

SB1127

LATE

TESTIMONY

February 6th, 2013

To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 1127, Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices To Persons Under 18 Years of Age**
Committee on Health
Hearing; February 6th, 2013 at 2:15pm; Room 229

Dear Senators:

My name is Nicole Sutton. I am a registered voter in the state of Hawaii and represent REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry. I am in strong support of **SB 1127 Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices To Persons Under 18 Years of Age**

As a professional in the area of youth tobacco prevention I have major concerns with the way these products are bring marketed and the fact that youth can easily access them. I also believe that the act of puffing away on these products has a normalizing effect on young people and can increase the social acceptability of traditional cigarette smoking that we have worked so hard to counter in Hawaii.

I do believe this measure is a step in the right direction to protect youth from addiction to nicotine from a young age. But I encourage you to look further at what you can do to keep these products out of the hands of Hawaii's youth such as requiring them to be sold in adult-only venues.

Mahalo for your support of SB 1127.

Sincerely,

Nicole Sutton

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: Chad.noble.tabiolo@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1127 on Feb 6, 2013 14:15PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 12:09:28 AM

SB1127

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 6, 2013 14:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Noble-Tabiolo	Individual	Support	Yes

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: cory@volcanoecigs.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1127 on Feb 6, 2013 14:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 7:49:17 PM

SB1127

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 6, 2013 14:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Smith	JOCOR Enterprises LLC dba Volcanoecigs	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: VOLCANO Fine Electronic Cigarettes are in support of SB1127 in it's current form. A representative from Tobacco Free Hawaii, who was present at the hearing, requested an amendment to ban sampling at our retail locations at the hearing and if this amendment is added, we will strongly oppose the bill.

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To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 1127, Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices To Persons
Under 18 Years of Age
Committee on Health
Hearing; February 6th, 2013 at 2:15pm; Room 229

Aloha Senators:

My name is Elizabeth Heppe and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona. I am a huge supporter of invoking age restrictions for electronic cigarettes through the passage of SB 1127.

Due to the lack of information known about electronic cigarettes and the harmful effects it may have on ones health, I see it only fit that we protect our youth from something that could potentially be detrimental to their health. Supporting an age restriction for E-cigarettes will lessen the already heavy burden placed on today's youth to entice them to experiment with tobacco products that are addictive.

I urge you to protect our youth from electronic cigarettes by passing SB 1127.

Thank you for your consideration and all time devoted to this cause.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Heppe

To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 1127, Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices To
Persons Under 18 Years of Age
Committee on Health
Hearing; February 6th, 2013 at 2:15pm; Room 229

Dear Senators:

My name is Melissa Chong. I am from Hilo and am a young adult advocate with REAL. I am writing in strong support of SB 1127 relating to e-cigarettes.

I do strongly believe there should be an age restriction for the purchase of e-cigarettes. Although they say its sold to only 18 years old and up younger youth still are able to buy it. The e-cigarette is just as bad for you just like cigarettes so the claim that its not harmful isn't true. With no age restrictions its easier for their product to be sold and harm those who buy them and use them.

I have visited an e-cigarette kiosk at Ala Moana Shopping Center. I was told information that I do not believe is true from the sales person including that this product is a safe alternative to smoking cigarettes, that there are no chemicals in this product, and that it helps you quit smoking cigarettes. From what I have researched I do not think any of what he said is true.

I was also shocked at the e-cigarette packages which liked like Ed Hardy and Juicy Couture which are brands and designs that are very popular with young people. Also there were flavors to pick from like cherry, vanilla, and other candy flavors. It made me think that these products are made to entice youth into to experimenting with nicotine.

I hope you will pass this measure to protect young people under 18 and those of us in our early twenties from targeting by untruthful companies.

Thank you,

Melissa Chong
Hilo, Hawaii

To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: **Strong Support for SB 1127, Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices to Persons Under 18 Years of Age**
Committee on Health
Hearing: February 6, 2013 at 2:15pm, Room 229

My name is Emmalyn Pilande and I am the Project Assistant for the HEALTHY Program located at Kapiolani Women & Children's Medical Center. I strongly support SB 1127, which prohibits the sales of all electronic smoking devices (including e-cigarettes) to minors under the age of 18. Electronic smoking devices contain varying levels of nicotine and they contain cartridges of different flavors, which entices the youth. These devices are readily available in kiosks, small shops, and even at the mall.

Through my work, I have been exposed to various people and different circumstances on how tobacco products affect their lives. This affects babies and pediatric patients in the intensive care unit, whose parents want to quit smoking, thinking that their children are facing the consequences of their decision to smoke. This affects teenage parents, who want to quit for their baby's health. This affects those who have spouses and relatives, who want to quit, encouraging others to make a healthy change in their lives.

Electronic smoking devices are not currently regulated by the FDA. This allows the advertisement of electronic smoking devices on the radio and television. They are also legal if sold to youth and can be sample at kiosks and stores. Given the limited federal regulation on these devices, I strongly urge you to pass SB 1127, to prohibit the sale of electronic smoking devices to minors, as well as banning the sampling of this product.

I believe that prevention is the key. If tobacco products are out of sight, hopefully they will also be out of mind—not just for users, but also for those who may be intrigued at using them. This will thereby decrease the risk they pose to the people of Hawaii. Therefore, prohibiting the sale of electronic smoking devices and banning sampling them will prevent our keiki from beginning an addiction that can last a lifetime.

I strongly urge you to support SB 1127 and help us in our prevention effort to reduce tobacco marketing directed at our youth.

Thank you,

Emmalyn Pilande, HEALTHY Program Research Project Assistant
Kalihi-Palama, Honolulu, Oahu

To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Committee on Health
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Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 1127, Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices To Persons
Under 18 Years of Age
Committee on Health
Hearing; February 6th, 2013 at 2:15pm; Room 229

Aloha,

Hello, my name is Jadeen Orton. I am a student at Pahoa high school and a member of REAL; a youth led movement exposing the truth about big tobacco. I am in strong support of SB 1127.

I believe that we need to do something about these e-cigarettes. I was in the mall walking and a salesman (with the e-cigs) just walked up to me asking me if we smoke and started to show up all the products. Though I informed this guy I do not smoke he continued to attempt to sell me these products. I am not of age to even purchase tobacco products! I am also worried about this happening to other youth.

SB 1127 will give better protection to young people from becoming addicted to nicotine.

Thank you,

Jadeen Orton
Pahoa, Hawaii

Aloha,

Hello, my name is Lohe Kaawaloa. I am a student at Pahoa high school and a member of REAL; a youth led movement exposing the truth about big tobacco.

Those who sell e cigarettes state that it is better than regular cigarettes, however it is not. Any cigarette is bad for you no matter what brand or form it comes in. I watched a salesman attempt to persuade my Uncle into believing that it is a step down process from cigarettes and then talked about all the flavors that they have. We do not know what the effects of these cigarettes are so just like all their other products we are being used to see what the actual effects are.

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Thank you,

Lohe Kaawaloa
Pahoa, Hawaii

Aloha,

My name is Terrance Rapoza. I am a voter in Hawaii. Since hearing about these e cigarettes I have been concerned on our community. The tobacco company continues to try to find loop holes into getting their deadly products to consumers. We are uncertain as to what are actually in these e cigarettes. The retailers are only interested to persuade others to use their product. Youth are encouraged to try this product.

The advertisements that are handed out by the e cigarette retailers are portraying an illusion of a less harmful product.

I do not want my family, my children, our community to be continued to be their lab rats, to test products that are deadly upon us. Why would we allow deadly products that have been statistically proven to cause deaths and many other financial costs to be sold legally? We are doing a disservice to ourselves and our people by allowing products such as these to be sold.

Thank you,

Terrance Rapoza
Kurtistown, Hawaii

To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Committee on Health
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Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 1127, Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices To Persons Under 18 Years of Age
Committee on Health
Hearing; February 6th, 2013 at 2:15pm; Room 229

Dear Senators:

My name is Jennifer Pescador. I am from Kailua and in strong support of SB 1127. I also want to let you know that I am part of REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco Industry and therefore know quite a bit about tobacco and nicotine.

I am in favor of this bill because it will create a statewide minimum age requirement for the sale of e-cigarettes products in Hawaii as well as a much needed tax increase on the product to make it less reasonable for young people to purchase.

I believe these products are just another way of promoting rebelliousness among smokers to get around smoke-free laws that restrict traditional tobacco smoking in public place throughout Hawaii. Also I think it's a way to market addiction of nicotine to youth masked in a tech-friendly device that makes it seem completely harmless. The reality is we have no idea what the long-term health effects will be from using these untested and unregulated products.

All the kiosks for these products are located in the most busy areas of our malls: Ala Moana – near the stairs and entrance to the food court, Pearlridge – near the stairs, exit of the mall, bank machines, and the entrance from the old area to the new area of uptown mall, and Windward Mall is in the center of the main mall across from the escalators from the 2nd level. I also have sat and watched the aggressive targeting of youth and young adults by the sales people at these kiosks. There is no doubt in my mind that this is their target market. That is also obvious with the colorful packaging and numerous fruit flavors available. I also DO NOT believe the marketing for these products is truthful.

I would like to see you take SB 1127 to the next level and either ban the sale of these products all together in Hawaii or require them to be sold in specialty tobacco shops where no one under the age of 18 years old is permitted.

Thank you,

Jennifer Pescador

February 6th, 2013

To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Committee on Health
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Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 1127, Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices To Persons
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Committee on Health
Hearing; February 6th, 2013 at 2:15pm; Room 229

Dear Senators:

My name is Silver Hunt and I am from Kauai. I am also a member of REAL in strong support of SB 1127.

I strongly believe in an age restriction on the electronic cigs because little is known about the health risks in consuming the vapors that are produced while using the e-cigs. Also they do contain nicotine and come in different flavors which makes them youth friendly.

I urge you to support SB 1127 in placing an age restriction on these products. This will promote a healthier generation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Silver Hunt

To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 1127, Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices To Persons
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Committee on Health
Hearing; February 6th, 2013 at 2:15pm; Room 229

Dear Senators:

My name is John Pimentel. I am a young adult advocate with REAL in strong support of SB 1127.

I believe there need to be minimum age requirements for the sale of e-cigarettes to protect youth from becoming addicted to nicotine. Also I think you as decision-makers should take it the next step and allow that e-cigarettes be sold only in adult stores that require you to be at least 18 years old to enter.

When I visited an e-cigarette kiosk I was shocked to be told how “healthy” these vapors are. I think there is a lack of understanding by many people that this product has not been approved by the FDA or tested for the long term impact on health. Also it DOES CONTAIN NICOTINE which is addictive.

Thank you for your support of SB 1127 to protect Hawaii’s young people.

John Pimentel

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: Jtenn10@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1127 on Feb 6, 2013 14:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 10:09:35 AM

SB1127

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 6, 2013 14:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jolyn Tenn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: No brain-er. But don't forget to add nicotine gums and other smoking cessation products as all are controlled substances and are adult consumed products.

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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Dear Legislators,

My name is Loren Amaral and I am from Volcano, Hawaii. I am with REAL and am writing in strong support of SB1127 to put on age restrictions on e-cigarette sales.

I am of age and have visited the sales kiosks. There is very high pressure at these locations to sample the product. This is why I believe we need to have age restrictions on the sale of the products BUT I also think the products should be sold in adult only stores that are not open for just anyone to walk up to. It sends wrong impressions to young people that these products are safe to use especially since the sales people continue to repeat over and over that these products are better for you than regular cigarettes.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,
Loren Amaral
Volcano, Hawaii

To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Committee on Health
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Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 1127, Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices To
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Committee on Health
Hearing; February 6th, 2013 at 2:15pm; Room 229

February 6th, 2013

Dear Committee:

My name is Makeda Morris. I am part of REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Exposing the Tobacco. I am in strong support of SB1127.

I have visited the E-Cigarette Kiosk at Ala Moana Shopping Center to get more info on this product. I had a very odd experience. I was told by the sales person that the e-cig is better than traditional cigarettes for your health. He asked me how old I was and I responded that I'm not yet 18 years old and then he asked I would like to try to e-cig product at the booth. I was pretty shocked.

I think that these products should be sold only in specialty tobacco stores and there definitely should be a minimum age to purchase just like there is with traditional tobacco products. The fact is that we don't know the long term effects of these products: its not proven safe for the public but yet can be accessed by underage citizens and is being heavily marketed to us.

Please consider passing SB1127 protect the health and well-being of Hawaii's young citizens.

Thank you,

Makeda Morris
Honolulu, Hawaii

February 6th, 2013

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Members, Senate Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 1127, Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices To Persons
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Committee on Health
Hearing; February 6th, 2013 at 2:15pm; Room 229

Dear Legislators:

My name is Melissa Rapoza and I am from Kurtistown, Hawaii. I am in strong support of SB 1127.

I strongly believe there should be minimum age of at least 18 years old (with proper ID presented prior to purchase) for these e-cigarettes in Hawaii. I also believe they should only be sold in specialty adult smoke shops that require you be at least 18 years old to enter. I believe this law will protect our children and will also prohibit the normalization of smoking especially towards youth. It may not be traditional cigarettes smoking but it's just another thing for our youth to become addicted to that is unhealthy.

I am an adult and have visited the e-cigarette kiosks. I witnessed youth under the age of 18 being offered the product to sample. No one was asked prior for their age or asked to show ID. I also witnessed a youth under 18 purchasing an e-cigarette product. The people who work at the kiosks openly use the product in the mall. It's for all these reason that I believe we have to prohibit these products from being openly sold in places where youth for to socialize on a regular basis. I'm concerned that we are not protecting our youth from products that we have no idea of the long term health consequences of and are addictive.

Please pass SB 1127.

Thank you,

Melissa Rapoza

February 6th, 2013

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Re: Strong Support for SB 1127, Relating to Sales of Electronic Smoking Devices To Persons
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Committee on Health
Hearing; February 6th, 2013 at 2:15pm; Room 229

Dear Senators:

My name is Rose Anne Navalta. I am from Laupahoehoe and with REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement. I'm in strong support of SB 1127 to create a strict age requirement for the purchase of e-cigarettes in Hawaii.

I also believe we need to restrict the location of sale for these adult only products. They should NOT be in the middle of malls where youth are hanging out.

I strongly believe these products are being aggressively marketed to my generation and that by saying they are a healthier alternative to smoking the retailers are not being truthful about the fact that little is actually known about the health effects of these products.

I ask for your support of this measure SB 1127.

Mahalo,

Rose Anne Navalta

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mikenakas@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1127 on Feb 6, 2013 14:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 9:13:35 AM

SB1127

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 6, 2013 14:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael S. Nakasone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Lotta kids getting cancer from e-cigs? What's the point of this?

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Making smoking illegal for those under the age of 18 is yet another form of Fascism. We made it so bars that supported smoking in their place of business had to conform to stingy nonsmoking extremists. Around the time most of the “minors” begin smoking is about 16 where they have a mind of their own and whether or not the law passes it won’t stop them. This has been the case for years and it has become socially acceptable.

It seems that Anti-smoking groups try to sway the government in their favor to make the world more comfortable to their needs. What about smokers? In other people’s cases they just want a cigarette after a hard day of stress. Some people found smoking in the bar while watching a sports game relaxing. Thanks to Anti-Tobacco groups grasp on you, smokers can drink, watch TV, and talk to friends, but when it comes to smoking they have to be 25-50 feet away from an entrance. Why the nonsmokers could not just go to another smoke free bar, I don’t know. They won’t stop until smoking is illegal. PERIOD.

Now it’s time to take away a right of those who are considered the rightful age to drive, to drop out, to work, and to even carry a baby. Yes, teens smoke in Hawaii, freely. Teen pregnancy also happens here which requires one parent to work. In a sense, they have decisions that must be handled maturely and adult like. If we give them the right to consent, drive, work, decide whether or not to continue with school or to drop out, then why deny them a smoke, if they want one.

I’ve seen mature teenagers outside school lighting up cigarettes and talking about their day. Nothing about it causes them to go on a rampage. Adults see this happen and walk by, they don’t care. Police don’t care. Some of them even do the E-Cigarette as they find it to be stress relieving and a healthier alternative.

In conclusion, we should not start punishing those just around the corner from turning 18. We have actual drug problems, assaults, DUIs, murders, etc. Law enforcement should not have to waste their time on a petty issue as smoking in a place of business that accepts it or those in high school ages just because these anti-tobacco groups say so.