food items as well. And when you start taxing food items, you better believe even those who don't use electronic cigarettes and/or tobacco will have something to say about this. That ripe juicy tomato on your sandwich will have to be taxed, as well as that vegan eggplant dish, and heaven forbid you tax the potato and all of its forms we eat on a daily basis. Go ahead and tax cauliflower, no one likes it anyway.

If Hawaii or any other state was to pass this sort of taxation, I would be sure to never visit there. I would find every means to go around those states and not drop one dime in their economy.

Signed,

Thom Cechowski

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Icemantc6@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:11:58 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas Collins
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Icemantc6@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

The government should not be interfering with the affairs of individual businesses. Also the fact that these bills contain clauses that are merely snuck in and have nothing to do with the bill as a whole are upsurd.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tompdee@verizon.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:26:44 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas D'Uva
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tompdee@verizon.net
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I quit smoking cigarettes over a month ago. Everyone that I know-that knows me, thought that I would Never quit, including myself!! Now that I have found Ecigs to work over everything I've tried in the last 40 years, miraculously I did quit the same day I received my first ecig from the Hawaii based company, Volcanoecigs. Please do not let this 'bill' go through! I have a chance and now have finally 'bettered' my life, physically. There is a major change in my health now. Don't take this from me and everyone else that has found a real miracle by unfairly taxing the ecig and accessories!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: thomas@myrelay.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 6:11:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas Dwyer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: thomas@myrelay.net
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tommyguitfiddle@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:33:04 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas Grady
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tommyguitfiddle@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Many of the taxes associated with tobacco products have been put in place because of their ties to cancer and the associated costs passes on to the general tax payer. I have not heard of any evidence that electronic cigarettes have the same cancer causing properties, and therefore should not be lumped together with traditional cigarettes for taxation. I would support separate legislation limiting access to nicotine containing products by minors, but the tax implications of this bill are unfounded

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tlong2@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:28:18 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas L. Long II
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tlong2@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I must oppose placing electronic cigarette products in the same class as ordinary cigarettes. Ecigs clearly are not for children & certainly need to be regulated to control nicotine content as well as being certain they contain only FDA approved substances & that they are marketed only to legal adults. However I believe it is a big mistake to levy the taxes on these products that we see on traditional cigarettes. Many people have turned to ecigs as a way to help them quit smoking & by increasing the pricing via taxation we are discouraging that decision. Electronic cigarettes are a safer alternative to burning tobacco & should be treated as such. Additionally the implications of a global company like Volcano moving its headquarters out of your state will be a serious loss of revenue. Please take the time to consider what reclassifying electronic cigarettes will do to the physical & fiscal health of your state before supporting this. Thank you for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: chrismuscara@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 5:29:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas Muscara
Organization: Individual
E-mail: chrismuscara@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

I just wanted to let you know since I found volcano ecigs 3 months ago, I have not smoked a cigarette since. I think it's the greatest product on the market for people who want to quit smoking. I am now down to 8mg nicotine from 24 when I started. I believe if you tax this product not only will people go back to smoking but many people will lose jobs. Hawaii is all about getting our people to quit smoking and this is the only product that actually works. I don't see you taxing the patch or nicotine gum. This product isn't even a tobacco product in any way shape or form so how can you classify it as one and tax it? Either way I'm strongly against this bill and think it will cause way more harm and not make the state any extra money AT ALL. Please help us local people trying to quit smoking do it the only way that works. If you tax these products electronic cigarettes will go out of business in Hawaii.
Mahalo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: RamosOhana@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:17:32 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas Ramos
Organization: Individual
E-mail: RamosOhana@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: thomas.denman@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 9:48:23 AM
Attachments: [SB2819.rtf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas S. Denman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: thomas.denman@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

I have written a heartfelt letter describing how an e-cigarette product from your very own state has broken my 35 addiction. PLEASE READ it and consider it for submission.

Thanks,
Tom Denman

Greetings To My Friends in the Aloha State!

My name is Thomas S. Denman and I am a single Dad in the state of Massachusetts who had smoked for over 35 years, and had tried every sensible and even absurd smoking cessation plan that ever came out. And I had very limited to no success at all. I started my journey as a parent late in life (40 years of age), so this presented a unique set of challenges. My life was more stressful working in high tech. My smoking had been habitual long enough that I had early signs of it affecting my health (to wit Hypertension). My children became concerned about my smoking as early as age 5 and voiced their concerns to me. And the guilt I felt didn't help matters much.

I became aware of electronic cigarettes in late 2010 and began to experiment. I found most to be satisfying, but not durable enough to justify their cost. But I was impressed with how I felt after using them as opposed to tobacco. The tobacco always left me feeling raw in the throat, winded and of late, had left a peculiar aftertaste in my mouth.

In the month of January 2011, I stumbled upon a young man at North Station in Boston, Ma awaiting the same commuter rail service I was, who just happened to be smoking a product being produced in your state. The product was a Volcano E-Cig. I was impressed with it's design and apparent durability and I asked for the URL to the manufacturer's web site. Within a month, I was trying out my electronic cigarette from Volcano. Within a week of that, I had stopped buying tobacco cigarettes. Within 5 months of that, I was smoke free. And here's the beautiful part, I have not smoked a cigarette since sometime in February of 2011 and I put down the e-cigarette probably sometime around July or August altogether. It wasn't part of a program, it just happened. And very naturally, I might add. And it happened in as subtle a manner as my becoming addicted tobacco, I truly feel these vapor alternatives are absolutely a beneficial turn in the technologies surrounding the drug nicotine.

With all that said, I understand that you are now considering a law to restrict the products of this kind from falling into the hands of minors and to tax them as though they were products of the Tobacco Industry.

I want to offer these words of concern as to the direction your bill heads your state. First, I support 100% some measure preventing any nicotine falling into the hands of minor children. But I feel that taxing this product beyond the state sales tax will only accomplish one thing. It will harm the uptake of this path away from nicotine addiction by adults. And THAT my friends, is like voting in a law to ensure your friends and neighbors STAY ADDICTED to nicotine.

I want you to hear it from the perspective of the mind of an addicted person. In the early days of my hunt for a suitable E-Cigarette, I shopped around for the most affordable, well-reviewed product I could find. It is important for you to know that since this is a relatively new technology, this product category has a broad price range, all for very similar technology. When I saw a product that cost \$60 for a starter kit my mind let me warm up to the idea of buying the set. However, when I saw products at \$120 (and they are out there). When I would see those prices, my mind would immediately allow the nicotine to take over and I would calculate the cost of the product vs wear and tear and then compare it to tobacco and even though tobacco over the months was far more expensive, that \$60 difference would cause me to deceive myself and not buy the product and get started.

Tobacco is a HORRIFIC DRUG. But I really DON'T have to tell you that, now do I? And you'll hear all kinds of testimony about other benefits like there being no second hand smoke, no smell, no tar, etc. And while I believe ALL of those elements to be more or less the truth. What I want you to take away from my testimony is that the product BROKE MY ADDICTION and I, for the first time in my life consider myself truly free of tobacco. And I hope you will restructure your bill in such a way that it still protects minors, but doesn't create a monetary penalty that WILL allow addicted individuals one more excuse not to get free of that addiction and improve their life and that of those around them.

I appreciate your time and pray you will do what's truly right in this matter.

Best Regards

Thomas S. Denman

2 Cross Street

Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tschinke@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 9:00:04 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas Schinke
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tschinke@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

The State of Hawaii would loose jobs if this bill is passed. The company I puchase e cigarette supplies from would move out of state.

Recommend to rewrite the bill with the e cigarette tax added.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tingleink68@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 5:50:11 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: thomas tingle
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tingleink68@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

this product is a safer more affordable product. and i wish this bill doesn't go through. its only the tobacco companies trying to stop a great and health choose...

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: cuttlebone1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 2:32:03 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: thyra ann clough
Organization: Individual
E-mail: cuttlebone1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: reverend_burkett@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:40:21 AM
Attachments: [E-cig_testimony.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tiffany Burkett
Organization: Individual
E-mail: reverend_burkett@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Volcano E-cigs is a valuable member of the community and they provide a service that helps so many. Please let them stay in business and don't tax them and everyone else into the poor house.

Ladies and Gentleman I write this testimony today asking you to consider changes to this bill, and to please not approve it as it is written. We all understand and appreciate the need to keep tobacco products away from children as they are our most precious resource. However this bill goes to far. Classifying this as a tobacco product to keep it from children is wonderful, but not the taxation portion that is included. I ask that you not look to the electronic cigarette industry as your new cash cow, it isn't. Let me give you an example, my husband has been trying to quit smoking for years, nothing helped and he was not able to use the medication Chantix due to side effects. His health was suffering because of his smoking, not to mention so was our budget because of the recent taxes added on an already burdened industry. We decided to try the e-cig and it is amazing AND affordable. The e-cig gave me my husband back and now we can do more than we ever have before. He is in better shape now than he was when he was in the Navy. And he has cut back and soon will be smoking just the flavored fluids and no longer needing the nicotine. Please don't take this away from us. This taxation would truly cause more harm than good. It will make the cost of fluid and replacements out of our reach and would cause us to have to look elsewhere for our products and supplies which we now get from a company based right there in Hawaii. That would in turn take away the revenue they already bring into your state. I would not be the only one not patronizing that company any longer, this could damage them enough that they may have to close down or move to a different state costing you the taxes you get from them already. Think of the people for once, yes protect our children AND our wallets. After all it is our wallets and our voices that put you in office. Please remove the taxation portion of this legislation.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tstormez@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:03:23 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tiffany Travelstead
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tstormez@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

As a customer of Volcano e-cigarettes, I believe that your proposed tax on these products would make them unreasonably priced (above market standard) to the consumer and put that company out of business, or require relocation. The entrepreneurs and local businesses should be supported, not penalized; they bring economic growth and jobs to you. I believe that it is in your best interests to consider these factors before deciding any matters of legislation or taxation.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: timijo3@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:18:19 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tim Jones
Organization: Individual
E-mail: timijo3@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I am 100% against this bill except for denying sales to minors. Vapor cigarettes contain nicotine but are in no other way related to cigarettes. Without these products which have been clinically shown to have no adverse affect, people will be financially forced to start smoking cigarettes which will put their health and the health of others in danger. You are making a dangerous financial and quality of life choice if you vote this measure through.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Baker.tim@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:35:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Timothy Baker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Baker.tim@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Respectfully, electronic cigarettes are both an indispensable quitting aid and a significantly healthier alternative to tobacco smoking. I know because they helped me quit after 30 years of tobacco use when numerous failed. I now no longer use either.

Categorizing them with tobacco products is both inappropriate and inaccurate; cigarettes in particular contain a multitude of carcinogens and release additional chemicals in the process of burning. Electronic cigarettes do neither; they neither contain nor release any known cancer-causing agents nor do they actually burn any materials. In addition, what they release is little more than water vapor.

I respectfully implore you not to incorrectly categorize electronic cigarettes; your actions will affect legislation in other areas of the country and may result in making a healthier, safer option for smokers even less accessible.

Tim Baker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mnnffph@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:16:49 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: timothy mcfadden
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mnnffph@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

While I do support the prohibition of sales to minors, taxing electronic cigarettes as tobacco is ridiculous. They are not tobacco products. Look up the ingredients in the fluids. Look at the chemicals in the vapor compared to cigarette smoke. Please don't cripple a new industry that's providing a safer and cheaper substitute to smoking. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tprogers1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:15:48 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Timothy Rogers
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tprogers1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I have been a pack a day smoker for over thirty (30) years. I have not had one (1) analog cigarette since I started to use the E-cig. The E-Cig has probably save my life. However I do support a ban of the sale of Electronic Cigarettes to minors.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tmdavis@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:49:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Todd Davis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tmdavis@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I am writing in order to oppose SB 2819. Regardless of one's position on the harm posed by tobacco products, it is specious to regard any vaporizer as a tobacco product. The same function listed in SB 2819 could just as easily apply to a home humidifier or other vapor producing device, perhaps even medical devices. A vaporizer itself, much like pipes, cigarette lighters, or other smoking accessories has no tobacco products in it, and should, in any case, not be taxed as if it were a tobacco product. Many of the vapor supplies for electronic cigarettes have little or no nicotine. Despite a prohibition on marketing the e-cigarette as a smoking cessation aid or healthier alternative to smoking, many, many people report success with quitting smoking, and many have come out in favor of the e-cigarette as a healthier alternative to smoking. In my own experience, I have found myself 'smoking' less with the use of a vaporizer and have seen a drop in my blood pressure coincident with my reduction in nicotine intake. If we are serious about reducing the harm caused by smoking, we might do well by examining non-traditional alternatives and not seeking to apply a vice tax to a product which could potentially save lives.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tgilard@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:32:28 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: todd gilard
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tgilard@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: deloreantodd@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:10:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Todd Lipnicki
Organization: Individual
E-mail: deloreantodd@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
Do not tax our e-cigs... They are not tobacco products!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tprpuemuraz@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 12:19:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: todd uemura
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tprpuemuraz@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tom@tomarchambault.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:38:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tom Archambault
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tom@tomarchambault.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I visit Hawaii often, and would consider reducing my travel if my e-cigs were taxed.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Kieseltom@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:20:30 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tom Kiesel
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Kieseltom@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am saddened to see the proposal regarding electronic cigarettes. I whole heartedly support the effort to keep them out of the hands of minors, however not the reclassification of a non-tobacco product. There is zero tobacco involved which makes it erroneous. The government uses the guise of health concerns for tax benefit whereas this legislation shows the real truth, which is the lack of concern for public health. This is merely a money grab and I find it terribly disconcerting. I am a user and feel that these electronic cigarettes have significantly improved my health and are a much better alternative for those of us unfortunate enough to have a nicotine addiction. I thank you for your time and hope that a decision based on human beings and not greed can be made for a change. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tom.watt.af@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 5:10:22 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: tom watt
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tom.watt.af@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jackindacrack@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:09:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: tony luu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jackindacrack@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: uakea@rr.hawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:49:20 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tony Scarfone
Organization: Individual
E-mail: uakea@rr.hawaii.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

this product has helped my stamena and i also quit ciggeretes cold turkey vapers the bomb

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tonyval123@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:33:08 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tony Valenti
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tonyval123@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sunshinedaizee@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:46:59 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tonya Segura
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sunshinedaizee@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

This is unfair taxation. E-cigarettes are NOT a tobacco product. It is that simple. **Re: Places e-cigarettes with other tobacco products as items prohibited to be sold to a minor and amends the definition of "tobacco products" for purposes of taxation.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: travisgraham22@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:53:29 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: travis graham
Organization: Individual
E-mail: travisgraham22@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I deffinitely oppose this bill. The valcano products have done wonders for me. Not only i have quit smoking and saved money by doing so but feel better physically. Taxing 70 percent is going to send a lot of people like my self back to smoking. BOOOO!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: trep5469@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 12:50:24 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: TRENT PADA
Organization: Individual
E-mail: trep5469@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Pantsless123@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:31:54 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Trevor J Arias
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Pantsless123@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
Hello,

I am here to oppose the unfair taxing of electronic cigarettes. These products in my opinion are life saving devices the are helping people finally break the constraints the big tobacco componys have had on them for years. While I do believe these products should only be available for persons over the age of 18 I don't believe the responsible adults who are using these products to live a healthier lifestyle should be unfairly taxed to no end for it. Further more electronic cigarettes contain no tobacco and there's no second hand smoke harming people around the user and is 4000 times saver then traditional cigarettes. I employ you to not pass this legislature so we the people can have a chance at a tobacco free world.

Sincerely,

A 20 year smoker no more

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: triphompson@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 6:46:40 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Trip THOMPSON
Organization: Individual
E-mail: triphompson@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Electronic Cigarettes is a product that now allows 46 million adult smokers to "smoke" without receiving tar or carcinogens. Why would you want to tax a product 70% out of the gate? Are you under pressure from the Tobacco Lobby? Your actions make no sense.

Would you prefer a family member to use a cigarette that dispenses 250+carcinogens and tar into their body vs water, nicotine (which does not cause cancer), propylene glycol(in soap and food coloring), and flavoring?

Be informed! Don't make a knee jerk decision.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ttechnical@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:27:00 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tyffani
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ttechnical@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
Stick it to the man while you suck a fat one!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tylerskye@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:25:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tyler
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tylerskye@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tyrelcain@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:30:13 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: tyrel cain
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tyrelcain@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: soyscentual@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:16:40 PM
Attachments: [If this bill is passed.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Valerie Ewing
Organization: Individual
E-mail: soyscentual@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

If this bill is passed, I will never order from an E-cigarette company in your state. This bill will discourage individuals such as myself, who are making a sincere effort to stop smoking. E-cigarettes are not tobacco, the effort of your Government to treat it as such and tax at the rate of tobacco products is preposterous. Your Government's attempts to associate the risk with those of tobacco and to state that E-cigarettes are the "gateway" to the use of tobacco products are incorrect. The opposite is true. E-cigarettes are used to assist with smoking cessation. Passing this bill will only increase the use of tobacco products, and as a result greatly impact the health of thousands of consumers.

Sincerely,

Valerie Ewing

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: vapor4dummies@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:10:16 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: vapor dog
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vapor4dummies@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Hi, I was a smoker for 45 yrs., I quit the day I got my Electronic Cigarette which was 2 1/2 yrs. ago, I will never go back to regular cigarettes regardless of what you try and force me to do. There is no study showing these too be dangerous, trying to tax these are nothing but a scam to try and make money because your losing your tax dollars from the sale of regular cigarettes. There are many ways to make our own Electric Cigarettes so I believe you will be losing money if you try and tax these. My suggestion is to stop over spending the money you do have and stop all the tax crap to make up for your short coming, stand up and be a statesman instead of a politician, do the right thing for once. People are sick of politicians if you haven't noticed.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: onorn0507@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 10:42:42 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: vicki long
Organization: Individual
E-mail: onorn0507@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

i oppose 1 prt of this bill. I agree that the sales should be limited to adults over the age of 18, however I disagree with the 70% sales tax.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: LilRedStealth@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:44:44 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Vickie Beilharz
Organization: Individual
E-mail: LilRedStealth@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Although I do support ecigs to not be available to minors (which is already the case)
The proposed high tax is a very bad idea, and to put ecigs in the same category as regular cigarettes is false. as they do not contain the harmful chemicals which are in regular cigarettes. If so peoples health would not improve when quitting regular cigarettes and switching to ecigs. I was a 30 year smoker and my breathing became near non existence. I had no choice to quit smoking and switched to ecigs. my breathings and health is all better now, thanks to ecigs. Please do not pass this tax on them. and JOBS would be lost in do so.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: victoria.sylvestre@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:55:17 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Victoria Sylvestre
Organization: Individual
E-mail: victoria.sylvestre@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I will support keeping e cigarettes out of minors hands. Of course that is wise. But to tax as regular cigarette products? That is ridiculous. It is not the same. There are doctors associations that have come out in favor of the e cig! They are saving people's lives! Every doctor I go to has been thrilled I quit smoking and started vaping. It is not the same thing! There is no tobacco, no combustion, no smoke, no poisons for secondhand people and it's not bad for the environment. Nicotine is not a carcinogen. Please don't do this. There are so many people who will be living longer, healthier lives because of ecigs. If you need money, tax cigarettes higher but don't hurt something that is good for so many people, I beg of you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: vidakeala@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 5:04:52 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: vida williams
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vidakeala@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

This product is highly under rated. It has the potential to save a thousand lives from the dangers of actually smoking.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: vkamp@heald.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 8:35:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: vikki tia
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vkamp@heald.edu
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: vparker@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 2:41:56 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: vince parker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vparker@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: vrpilato@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 9:35:28 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Vincent Pilato
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vrpilato@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

E-cigs cannot be included in this as it is not a tobacco product. The unmitigated gall that you government people have never ceases to amaze me. Do you not realize how many people have been able to quit smoking via the use of these products?

This again makes it clear it is all about the money with you gov't people with complete disregard for the health of the public.

You want to do something worthwhile why not introduce a bill that taxes Hawaii legislature 70% of their hourly salary for being so foolish as to waste the public's tax dollars bringing up a bogus issue such as this.

Calling an ecig a tobacco product similar to calling day night, liquid solid, etc.

Why not classify a zebra as a great dane while you're at it, and a cat same as a buffalo, you know, just for the purpose of taxation.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: walt.capers@compuware.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 3:14:30 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Walter Capers
Organization: Individual
E-mail: walt.capers@compuware.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I am not a frequent vapor user anymore... I use it occasionally when I have a craving to smoke -- it has saved my life and the lives of many others that I have recommended it to. Its added benefit was that it was cheaper than smoking otherwise I would have never tried it and probably would still be smoking - dying a slow death with a habit that I could not kick.

This bill is utter ignorance. Why not tax things that hurt people not help them. Tax soda pop, hamburgers, french fries or other foods that lead to obesity -- Americas number one killer.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: wldm53@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 7:28:38 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wayne Kruse
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wldm53@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I have been a smoker for 40 yrs. Electronic cigarettes is contributing tremendously to the opportunity to quit the cigarets. This product should be supported towards curbing the use of traditional cigarettes. This bill is punishment for those of us who use the E-cigarette responsibly.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: elephantswanted@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:01:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wendy Ganiko
Organization: Individual
E-mail: elephantswanted@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: w-sourita@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 3:14:02 AM
Attachments: [Stop Hawaii Bill HB2557 and SB2819 .doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wendy Sourita
Organization: Individual
E-mail: w-sourita@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

I strongly urge all persons involved in this bill to properly assess the true meaning behind this bill and deny it from passing. I agree that electronic devices should be banned from minors. I disagree with classifying these devices as a tobacco product and object to government imposing a high tax on products that help smokers stop smoking tobacco.

Stop Hawaii Bill HB2557 and SB2819

I am a former smoker of 1 pack a day for the last 40 years. I am proudly able to say "former" smoker due entirely to the electronic cigarette products sold by Volcano. I have been tobacco free for eighteen months now which is the longest I have been able to do so since I began smoking. I have tried numerous times to quit, but have been met with failure each time despite using several types of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) including nicotine augmented gum, patches, and Zyban.

I chose e-cigarettes because I knew I SHOULD quit smoking, but didn't really WANT to quit smoking and all previous attempts to quit for more than 6 months had failed. So, this was a win-win option, in this economy, was a HUGE additional incentive.

I started e-cigarettes with high nicotine level but months later whined myself to **No** nicotine in my e-cigarettes juice. My e-cigarettes juice contains **NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS** and the thought of taxing me 70% is a great injustice. A punitive tax like this punishes what they SHOULD consider "good behavior," and removes a huge incentive for smokers to switch to a healthy alternative.

Tobacco

1. **any of a genus (*Nicotiana*) of chiefly tropical American plants of the nightshade family, with hairy, sticky foliage and long-tubed, white, yellow, greenish, or purple flowers; esp., the species (*N. tabacum*) now widely cultivated for its leaves**
2. **the leaves of certain of these plants, prepared for smoking, chewing, or snuffing**
3. **products prepared from these leaves; cigars, cigarettes, snuff, etc.**
4. **the use of tobacco for smoking, etc.**

The National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health prepared and continues to update a report entitled, "Cigarette Smoking: Health Risks and How to Quit (PDQ®)" which can be read in full at [Cigarette Smoking: Health Risks and How to Quit \(PDQ®\) - National Cancer Institute](#). There are many significant quotations contained therein related to the negative health effects of smoking both to the smoker and nonsmokers via second hand smoke. It also contains findings related to the use of NRTs for the cessation of smoking. The following are excerpts from that report:

"In the United States, smoking-related illnesses accounted for an estimated 443,000 deaths each year between 2000 and 2004.[1] On average, these deaths occur 12 years earlier than would be expected, so the aggregate annual loss exceeds 5 million life-years.[2] These deaths are primarily due to smoking's role as a major cause of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and chronic lung diseases"

"Tobacco products are the single, major avoidable cause of cancer, causing more than 155,000 deaths among smokers in the United States annually due to various cancers."

"Smoking also has substantial effects on the health of nonsmokers. Environmental or secondhand tobacco smoke is implicated in causing lung cancer and coronary heart disease."

"Many health risks related to tobacco smoking can be reduced by smoking cessation. Smokers who quit smoking before age 50 years have up to half the risk of dying within 15 years compared with people who continue to smoke, and the risk of dying is reduced substantially even among persons who stop smoking after age 70 years.[1] The risk of lung cancer is 30% to 50% lower than that of continuing smokers after 10 years of abstinence, and the risk of oral and esophageal cancer is halved within 5 years of cessation."

It is obvious even to those who are smoking years off of their lives that the harmful effects of tobacco use can be devastating and highly common. As the report states, nearly 443,000 Americans die each year from smoking related illness. It is in the best interest of all Americans that the number of people who smoke tobacco products be reduced as much as possible, as soon as possible and by whatever means necessary within the bounds of common sense and the United States Constitution.

Nicotine is a powerfully addictive drug. Time Magazine reported in a June 24, 2001 article by Christine Gorman entitled, "Why It's So Hard to Quit Smoking" that the relapse rate for those who attempt to quit smoking is 75% which is similar to that of recovering alcoholics and addicts. US Senator Bill Bradley (D) of New Jersey proposed legislation that would

require cigarette packages to have a warning label that states, "Smoking is addictive. Once you start you may not be able to stop." Those of us who have tried to quit unsuccessfully regret the day we ever smoked our first cigarette. If the friend who gave me my first cigarette had said to me, "Not only will these things slowly kill you and reduce your quality of life, but you will know that they are doing so and will be unable to stop yourself," I would have handed it right back.

Tobacco smoke contains over 4000 chemicals including 43 known human carcinogens. The vapor produced while using an electronic cigarette contains only 4 main ingredients: United States Pharmacopeia (USP) grade propylene glycol, USP grade vegetable glycerin, USP grade pure nicotine and food grade flavoring agents including many of the same chemicals used to flavor common food products. None of the preceding chemicals are known human carcinogens. Electronic cigarettes contain no organic particulates (smoke) or tar. They do not produce a lingering cloud of foul smelling and eye, nose, throat and lung irritating smoke. They do not cause bad breath and they do not cause staining of the teeth. They do not cause cancer, emphysema or tooth and gum disease. There is no "smoker's cough" associated with the use of electronic cigarettes because there is no particulate matter that collects in the lungs.

Many people, including medical professionals, postulate that the addiction to nicotine is only one of the components of the addiction to smoking. Smokers are also psychologically addicted to the act of smoking itself. This is where electronic cigarettes differ from other NRTs. NRTs such as Nicorette, Nicoderm, lozenges and even inhalers have an unusually high relapse rate. Conversely, anecdotal evidence and some limited scientific studies have shown that the use of electronic cigarettes as a cessation tool has a significantly higher success rate than other NRTs. A smoker feels at ease by the movements of bringing the cigarette to his mouth, taking a puff, feeling the warmth and seeing the smoke exhaled. Electronic cigarettes provide a means of NRT that also meets the criteria of the psychological addiction in addition to the chemical addiction. Many people who use electronic cigarettes are able to reduce the number of cigarettes they smoke per day or even quit tobacco entirely immediately after switching to electronic cigarettes. The liquid used in electronic cigarettes can be purchased with varying doses of nicotine or no nicotine at all. This allows a new user to start at the same dose that they would be receiving from tobacco products and gradually reduce the dose over time until they no longer feel as though they need the nicotine at all. After that, they may begin to break themselves of the psychological addiction by reducing the number of times per day they use the electronic cigarette until they no longer feel the need to use it at all.

Even if a person is unable or unwilling to work toward complete cessation of nicotine use or break the psychological addiction to the act of using the device, the important thing to realize is that they are no longer using a product that is known to cause nearly 443,000 deaths per year in America and is a significant risk to public health at large.

I fully support the measure to prohibit the sale of any nicotine containing product to minors. The vast majority of electronic cigarette retailers require age verification prior to purchase and refuse to sell their products, even those products that are nicotine free, to those under the age of 18. I applaud this practice and the show of responsibility those retailers have voluntarily displayed. I do not think any electronic cigarette retailer or consumer would be opposed to a measure that wrote into law a practice that is already being followed.

However, I am in strong opposition to the classifying of electronic cigarettes as "tobacco products" for the purposes of taxation. Electronic cigarettes are in no way, shape or form a tobacco product. They are more closely related to other smoking cessation aids and NRTs such as Nicoderm patches and Nicorette gum. The nicotine delivery system used by electronic cigarettes does in no way involve the burning of chemical laden organic tobacco leaves for the purposes of producing tar which collects in the lungs and transfers nicotine to the bloodstream. Instead, USP grade, hygroscopic, propylene glycol is used to collect water vapor which is inhaled into the lungs or held in the mouth to transfer nicotine into the bloodstream.

It is my opinion that the State of Hawaii and all other States should view the use of electronic cigarettes as a useful tool to help those who are addicted to nicotine discontinue smoking tobacco products. Doing so could indeed lead to a reduction in the number of smoking related illnesses and deaths which would in turn put less strain on the medical industry, health insurance industry and demonstrate that the State takes the basic principles of the inalienable right of all People to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. It could result in the citizens of Hawaii leading longer, higher quality lives free of the dangers associated with inhaling tobacco smoke including those who do not smoke themselves, but rather are exposed to the smoke second hand.

I am unaware of any State or National laws that classify Nicorette, Nicoderm or other NRTs as tobacco products for the purposes of taxation and I see no reason that electronic cigarettes should be singled out in this regard. Doing so will certainly be devastating to the electronic cigarette industry. Due to the nature of electronic cigarette, many users view them as a gadget and thus purchase their supplies via the internet. With a tax on electronic cigarettes equal to that of tobacco cigarettes, Hawaii based electronic cigarette retailers and producers such as Volcano would have absolutely no chance of competing in the marketplace. Customers of Volcano and other Hawaii based retailers would easily switch to a retailer based in another State or even in another country where no such restrictive taxation were present if the cost of electronic cigarette products were to drastically increase as proposed by this measure. Hawaii based retailers would be

forced to relocate to other states in order to continue business. The jobs that this new industry has created would be lost and gone from Hawaii. The property, income and sales taxes associated with these companies would be lost to Hawaii.

Most importantly, the State of Hawaii legislature would appear to be making an announcement to the people who call Hawaii home that their representatives do not care that the smokers of Hawaii have found a method to help them discontinue slowly killing themselves and harming their bodies. The measure as presented would declare that the State of Hawaii only wants its residents to put dollars in the treasury whether it be from destroying their health or improving it. I believe that treating the two as equals is not in the best interest of the State or its citizens

I implore each and every one of you to put the lives and well being of your citizens first and the need or desire to collect taxes on a potentially life saving, extending and improving product far behind. Please be brave enough to set the standard for the rest of the Country in showing that you are not willing to allow taxation to prevent people who wish to better themselves from doing so. There is certainly a need to keep nicotine products out of the hands of children and I applaud you for taking steps toward that goal. However, doing so by taxing electronic cigarettes into extinction is not the most prudent way of going about it.

As a Hawaii resident, I urge you to **Stop Hawaii Bill HB2557 and SB2819** as it is unjust to smokers who are attempting to smoke a healthier alternative from Tobacco. I am and will always be for underage smoking in which the e-cigarette community is already pursuing on their own to keep underage smokers from buying e-cigarette.

Mahalo, Wendy Sourita
Thank you, for your time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: highlife808@live.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:39:40 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: wesley sui
Organization: Individual
E-mail: highlife808@live.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I am 27 years old and have been smoking regular cigarettes for 13 years. Two years ago I started smoking E-cigarettes and have been able to quit regular cigarettes and have not turned back since. I believe that E-cigarettes are the only safe and sure way to quit. If this bill passes then I will be forced to go back to regular cigarettes and spend 3000 dollars or more a year.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: wglowrey815@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:16:23 PM
Attachments: [eciq_ban.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Will Lowrey
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wglowrey815@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:
Think about your people before your wallets on this one.

Dear Hawaii State Legislators,

Labeling electronic cigarettes as a “tobacco product” seems like a cheap move and unfair move. If governments really want its citizens to quit smoking real tobacco cigarettes and have found a way to do so in an easy to use and as far as we know safe way, why would you punish them? Is it because without a legion of smokers you would lose the extra change in your pocket so you must find a new way to harass this crowd with taxes? I'm not from Hawaii, but I can see this bill becoming a danger to other states if it is passed. If you would like to know where I hail from, that would be Mississippi and if a backwoods redneck such as myself can appreciate the marvel of these devices, then surely educated politicians such as yourselves can too. I have been cigarette free for over a year now thanks to electronic cigarettes. My house no longer smells horrible, I don't have burn marks on my clothing anymore, my teeth and finger nails have gotten visibly whiter, and I have not been sick since I've quit. Those are a few of the benefits of these electronic cigarettes. With so many positive possibilities, why must you attempt to stop this innovation? If you truly want to tax electronic cigarettes then it would only be fair to tax nicotine gum, patches, and inhalers prescribed by doctors as they are basically the same thing as electronic cigarettes – nicotine delivery systems. I can say one thing for sure, Hawaii doesn't seem that far from the Deep South in terms of intelligence to me anymore.

Warmest Mahalo,
Will Lowrey

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: caseywk@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 5:41:51 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Casey
Organization: Individual
E-mail: caseywk@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I'm trying to quit smoking tobacco cigarettes and tried many of the available NRTs which have not helped. The ecig has been the best product thus far.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bill.clark@volcanodistribution.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:56:32 AM
Attachments: [Oppostion to SB2819.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William T Clark
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bill.clark@volcanodistribution.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Testimony OPPOSING Hawaii SB2819
William T Clark
Hampton VA

I agree 100% with banning the sales of e-cigarettes to minors. This is definitely the responsible course of action. These are adult products and should remain so, in fact many companies already prohibit the sales to minors. However, the amending of taxation within this bill is not only deceptive but also appalling. Shame to those who would attach such greed motivated taxes to this and then suggest it is for health reasons.

As stated in the bill *“there is very little known about the long term health effects of the use of electronic cigarettes or the vapors given off.*

” I can also speak for myself and my own health since I’ve been using a Volcano brand e-cigarette sold from your state. I smoked traditional tobacco for 12 years, and because of Volcano I have been tobacco free for 6 months. My dentist has noticed a drastic improvement in my dental health. I have noticed an improvement in my breathing, stamina, and overall health. I feel better, motivated, and more productive since I gave up tobacco and made the switch.

Like many others, I have purchased many products from your Hawaii based Ecig company and have recommended others to do so. If its state revenue your after, then this bill is certainly self destructive to your states economy and local business. You will force thousands of customers else where in the ecig market.

The taxation of all products associated with e-cigarettes is just as absurd as taxing lighters because they may be used to light a cigarette. These products are no different then nicotine gums, patches, or inhalers designed to help you quit traditional tobacco. Within the bill I also find one paragraph in particular absurd and insulting: *“Therefore, due to 1) the known health risks of tobacco, 2) the tobacco industry’s historical targeting of youth, and 3) the similarity of purpose and effect to traditional tobacco cigarettes, generally considered a ‘gateway’ substance to other (including illegal) substances*

”

1.) Ecigs are not “tobacco” traditional tobacco is generally consumed via harmful combustion methods. 2.) I personally have never seen an Ecig company target minors... but the traditional cigarettes still have “Joe Camel” telling me how cool they are. Ecigs are too new to blindly state any historical targeting facts. Please get the facts straight, and do the research as many of us have done before we switched.

If you ask the people on the street they will tell you Ecigs are anything but big tobacco, in fact they are anti big tobacco. This bill, if approved as is, has the potential to kill an exploding market that is rising up against the big tobacco companies.

Thank You

William Clark

Hampton VA

“Smoke free since July 2012”

Below are some quick facts about ecigs:

What is in the “E-liquid”?

Nicotine (optional)

Base (and/or propylene glycol, glycerin, polyethylene glycol)

Flavorings (i.e. menthol, mint, coffee, strawberry)

Nicotine

Nicotine is an 1 found in the [nightshade](#) family of plants ([Solanaceae](#)) that constitutes approximately 0.6-3.0% of the dry weight of tobacco. Solanaceae are a family of flowering plants} that include a number of important agricultural crops such as potatoes and tomatoes. Historically, nicotine has **not been regarded as a carcinogen** and the [IARC](#) has **not** evaluated nicotine in its standalone form and assigned it to an official carcinogen group. While no epidemiological evidence supports that nicotine alone acts as a carcinogen in the formation of human cancer.

Bases

Flavors and nicotine are dissolved in [hygroscopic](#) components, which turn the water in the solution into a smoke-like vapor when heated. Commonly used hygroscopic components include [propylene glycol](#), vegetable [glycerin](#), and [polyethylene glycol 400](#) (often sold under the abbreviations PG, VG, and PEG 400, respectively).

Safety of liquid bases

All three liquid bases are common food additives used in a variety of pharmaceutical formulations. Propylene glycol, the current dominating liquid base, has been utilized in **asthma inhalers** and **nebulizers** since the 1950s, and because of its water-retaining properties, is the compound of choice for delivering atomized medication. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) includes

propylene glycol on its list of substances [Generally Recognized as Safe](#) (GRAS), and it meets the requirements of acceptable compounds within Title 21 of the [Code of Federal Regulations](#).

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: whanna.itt@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 10:27:17 AM
Attachments: [SB2819.doc](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Hanna
Organization: Individual
E-mail: whanna.itt@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Please rethink this bill in relation to personal vaporizers. There is no legitimate behavioral or scientific excuse to add punitive tax rates to what are commonly known as "e-cigarettes".

To Whom It May Concern Regarding SB2819:

I am submitting this to you, based upon the fact that some people are either unwilling or unable to realize that personal vaporizers (commonly known as e-cigarettes) are not in fact a tobacco product and are not smoking. The bill SB2819 is a perfect example of a bill that has not been properly vetted or adequately researched, and could actually cause a change in favor of undesirable behavior that previous legislation was intended to prevent. There is strong science to show that in fact, unlike cigarettes, that there is no nicotine or any other harmful substance that is emitted as a second-hand “smoke” (actually vapor) from a personal vaporizer the way that cigarettes produce smoke as the only substance that is exposed from exhaling is pure water vapor. In addition, while I understand that it is politically popular to tie any measure to smoking, vaporizing (vaping) has been shown to be a completely different and far healthier means of avoiding most of the harmful effects of smoking by avoiding the combustion of tobacco.

I have no objection regarding limiting the sale to individuals over the age of 18, since that is already done by all businesses associated with the industry in accordance with laws that are already in existence. However, this bill is little but a thinly disguised attempt to increase revenue without the thin justification of damage to your own or other people’s health through the act of smoking tobacco since most of those have been removed. I believe that someone has simply heard the term electronic cigarette and has failed to properly research the fact that it has very little in common with a cigarette in either health ramifications or in anything other than the name and appearance of the devices.

The text of the bill as it is currently written makes it obvious that little or no research has been done by the author of the bill, and that therefore you will be voting upon a bill based upon data that is incorrect if you support this additional tax burden. It is simply unacceptable for legislators to vote upon a device based upon its name without first researching how it works, and that is precisely what you are proposing to do.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider your language and to strike the additional tax burden from this bill being proposed for those using personal vaporizers. This is indeed a major issue where it appears you are simply looking for a way to replace revenue lost from people doing exactly what your previous legislation was intended to do, looking for safer and healthier alternatives to their former smoking habits. If you decide to place this type of tax burden upon them, then they might as well go back to the more satisfying (if far less healthy for themselves and all around them) act of smoking cigarettes instead.

Sincerely,

William D. Hanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: wmoore808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:33:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Moore
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wmoore808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

After 30 years of smoking, I was given a gift of an electronic cigarette kit from my wife, and was finally able to quit smoking. I have tried every possible method to quit, but this is the first to work. A prime motivator is the cost savings. This bill would eliminate that motivator, and would be detrimental to the health of our citizens.

I strongly urge you to defeat this bill. If you are serious about helping people to quit smoking, you will defeat this.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: wcr_usa@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:13:17 AM
Attachments: [Tobacco tax law proposal statement.docx](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Ratliff
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wcr_usa@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Altering tax laws to classify personal vaporizers or electronic cigarettes is patently absurd. I can think of no legitimate reason that it should be classified as a tobacco product and many reasons why it shouldn't. Let's start with the most obvious reason it should not suffer the excessive taxes that you propose.

- 1) It contains no tobacco. In fact, the only reason that this topic has even been raised is that the liquid used in personal vaporizers may contain nicotine. Note the phrase, "may contain", because under your proposed tax, even that tenuous similarity vanishes because many people, me included, do not use nicotine in a personal vaporizer. Even when the juice does contain nicotine it may or may not have been extracted from the tobacco plant. This would be equivalent to taxing shredded chewing gum in the same fashion as you would chewing tobacco.
- 2) The most consistent reasons commonly cited for taxing tobacco products is that it reduces overall tobacco use, which in turn results in a healthier populous. Considering there has been no testing, government or otherwise, to support the claim that personal vaporizers are harmful to your health at all and certainly nothing to suggest that they are more harmful than nicotine patches which are not taxed as tobacco products. Let me make this point again. Nicotine patches, are not taxed as tobacco products so why should a device which contains nothing but a battery and heating element be taxed as a tobacco product, accordingly, why tax even the liquid which happen to contain nicotine as a tobacco product?
- 3) In a time when the national economy struggles, in a state with the highest cost of living and one of the highest tax rates in the nation, you want to take a source of revenue that's growing quickly as a more convenient, acceptable and potentially healthier alternative and tax it identically to a source of revenue that has been systematically and intentionally forced into declination by government intervention for decades. How does this make sense for the local economy? If you take this alternative away, you will see an even more profound reduction in revenue from both tobacco and personal vaporizers as the incentive for many people to embrace this healthier alternative is cost. If your goal is to force your state population to stop ingesting nicotine, then your tax will effectively accomplish this. If your goal is to encourage spending, economic growth of a young industry and make your state attractive to people looking for a less draconian local government, you need to stop this bill now.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: william.riley.land@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:51:08 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Riley-Land
Organization: Individual
E-mail: william.riley.land@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Banning the sale to minors -- all for that. However, Volcano eCigarettes helped me quit smoking after ten years, partly through non-nicotine vapor types, and partly through the nicotine containing types. Now I use neither cigarettes nor eCigarettes. I don't think I could have afforded the price of switching from tobacco if the eCigarettes were taxed at the same rate as regular cigarettes.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: billirobi@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 9:12:53 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Robillard
Organization: Individual
E-mail: billirobi@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

Why tax a product that is helping so many people? I have used various makers of e-cigs and owe my health to them since I have never had a cigarette in over 2.5 years. A 75% tax will only discourage potential new and current users of the product and cost the State more in medical bills.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: deepblip2126@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 7:31:06 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: william robison
Organization: Individual
E-mail: deepblip2126@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: alohapili2001@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 4:21:26 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Seemann
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alohapili2001@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

I urge you to not pass SB2819. The electronic cigarette is not a tobacco product and should not be treated as such. I quit smoking using the e-cig and I am now healthier and am not spending \$10 a day on cigarettes. The e-cig is an alternative to smoking with no known side effects. They are not a "sin" & should not sin-taxed.

Thank you for not passing sb2819

William L. Seemann

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: gagagagasser@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 4:35:16 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: zach
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gagagagasser@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: zac.owen@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:13:33 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Zachary Owen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: zac.owen@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I have been a smoker for 16 years and within the past three months have switched to "vaping" with an e-cig. I am happy in that I have not regressed to smoking tobacco products during that three months, and have even seen physical improvements and an increased activity level. True this is not a smoking cessation product, but it worked for me and I hope to never go back.

Your proposal to tax "e-cig" related items would increase the cost back to (or above) traditional tobacco cigarettes. This proposal shows me that the government is only concerned about revenue generated from taxing sales, and not the health benefits, that while not proven are evident to me and the other people I know who have made the switch. I've come to the opinion that the outrageous taxes on tobacco and alcohol are not to deter sales and promote health, but because you know that people will keep paying because of their addiction.

Please prevent a quality American-made product from being moved overseas. Find another way to make your funds. Better yet, live within your means and stop beating down the innovation of hard working Americans.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: zpolanski808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 12:09:16 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: zbigniew polanski
Organization: Individual
E-mail: zpolanski808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: zalferd2010@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 06, 2012 8:22:04 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Zeb Alferd
Organization: Individual
E-mail: zalferd2010@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: funhawaiian3@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:59:57 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Allan Thorstad
Organization: Individual
E-mail: funhawaiian3@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

I have artial problems that cigarettes made worse. Quiting through ecigarettes is the best way to quit. As many Dr.s say it isn't nicotine that causes artery problems, it's how it's transfered. The steam nicotine has put my blood tests to were a person who never smoked would be!

I agree that young children shouldn't be allowed to use ecigarettes!! do believe taxing ecigarettes as you would cigarettes will have a negitive effect. People will go back to cigarettes. Ecigarettes are the best thing to have come around to beat cigarettes! Please don't tax them. They help so many & no second hand problems. They have totally changed my life & my Dr. says that they have changed my life time!

Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: alanza@llinsurancebrokerage.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2012 9:23:24 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: antoinette lanza
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alanza@llinsurancebrokerage.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

Adding e-cigarettes to the tobacco tax will limit the use of the live saving devices to the public. Please reconsider the tax.. but by all means keep them away from those underage.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: gagemon@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2012 7:55:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gage Adrian
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gagemon@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

While restricting the sale of nicotine-containing "e-juices" (liquids composed generally of: Propylene Glycol, a general use humectant [absorbs moisture]; some assorted flavoring such as fruit, or menthol; and OPTIONALLY nicotine) and nicotine-containing "cartomizers" (prefilled containers of the liquid) is a good direction to pursue, the taxing of these products as tobacco is entirely incorrect, as well as misleading and unfair.

These are not tobacco products.

The assorted paraphernalia (batteries, atomizers, cartomizers, etc) should not be restricted or taxed either.

If anyone is unaware, the difference between a tobacco cigarette and an e-cig is simple.

In a tobacco cigarette you are igniting and burning plant matter; creating smoke. This smoke contains the desired nicotine as well as many harmful other tars and toxins.

In an e-cig you are making a very fine vapor/mist out of liquid (potentially intentionally containing nicotine but that is by no means a requirement) by heating a metal coil.

While nicotine itself is bad for the body, an e-cigarette with nicotine-containing e-juice is a much healthier ALTERNATIVE to smoking as it doesn't contain the harmful tars and so on.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: joescool33@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:32:31 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: joe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: joescool33@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

Do not let it pass that's not fair when they find a solution to quit smoking they always put it down because they do not want to people to quit smoking they want to make the money and then watch them die (asshole) so if you have half a brain you will not pass it it's better for people to smoke than the crap that is in cigarettes so do not pass it if you can find something wrong with it then let us know and we will stop by in this product

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dokpixel@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 6:08:11 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Maddoktor2
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dokpixel@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:
SOYLENT BATTERIES ARE TOBACCO!

(Which makes just as much sense as this idiotic bill...)

Do I have your attention, now? Good. Read on:

The wording in this bill is too vague. It means that flashlight and cellphone batteries are also technically subject to this unreasonable tax because either can be used to build eCig mods. Classifying things that don't contain nicotine as cigarettes is greedy, inane, and poorly thought out at best.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: bauerntochter@att.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:59:48 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Patricia Corey
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bauerntochter@att.net
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

My name is Patricia Corey. I am currently a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii.

I am a frequent customer with Volcano eCigs and in the past Dream eCigs both located in Honolulu.

I AM a former one pack per day smoker of 40 years plus. I was able to successfully accomplish this due to the electronic cigarette and products that I purchased here locally in Honolulu.

First of all I would like to make my purpose very clear regarding the subject of SB2819, I FULLY support banning minors however my support stops there, period! I strongly oppose classifying electronic cigarettes as "tobacco products." The liquid I am currently using to kick my pack per day smoking habit contains absolutely NO TOBACCO!

There is no doubt in my mind that nicotine is highly addictive otherwise I would have stopped smoking years ago. Taxing local business an absurd amount of tax is not only preposterous but it appears Hawaii lawmakers are speaking from both sides of their mouths.

Do you not realize KITV (not exclusive) airs non smoking ads basically non stop throughout the day and evening promoting nicotine patches, nicotine gum and other types of Nicotine Replacement Therapy... FREE OF CHARGE, I might add. Yet to my knowledge there is not a tax on the NRT.

So as it appears to the Hawaii locals there is more to SB2819 than what our local lawmakers are disclosing.

Hawaii lawmakers are coming across not only to our locals but our visitors and across the United States that Hawaii cares only for money and definitely not about the health and air we breathe. Not to mention the revenue the local business generates not only locally but also from sales on the Internet.

I implore Hawaii's lawmakers to fully research and investigate electronic cigarettes and products but please remove the tax portion from SB2819.

Lawmakers please help the Hawaii people kick the nasty cigarette habit and keep our Paradise air cleaner and "butt" free. Let Hawaii become number 1 in helping smokers "kick the habit."

Please do not force our local businesses to close their doors. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to read my plea.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: gordon_randy_l@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2819 on 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:14:55 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/8/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Randy L. Gordon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gordon_randy_l@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Of course a product containing Nicotine should be regulated and not sold to minors that is apparent on the face of it. Now should it be taxed the same as tobacco? No. This is merely an attempt to increase revenue by lumping two completely different products together.