



To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health
From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director
Date: February 6, 2013
Hrg: House Committee on Health; Fri., February 8, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in Rm 329
Re: **Support for HB 896, Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices to Persons Under 18 Years of Age**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 896 which would prohibit the sales of all electronic smoking devices (including e-cigarettes) to minors under the age of 18.

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is an independent organization in Hawaii working to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our organization is a small nonprofit organization of over 100 member organizations and 2,000 advocates that works to create a healthy Hawaii through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts.

Electronic smoking devices are used to vaporize liquid in cartridges that contain varying levels of nicotine. Often times the cartridges are candy flavored (over 30 flavors available) which entice youth. Currently these devices are readily available at mall kiosks and small shops throughout our state and are priced as low as \$10 for the disposable varieties.

Currently, there is no federal regulation of the contents or production. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website:

“When FDA conducted limited laboratory studies of certain samples (of e-cigarettes), FDA found significant quality issues that indicate that quality control processes used to manufacture these products are substandard or non-existent. FDA found that cartridges labeled as containing no nicotine contained nicotine and that three different electronic cigarette cartridges with the same label emitted a markedly different amount of nicotine with each puff.”

Given how little is known about the contents and health effects of electronic smoking devices, we are very concerned about the current accessibility of these products to our youth. It is currently legal to sell these products to children, as well as to allow sampling of the product in malls and kiosks.

Our recommendation at the present time, based on existing public health research, is that sales to minors and product sampling be prohibited.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Yamauchi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Yamauchi, M.A.
Executive Director

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 8:58 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: chinooker@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB896 on Feb 8, 2013 08:30AM*

HB896

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 8, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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