

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
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FREDERICK D. PABLO
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

JOSHUA WISCH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2014
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Frederick D. Pablo, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. No. 2496, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of S.B. 2496, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and provides the following comments for the Committee's consideration.

S.B. 2496, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, amends the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes and cigars by imposing the tax on sales made after January 1, 2015, at an unspecified rate of the wholesale price. This measure also specifies that the funds from the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes and cigars shall be deposited in the Hawaii cancer research special fund and the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund. H.D. 1 has a defective effective date of July 1, 2150.

The Department defers to the Department of Health with respect to the effect a change in the tax rate and fund redistribution would have on the State's health and wellness.

The House Committee on Health adopted the Department's suggested amendment to the previous version of this bill by deleting an automatic rate increase provision. The Department appreciates and supports this amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Jay Furfaro, Chair
Mason K. Chock, Sr., Vice Chair
Tim Bynum
Gary L. Hooser
Ross Kagawa
Mel Rapozo
JoAnn A. Yukimura



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk
Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Deputy County Clerk

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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

March 31, 2014

**TESTIMONY OF ROSS KAGAWA
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

**SB 2496, SD2, HD 1, RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS
Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 1, 2014
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308**

Dear Chair Luke and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of SB 2496, SD2, HD 1, relating to tobacco products. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Councilmember of the Kauai County Council.

I oppose this measure as it proposes to amend the excise tax rate for tobacco products. Any increase in tax at this time will greatly affect consumers, especially businesses, who are already struggling to recover from the tough economic downturn.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request that the Committee defer this measure. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

ROSS KAGAWA
Councilmember, Kauai County Council

AB:dmc

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TOBACCO, Increase rate on tobacco products

BILL NUMBER: SB 2496, HD-1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Health

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Beginning on January 1, 2015 this measure proposes what appears to be a tobacco tax increase. However, as has been seen in other states, the increased tax on tobacco products may result in a decline in collections as consumers either reduce consumption or evade the tax by going to other markets. If the idea is to support the Hawaii cancer research special fund, lawmakers may want to consider a direct appropriation to these program areas.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS 245-3 to increase the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes and large cigars to ___% of the wholesale price sold by the wholesaler or dealer on and after January 1, 2015.

Amends HRS section 245-3(a)(13) to provide that the revenue generated under the rate increase shall be allocated with ___% deposited to the credit of the Hawaii cancer research special fund and ___% deposited into the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2050

STAFF COMMENTS: Currently tobacco products, other than cigarettes and large cigars, are taxed at 70% of the wholesale price of the product. Beginning on January 1, 2015 tobacco products, other than cigarettes and large cigars, shall be taxed at ___% of the wholesale value. The proposed measure also provides that the revenues derived from the proposed tax increase on tobacco products shall be deposited into the Hawaii cancer research special fund and the Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund.

Care should be exercised in attempting to generate additional revenues from the tobacco tax. Hawaii's tax rates on these products are already among the highest in the nation. Not only would another rate increase reaffirm the perception that Hawaii is a tax hell, but it would probably have an effect on behavioral responses. Not only might it drive consumers to quit smoking, which theoretically is what health advocates want, but it may also drive consumers to find other sources for these products that would not incur the tax. Mail order and Internet sales are sources of product that could escape taxation as well as black market purchases made from the military reservations in Hawaii. So instead of seeing growing collections from higher tax rates, lawmakers may just find that collections will drop due to its effect to discourage consumption and send consumers to other markets. As noted above, the higher one pushes the cost of these products, the greater the possibility of actually seeing a decline in collections as consumers either could moderate consumption or shift it in ways that would avoid the tax. In fact, as was evidenced in the states of New Jersey and Maryland, lawmakers there counted on an increase in the

cigarette tax to help balance their budgets only to learn that collections actually went down below their prior levels. Thus, care should be exercised in targeting these products for specific programs or services.

For this very reason, earmarking the tax for a specific project or program could actually backfire. For example, should cigarette consumption decline, the amounts earmarked will also decline. If it is the intent of the legislature to provide adequate revenue to the stated programs, a direct appropriation would be preferable.

It should be noted that the hikes in the cigarette tax have begun to have an effect on collections not only locally but also nationally. For the first time in the continual drive to raise the tax on cigarettes, collections have fallen below their previous levels. For whatever reason, the rise in rate has jeopardized this source of revenue. If nothing else, lawmakers need to make up their minds whether or not they see this tax a source of revenue or a means by which deter consumption.

Digested 3/30/14



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
April 1, 2014 at 2:00 pm
by
Michele Carbone, MD, PhD
Director
University of Hawai'i Cancer Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2496 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center strongly supports this bill, which proposes to impose a tax on tobacco products other than large cigars and credit the resulting revenues to the Cancer Research Special Fund.

The Cancer Center is one of only 68 institutions in the U.S. that hold the prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation and is the only NCI designated center in the Pacific.

The NCI designation provides greater access to federal funding and research opportunities. More importantly, it gives the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region access to innovative and potentially life-saving clinical trials without the necessity of traveling to the mainland.

This bill addresses a serious concern among health professionals that addictive tobacco products other than cigarettes – including snuff, chewing tobacco or loose roll-your-own tobacco – are attracting a new generation of tobacco users. While the dangers of smoking are well known, national research also tells us there is no safe form of tobacco use.

Health advocates have urged consistent and equal taxation of the various forms of tobacco to avoid attracting consumers, especially youth, to products that are a less expensive substitute to cigarettes.

Since the cigarette tax increases were imposed beginning in 2006, sales have decreased steadily, which may indicate that the higher cost to consumers was the disincentive intended.

However, the declining revenue has had a negative impact on the Cancer Center's budget, and unless we compensate for the loss of revenue and obtain the necessary

funds to increase the size of our faculty, we will not meet the new and more stringent requirements to renew our NCI designation in 2017.

The additional revenue generated by this bill will allow the Cancer Center to continue to provide innovative clinical trials to Hawai'i residents to prevent and treat cancer, and to continue its research on the causes and cures for cancer, including those that are related to tobacco and smoking.

We are dedicated to enhancing community awareness of cancer-related issues, and we work with trusted organizations to address cancer health disparities in Hawai'i and the Pacific region. These organizations include 'Imi Hale (the native Hawaiian cancer network), the American Cancer Society, and the state Department of Health. Our community outreach helps people make better decisions about their health.

The incidence of cancer is increasing significantly and may double during the next twenty years, according to recent estimates by the International Agency for Cancer. It is imperative that we maintain NCI designation to provide our state residents access to the most novel clinical trials here in Hawai'i, in order to reduce the incidence of cancer in our state and to eliminate the need for our cancer patients to travel to the mainland to have access to novel therapies.

We respectfully urge you to pass this bill.

Date: March 31, 2014

Board of Directors

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Finance

John Coefield
Montana

Re: Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1: Relating to tobacco products

Mike Fenello
Idaho

Patty Ginsburg
Alaska
Chair Elect

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. I serve as the Hawaii director for the American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific; our mission is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

Virginia Hall
Oregon

Don Lojek
Idaho

Increasing the price of other tobacco products (OTPs) is one of the best ways to keep youth from ever using tobacco and it also encourages current users to quit. Establishing tax parity between cigarettes and OTPs works to ensure smokers won't switch from cigarettes to cheaper other tobacco products.

Robert Merchant, MD
Montana

Tad Seder
Washington
Secretary

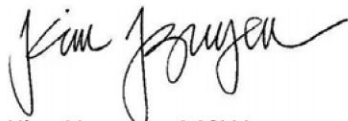
The American Lung Association supports your consideration of dedicating a significant portion of the new revenue generated from this proposal to tobacco prevention and control programs. The effectiveness of increasing tobacco taxes in reducing tobacco-related death and disease is amplified when combined with other components of a comprehensive tobacco control program, including tobacco cessation services and anti-tobacco media campaigns. Tobacco tax increases can spur significant numbers of people to try to quit, and tobacco cessation services need to be available to help these tobacco users quit for good.

Sterling Yee
Hawaii
Treasurer

Ted Zurcher
Oregon
Chair

Renée Klein
President and CEO

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Kim Nguyen, MSW
Hawaii Director
American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific

Fighting for Air



To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: March 31, 2014

Hrg: House Committee on Finance; Tue., April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Rm 308

Re: **Support for SB 2496, SD2 HD1, Relating to Tobacco Products**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **strong support of SB 2496, SD2, HD1** which proposes to raise the tax on other tobacco products to achieve parity between cigarette taxes and other tobacco products (OTPs) and earmarks a portion of the revenues to tobacco prevention and control.

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is a program of the Hawaii Public Health Institute working to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our program consists of over 100 member organizations and 2,000 advocates that work to create a healthy Hawaii through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts.

Health is Promoted By Increasing the Tax on Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes

By increasing the cost of each tobacco product sold and making it comparable to cigarettes, tobacco use by adults and young people will decrease. This will result in a decline in the serious health conditions that arise from use of smokeless tobacco including cancer of the esophagus pharynx, larynx, stomach, and pancreas, gum disease, and the risk of cardiovascular disease, and a decrease in the diseases caused by smoking roll-your-own tobacco.

Adolescents and young adults are two to three times more sensitive to tobacco price changes than adults—when price increases, less youth will begin using smokeless tobacco and other tobacco products and more will reduce their consumption. Hawaii has seen youth use of smokeless tobacco fluctuate despite our decreasing smoking rates.



COALITION FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

Currently, the tax on OTPs (other than large cigars) in Hawaii is 70% of the wholesale price. The amount recommended to achieve tax parity is 85% of wholesale value.

The Coalition Supports Earmarking a Portion of the Revenues for Tobacco Prevention and Control

In a recent poll conducted by Qmark for the Coalition, Hawaii residents overwhelmingly agree (94%) that it's important for the state to earmark some of the revenue from cigarette and tobacco taxes to fund tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs. When the price of tobacco increases, more people seek help to quit.

The Coalition strongly supports creating parity between OTPs and cigarettes and the current earmark for tobacco prevention and control. We respectfully ask you to pass SB 2496, SD2, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Jessica Yamauchi, M.A.
Executive Director



**American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network**
2370 Nuʻuanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96817
808.432.9149
www.acscan.org

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Finance Committee Members

Hearing: April 1, 2014; 2:00 p.m.

SB 2496 SD2, HD1 – RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Cory Chun, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Pacific
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SB 2496 SD2, HD1, which increases the tax on other tobacco products other than large cigars to an unspecified of the wholesale price and distributes the proceeds in unspecified amounts to the cancer center special fund and the tobacco control and prevention trust fund..

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nation's leading cancer advocacy organization. ACS CAN works with federal, state, and local government bodies to support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

The purpose of this measure is to ensure parity between the taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products. In addition, any increase in cigarette taxes will also trigger an automatic increase in the tax on other tobacco products, so that parity continues between the two products.

While some other tobacco products, like smokeless tobacco products including snus, dissolvable strips, sticks and orbs, do not create combustible chemical smoke like cigarettes, they are still harmful to our health. To date, use of smokeless tobacco has been shown to cause:

- Cancer of the mouth, pancreas, and esophagus;
- Precancerous mouth lesions;
- Dental problems including gum recession, dental cavities , and bone loss around the teeth; and
- Nicotine addiction.

Having consistency with the taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products prevents having one product be significantly less expensive than the other, and discourages the purchase and use of all tobacco products.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

March 31, 2014

TO: Chair Sylvia Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cigar Association of America, Inc.
(William Goo)

RE: **SB 2496 HD1** - Relating to Tobacco Products
Hearing Date: April 1, 2014
Time: 2:00 p.m.

My name is William Goo. I represent the Cigar Association of America, Inc. (CAA).

CAA opposes SB 2496 HD1 to the extent that it seeks to increase the excise tax on certain tobacco products such as pipe and smokeless tobacco. Although this bill is focused in part on the use of tobacco products by adolescents and young adults, it would impact users of products such as pipe or smokeless tobacco. These products are not typically favored nor used by adolescents and young adults in Hawaii.

To the extent that the bill attempts to equalize the tax rate on such products with the tax rate on cigarettes, they are very different products. For example, pipe tobacco is not consumed in the same manner as cigarettes, and cigarette consumers are not likely to substitute cigarettes for pipe tobacco. Increasing the tax on such products which is already among the highest in the nation would be devastating for those consumers who have responsibly chosen to use them.

As to the Legislature's concern of the temptation to purchase less expensive products such as loose or roll-your-own tobacco, any tax increase should apply only to that specific product.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 8:09 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mz9995@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/31/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Zehner	Hawaii Smokers Alliance	Oppose	No

Comments: We oppose this unfair and regressive tax increase on working folks.

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1050 Bishop St. PMB 235
Honolulu, HI 96813
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TO:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Luke, Chair
Rep. Nishimoto and Rep. Johanson, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: April 1, 2014
TIME: 2pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308

RE: SB 2496

Position: Opposition

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Hawaii has the second highest tobacco taxes of any state. Tobacco cessation programs are already successfully operating in the state and have access to large funding sources from existing tobacco taxes and tobacco settlements.

This bill targets wholesalers, rather than focusing efforts on tobacco users. It does not specify what the increased rates will be when the bill is implemented. This makes it impossible for businesses to budget and plan ahead, and could result in them having to raise prices on other goods, not just tobacco to make up for the constant increases and uncertainty.

Tobacco use is decreasing around the country, including here in Hawaii. The laws we have in place and the fees and taxes charged are sufficient. Please vote no on this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

April 1, 2014

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke and the House Committee on Finance

Re: OPPOSITION to SB 2496

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 2496. I support cancer research but to put the cost on the backs of the smokers is not fair. Cancer is not exclusive to smokers. This is a tax increase for people who can least afford it. Tobacco may cause harm to my health but passing this bill will tax me to death. Please do not pass this bill.

Mahalo,
Bernard Tagala

finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 8:41 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: surfmaster008@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM*

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/31/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Higa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2014 5:09 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jjw333333@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM*

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/30/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jake J. Watkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 5:04 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: brianportal808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM*

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/31/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Santiago	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2014 8:29 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: inunyabus@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/28/2014
Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elaine dunbar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Let's face it: people smoke: human beings that are victims to not only the tobacco but the predators that want to make money from an affliction. I can't quite find the words to describe the ghoulishness of the predatory taxing on tobacco especially by the American Cancer Society and other 'health' organizations. Unfortunately these human beings that smoke, many are lower income; the tax hikes increase the anxiety leading to a need to smoke more. Don't you get it or do you get and don't care about that aspect? The American Cancer Society is blowing smoke about increases helping smoking cessation and have presented nothing but rhetoric, no logic and no statistics. ALCOHOL TAX needs to be increased. The more you push this tobacco tax the sooner you will see people getting irate about discriminatory taxing and ALCOHOL will be next; so as a drinker, how would you feel about a new tax every year on your bottle or bar tab?

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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PETITION TO STOP HAWAII SB 2496
 WE, the undersigned, OPPOSE Hawaii Senate Bill 2496

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KIANA HOLTEN	PO BOX 9411 KAILUA KONA HI	kiana.holtend@yahoo.com	
MAKANA AQUINO	PO " "	" "	
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Harmory Ferreira		harmoryr23@gmail.com	
Robert Wong	P.O. Box 514 Hanalei, HI 96726	robwong@hawaii.com	
Annel Andre	78-1111 Nuanu Pl #201 Kailua Kona HI 96740	ajapplejuice@gmail.com	

PETITION TO STOP HAWAII SB 2496
 WE, the undersigned, OPPOSE Hawaii Senate Bill 2496

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	SIGNATURE
Bill Smith	78-1012 Bishop Rd Honolulu HI 96715		[Signature]
JOE NAWAKKO	P.O. Box 145 Kailua Kona		[Signature]
Anna [unclear]	93-1103 W. Loea Pl Kona HI		[Signature]
Jessica Chung	"		[Signature]
Paul Tomita	78-6639 MAMALANOA Hwy HONOLULU HI 96725		[Signature]
Shane Espinoza	P.O. Box 1058 Kailua Kona HI 96745		[Signature]
Vernon Damas	P.O. BOX 2198 Kealahou HI 96750		[Signature]
Paul [unclear]	P.O. # 951 Kailua Kona HI		[Signature]
Brad Tidwell	PO Box 2058 Kailua Kona 96745	tidwell@mtc-online.net	[Signature]
Shawna Tidwell	PO Box 2058 Kailua Kona 96745	tidwell@mtc-online.net	[Signature]
NINA BOROVSKY	81-1011 Nani Kapuna #C1 Kona		[Signature]
Cody Aukai	73-1208 Loloua Dr.		[Signature]
Teri Uchida	PO Box 2024 Kealahou HI 96750		[Signature]
Denny Dwyer	PO Box 765 Kailua Kona 96745		[Signature]
Chanel Alapai	PO Box 4208 Kailua Kona HI 96745		[Signature]
Javier Kail	75-5730 #12 Alahou St Kailua Kona		[Signature]
STEVEN IMATION	PO Box 372 PAHOLO HI 96776		[Signature]
Brandon Kipps	75-938 Hiona Street Haluaia HI 96745		[Signature]
Talle Kahakua	P.O. Box 663 Haluaia HI 96725		[Signature]
Jaella Andaya	P.O. BOX 134 Honokaa, HI 96727		[Signature]
Yankee Sauer	HC3 Box 4652 Keauhou St.		[Signature]
Jesse Hunter	73-957 Ahulani St. Kailua Kona HI 96740	JesseHunter@	[Signature]
KEROL MORALE	25-149 VA NAHUE ST. HAWAII 96720		[Signature]
Pia Kahakui-Lewis	"		[Signature]
Shirley Helton	P.O. Box 944 Kailua Kona, 96745		[Signature]
Mira Miller	77-6473 Seaweed Circle 96740		[Signature]
Lesley Wilcox	77-6473 Seaweed Circle 96740		[Signature]

PETITION TO STOP HAWAII SB 2496
 WE, the undersigned, OPPOSE Hawaii Senate Bill 2496

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	SIGNATURE
CRAIG HEISER	95-1045 KOOA AVI DE HIGG MILILANI, HI	cheiser001@gmail.com	Craig Heiser
Michael Belaski	95-220 AVINA DL		Michael Belaski
Karen Kane	45-526A Kapolei RD. Kaneohe HI		Karen Kane
Darriek Bogerson	1219 Nakuina St		Darriek Bogerson
Daryl Tolentino	91-1055 HAWAIIA ST. EWA BEACH, HI		Daryl Tolentino
Christopher Kam	92-368 Palaulau Place Kapolei, HI 96707		Christopher Kam
RICHIE BON	911056 HAMANA ST. EWA BEACH, HI 96706		Richie Bon
Justin Jay Ben	91-1056 Hamana St. Ewa Beach, HI		Justin Jay Ben
Bradley Ben	2427 Auhuhu St. Pearl City HI		Bradley Ben
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Kahuku Kane	65-371 # Haleiwa Rd. Haleiwa HI 96712		<i>[Signature]</i>

PETITION TO STOP HAWAII SB 2496

WE, the undersigned, OPPOSE Hawaii Senate Bill 2496

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96853

PETITION TO STOP HAWAII SB 2496

WE, the undersigned, OPPOSE Hawaii Senate Bill 2496

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PETITION TO STOP HAWAII SB 2496

WE, the undersigned, OPPOSE Hawaii Senate Bill 2496

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PETITION TO STOP HAWAII SB 2496

WE, the undersigned, OPPOSE Hawaii Senate Bill 2496

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PETITION TO STOP HAWAII SB 2496

WE, the undersigned, OPPOSE Hawaii Senate Bill 2496

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PETITION TO STOP HAWAII SB 2496

WE, the undersigned, OPPOSE Hawaii Senate Bill 2496

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 2:12 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jason.park1@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM*

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/31/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Park	Individual	Oppose	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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finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 10:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: antonchris10@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM*

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/31/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Anton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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finance8-Danyl

From: Alvin Wong <anwprods@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:09 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2496 SD2 HD 1. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to create tax parity between cigarettes and OTPs. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii recommends OTPs be taxed at 85% of the wholesale price to achieve tax parity with cigarettes.

Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease use, ultimately saving lives. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to use tobacco products.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

As a non-smoker, I recently had a quadruple bypass heart surgery caused by inhaling second hand tobacco smoke over the years..

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

Mahalo.

Alvin Wong
1163 Hooli Circle
1163 Hooli Circle
Pearl City, HI 96782

finance8-Danyl

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Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Oreta Tupola
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finance1

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To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

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finance1

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Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Barbara Nosaka
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finance1

From: Erin Nielsen <enielsen@waikikihealth.org>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 8:30 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

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finance1

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Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Carolyn Lee

Honolulu, HI 96816

finance8-Danyl

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As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Michelle Kwock
814 Kinau St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

finance1

From: Janelle Kubo <janeltk@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 8:28 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2496 SD2 HD 1. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to create tax parity between cigarettes and OTPs. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii recommends OTPs be taxed at 85% of the wholesale price to achieve tax parity with cigarettes.

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Janelle Kubo
2860 Waialae Ave.
Apt. 114
Honolulu, HI 96826

finance8-Danyl

From: Pualei Kaohelaulii <pualei.kaohelaulii@doh.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 8:52 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Pualei Kaohelaulii
3040 umi street
P.O. Box 52
Lihue, HI 96766

From: shay Chan Hodges <shay.chanhodges@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 8:32 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

shay Chan Hodges
37 Puu Koa Place
Haiku, HI 96708

finance1

From: Koa Robinson <koa.robinson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:52 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Koa Robinson
3059 Seaview Rise
Honolulu, HI 96822

finance1

From: Diane Omura <diane_omura@notes.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:58 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Diane Omura
1650 Kaahumanu Ave.
Wailuku, HI 96793

finance8-Danyl

From: Lynda Hiramami <diabeatit@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:02 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Lynda Hiramami
12-4265 Pahoia Kalapana Rd
Pahoia, HI 96778

finance8-Danyl

From: Jennifer Griffith <jegriffi@bayclinic.org>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:19 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Jennifer Griffith
PO Box 399
Honolulu, HI 96728

finance1

From: Michelle Gray <mmg2b@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 8:29 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Michelle Gray
430 Lanipuaa Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

finance1

From: Maile Goo <maileg@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:28 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

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As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Maile Goo
2600 Campus Road #413
Queen Liliuokalani Ctr for Student Services #413 Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Chris Fukui <chrisfukuimd@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

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As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Chris Fukui
380 Halaki St.
Honolulu, HI 96821

finance8-Danyl

From: Katherine Freer <Kbfreer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 8:41 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2496 SD2 HD 1. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to create tax parity between cigarettes and OTPs. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii recommends OTPs be taxed at 85% of the wholesale price to achieve tax parity with cigarettes.

Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease use, ultimately saving lives. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to use tobacco products.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Katherine Freer
1515 avon way
Honolulu, HI 96822

finance8-Danyl

From: Harald Ebeling <haraldebeling@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to voice my strong support of SB 2496 SD2 HD 1. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii recommends other tobacco products (OTPs) be taxed at 85% of the wholesale price to achieve tax parity with cigarettes, and I wholly agree with their position.

Increasing the tax on OTPs will reduce tobacco use, prevent serious disease, and thus save lives. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to take up tobacco use or to at least curb their use of tobacco products.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Harald Ebeling
2851 Lawa Pl
Honolulu, HI 96822

finance1

From: Jermy Domingo <jdomingo@papaolalokahi.org>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 8:28 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Jermy Domingo
894 Queen St.
Honolulu, HI 96706

finance8-Danyl

From: Boyd, Manager Richard Boyd <boyd.mgr.mterrace@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:05 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Boyd, Manager Richard Boyd
250 Kawaihae St
250 Kawaihae St
Honolulu, HI 96825

finance1

From: Cheryl Reeser <joelypop@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 10:19 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Cheryl Reeser
51-E Kealaloa Ave
Makawao, HI 96768

finance1

From: Phillip Olsen <philolsen@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 10:06 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Phillip Olsen
999 Wilder Ave.
Apt 505
Honolulu, HI 96822

finance1

From: Karli Bergheer <karli@pacificcancerfoundation.org>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 8:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Karli Bergheer
221 Mahalani Street, Suite 99
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Forrest Batz <fbatz@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 8:40 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

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Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease use, ultimately saving lives. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to use tobacco products.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look for cheaper means to continue using tobacco or quit. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will consider quitting. More smokers quitting, means healthier people in our communities and lower costs to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide readily accessible treatment.

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

Mahalo.

Forrest Batz
34 Rainbow Drive
Keaau, HI 96749

finance1

From: Beau Lani Barker <beau.barker@cancer.org>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 10:02 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

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As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Beau Lani Barker
613 Iliaina St
Kailua, HI 96734

finance1

From: Rachelle Bachran <rachelle.bachran@doh.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:44 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Rachelle Bachran
3040 Umi St.
Lihue, HI 96766

finance1

From: Marilyn Gagen <mgagen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 10:48 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Marilyn Gagen
59-398 Ka Nani Drive
N/A
Kamuela, HI 96743

finance1

From: Diane Horita <d.horita@hawaiiintel.net>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 11:23 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Diane Horita
4296 Kaana Street
Lihue, HI 96766

finance8-Danyl

From: Jennifer Hausler <Jenhausler@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 11:22 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Jennifer Hausler
1429 kuloko st
Kuloko
Pearl city, HI 96782

finance1

From: Jo Ann Ikehara <jikehara@lava.net>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 11:30 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Measures like this are important because the increasing cost of tobacco products has prompted users to attempt and finally stop smoking. Use of these products has been proven time and again to be deleterious to health. Help make these products "less within reach" by passing this legislation.

Mahalo nui loa!

Mahalo nui loa!

Jo Ann Ikehara
2515 North School St
2515 North School Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

finance8-Danyl

From: Debbie Apolo <debz96789@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 11:27 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Debbie Apolo
95-045 Waikalani Drive
#G104
Mililani, HI 96789

finance1

From: Stephanie Moir <smoir@kkv.net>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 11:42 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Stephanie Moir
2239 North School St.
Honolulu, HI 96819

finance8-Danyl

From: Judith Mancini <jdusty@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 12:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Judith Mancini
35 `?kea Place
Kula HI, HI 96790

finance8-Danyl

From: Rosanne Uyehara <sunnyisl@lava.net>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 12:08 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Rosanne Uyehara
2916 Date St. 8E
Honolulu, HI 96816

finance8-Danyl

From: Tyler Ralston <dgkahalas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 12:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Tyler Ralston
PO Box 10528
Honolulu, HI 96816

finance1

From: Jessica Yuen <yuenj@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 12:51 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Jessica Yuen
Puahiohio Way
Kapolei, HI 96707

finance1

From: Howard Saiki <zhongxin51039@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 1:18 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Howard Saiki
45-480 B Apiki Street
Apt. D1202
Kaneohe, HI 96744

finance1

From: Valerie Yontz <vyontz@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 2:03 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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I appreciate your support. Many thanks. Valerie Yontz Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease use, ultimately saving lives. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to use tobacco products.

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I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Valerie Yontz
677 Auwina Street
677 Auwina Street Kailua, HI 96734-3430
Kailua, HI 96734

finance1

From: Maxwell Adams <maxwelladams15@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 1:53 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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

Mahalo.

Maxwell Adams
68-1761
waikoloa, HI 96738

finance1

From: JoAnn Tsark <jtsark@imihale.org>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 2:08 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

JoAnn Tsark
1669 B Palolo Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

finance1

From: Joan Loke <catnap@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 2:47 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

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

Mahalo.

Joan Loke
2586A Kekuanoni Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE

SB2496

Submitted on: 4/1/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bob Marley	Coalition for Tobacco in Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose tax increases.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

SB2496

Submitted on: 4/1/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Chum	Cupcake Couture	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose any tax increase.

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finance8-Danyl

From: Paul Perretta <g3sea@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 3:47 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products



To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

Aloha

I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to create tax parity between cigarettes and OTPs. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii recommends OTPs be taxed at 85% of the wholesale price to achieve tax parity with cigarettes.

Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease use, ultimately saving lives. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to use tobacco products.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Paul

Paul Perretta
1511 Punahou St Apt 208
Honolulu, HI 96822



To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representatives Nishimoto and Johanson, Vice Chairs
Members of Finance Committee

Hrg: Tuesday, April 1, 2014, Finance Committee @ 2pm, Room 308

Re: **Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2496, SD2, HD1 “Relating to Tobacco Products”**

By: Valerie Chang, JD, Executive Director
Hawaii COPD Coalition, www.hawaiicopd.org
733 Bishop Street, Suite 1550, Honolulu, HI 96813
(808)699-9839
copd.hawaii@yahoo.com



I thank you for this opportunity in **strong support of SB 2496, SD2, HD1**, regarding increasing taxes on other tobacco products. This topic is very important to our organization, as we help those who suffer the awful ravages of long-term exposure to tobacco, those with emphysema and chronic bronchitis. I support this measure because it is a win-win for our State. Our State gains tax revenue and fewer people will use tobacco products, decreasing preventable diseases including cancers, gum disease, and cardiovascular conditions.

My name is Valerie Chang. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition. Our organization provides services and support to Hawaii's people affected by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, more commonly known as emphysema and chronic bronchitis. COPD is now the third leading cause of death in the US and second leading cause of disability. Over 30,800 people in Hawaii have already been diagnosed with COPD and it is estimated that at least 30,800 more people may suffer from COPD but remain undiagnosed. Many of these COPD patients were seduced by tobacco when they were very young and unable to quit the addiction for decades, causing irreparable harm. ***There are over \$55 million in COPD hospital charges in Hawaii each year.***

One in three of the people we have found in Hawaii with low lung function were non-smokers, which highlights the dangers of second-hand smoke. Research by Dr. Elizabeth Tam of the John A. Burns School of Medicine highlighted that asthmatics are severely affected by second-hand smoke and being around smokers, even more than VOG (volcanic fog) of our volcanoes. There is a huge body of research that was carefully considered by this legislature to support the passage of the smoke-free workplaces law. Nothing has changed to lessen the health effects that people are subjected to when exposed to second-hand smoke, whether the setting is bars, nightclubs or any other venue. Let us not endanger the health of these workers who cannot easily afford to leave their jobs and search for another in this difficult economy.

Tobacco and nicotine products are still the leading cause of preventable disease. COPD is estimated to cause one in four deaths in Canada, our neighbors to the north. Let us reduce our exposure in Hawaii by increasing taxes. Taxes on all tobacco and nicotine products (including those contained in electronic smoking devices) must be equitable so that nicotine addicts will quit rather than switching to a less expensive option. More smokers quitting means reduced costs to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses. I also ask these tax increases be distributed as the original Tobacco Settlement Trust Funds are distributed—we must provide programs to help tobacco users quit, to increase their successes.

Thanks for the opportunity to testify about this issue that is so vital to the health of Hawaii and our nation. This issue is very important to our state and our Hawaii COPD Coalition is very glad that this committee has taken a leadership role in addressing this important matter. **Please vote in favor of SB2496, SD2, HD1.** Thank you.

finance1

From: Megan Chan <mmchan@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 4:53 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products



To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2496 SD2 HD 1. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to create tax parity between cigarettes and OTPs. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii recommends OTPs be taxed at 85% of the wholesale price to achieve tax parity with cigarettes.

Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease use, ultimately saving lives. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to use tobacco products.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Megan Chan
3310 Niolopua Drive
Honolulu, HI 96817



LATE

**Comments on SB 2496, SD2, HD1
“Relating To Tobacco Products”**

The American Heart Association supports the intent of SB 2496, SD2, HD1 “Relating to Tobacco Products.”

The American Heart Association is dedicated to supporting state and local action to protect the public from the dire effects of tobacco. As you are undoubtedly aware, tobacco use is the leading preventable risk factor for cardiovascular diseases. Increasing tobacco pricing through taxes have been cited by the Centers for Disease Control as one of the science-based best practices proven to reduce tobacco consumption. There is no safe level of consumption of any tobacco product, including cigars and “other” tobacco products. Therefore, the American Heart Association recommends that all tobacco-related products be included in efforts to establish higher uniform tobacco taxes.

The American Heart Association also recommends that a significant portion of tobacco taxes be dedicated toward tobacco prevention and control funding. The CDC recommends that Hawaii invest \$15.2 million annually in tobacco prevention and control, while Hawaii invests only \$7.9 million.

The American Heart Association also recommends that all “OTPs” be taxed at a rate of 85% per cent of the wholesale price of each article or item of tobacco products.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations/Community Relations Director

Serving Hawaii since 1948

Mission Statement:

“Building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.”

For more information on the AHA’s educational or research programs, visit www.heart.org or contact your nearest AHA office.

Oahu:
677 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 600
Honolulu, HI 96813
Office: (808) 538-7021
Fax: (808) 538-3443

Maui:
Office: (808) 244-7185
Fax: (808) 538-3443

Hilo:
Office: (808) 282-3107
Fax: (808) 538-3443

Kauai:
Serviced by the Oahu office.

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

Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.



finance1

From: Angela Sy <sya@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 4:58 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

LATE

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2496 SD2 HD 1. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to create tax parity between cigarettes and OTPs.

Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease its use, ultimately saving lives from their harmful effects. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting, or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit.

I also support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

Mahalo.

Angela Sy
2600 Campus Rd.
QLSSC #413, attn: Maile Goo
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Cheryl Albright <hi.albrights@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 5:17 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2496 SD2 HD 1. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to create tax parity between cigarettes and OTPs. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii recommends OTPs be taxed at 85% of the wholesale price to achieve tax parity with cigarettes.

Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease use, ultimately saving lives. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to use tobacco products.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Cheryl Albright
2344 Halekoa Drive
Honolulu, HI 96821



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 8:00 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: 4spiritnsoul@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM*

SB2496

Submitted on: 4/1/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi C. Liu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 7:35 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: fred@ejlounge.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM*

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/31/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fred Remington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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LATE

From: Bryan Mih <bmih@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:09 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

Dear Representatives:

As a pediatrician in Honolulu and medical director of the HEALTHY Quit Smoking Program, I strongly support SB2496.

The early initiation of smoking before age 18 is an important problem to address. Almost 90% of adult smokers started when they were younger than 18. I care for many children that suffer from secondhand smoke and urge you to consider the adverse health effects from tobacco use.

Raising the prices of all tobacco products helps deter the initiation of tobacco use, especially for young people, who are more sensitive to increased prices of these products. SB2496 raises the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to the same level as cigarettes, so that the price barrier for all tobacco products is equivalent.

Please also consider earmarking a portion of the funds from these taxes towards supporting tobacco cessation and prevention programs. As the medical director of the HEALTHY Quit Smoking Program, I have seen the positive outcomes from cessation efforts.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP
Pediatrician

Bryan Mih
1944 Naniu Pl
Honolulu, HI 96822

LATE

From: Jill Friedman <jillf2184@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 7:17 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2496 SD2 HD 1. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to create tax parity between cigarettes and OTPs. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii recommends OTPs be taxed at 85% of the wholesale price to achieve tax parity with cigarettes.

Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease use, ultimately saving lives. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to use tobacco products.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Jill Friedman
PO Box 427
Hanapepe, HI 96716



From: pat fleck <pat.fleckconsulting@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 7:12 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 308

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2496 SD2 HD 1. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to create tax parity between cigarettes and OTPs. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii recommends OTPs be taxed at 85% of the wholesale price to achieve tax parity with cigarettes.

Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease use, ultimately saving lives. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to use tobacco products.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses.

I also strongly support the earmark for tobacco prevention and control in SB 2496 SD 2 HD 1. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Mahalo.

Respectfully,

Patricia Fleck

pat fleck
75-5660 Kopico Street, Ste. C7-330
kailua kona, HI 96740



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 6:03 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: anthony_orozco@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM*

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/31/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 5:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mz9995@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/31/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Zehner	Hawaii Smokers Alliance	Oppose	Yes

Comments: One should take note that tax increases often produce the opposite results. Take for example: Tobacco Tax Increases Can Actually Cause Revenue Losses On October 2009, Washington, DC raised its cigarette excise tax from \$2.00 to \$2.50. At the time, DC's Office of the Chief Financial Officer estimated that FY10 cigarette excise tax revenues would be \$45.4 million or 20.8% above 2009 levels. In fact, revenues were \$12 million lower than projections and even declined \$4.2 million below FY09 levels. At the beginning of FY07, New Jersey raised its cigarette excise tax from \$2.40 to \$2.58 per pack. At the time, revenue was projected to rise to \$819 million. Not only did actual revenues miss projections, they also declined below the two previous fiscal year levels.

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finance1

From: Sheri Sakamoto <admin@rmhawaii.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 10:51 AM
To: Rep. Sylvia Luke
Cc: FINTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY - SB2496 SD2 HD1



Aloha Representative Luke,

We have tried to submit our testimony on-line since yesterday and for some reason the State system is not allowing us to upload our document. Therefore, I apologize that we cannot be at the hearing today, however, would like to respectfully submit the Retail Merchants of Hawaii's testimony in opposition to SB2496 SD2 HD1 directly to you and the House Finance Committee. Please do not hesitate to call me should you have any questions.

Best Wishes,
Sheri

Sheri Sakamoto, President
Retail Merchants of Hawaii
1240 Ala Moana Blvd., #330
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
(808) 592-4200, Phone
(808) 592-4202, Fax

PETITION TO STOP HAWAII SB 2496

signed, OPPOSE Hawaii SB 2496

Kiani Lovell 87-145 Keleleua st Kekaniani 94@gmail.com Kiani Lovell

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	SIGNATURE
Heather Carolla	1720 Ala Moana Blvd	isis081902@gmail.com	[Signature]
Mack Jacobovich	1720 Ala Moana Blvd	aloha1227@yahoo.com	[Signature]
GERARD PETERSON	94-1177 MOPIA LP	GPETERSON84@YAHOO.COM	[Signature]
Chanelle Watson	962 ANANUI ST #117	gintro@yahoo.com	[Signature]
S. VINLUAN	94-1051 KAMIKI ST,	RINAsweet@aol.	[Signature]
Beland Akau	2017 Namauu Dr	Lakawjr@gmail.com	[Signature]
JOSEPH Ting	3514 Pukui St, Honolulu, HI 96816	SThompson42@gmail.com	[Signature]
Kevin Blitz	1746 Huna St #4 Honolulu 96817	Ladbit33@gmail.com	[Signature]
TERRICH Butler	652 Aiea St Honolulu	TERRICHButler183@yahoo.com	[Signature]
Guthrie Short	436 ENGERD Honolulu	rshort@live.com	[Signature]
Rex Navarrete	23375 Shannon Dr. So St CA 94080	vexnavar@yahoo.com	[Signature]
LORENZO CALDERAS	3118 WAIALAE AVE 96816		[Signature]
Sofia Nakagawa	PO Box 345 Leupoldoche HI 96744	howshere TTR@gmail	[Signature]
Godfrey Kaniwili	11-3188 Puka MT. VIEW HI		[Signature]
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John Goggins			[Signature]
William Totori	912 Punalua		[Signature]
Aram Mercedes	4570 SIERRA DR	aramerbz@gmail.com	[Signature]
Jay King	411-B Kalaniana'one Rd		[Signature]
Games, Matthew	89-025 Launania Ave Waianae	thoriginalcap808@gmail.com	[Signature]
VU NAVUYEY	1561 Benzacole #10 HI		[Signature]
Maile Wang	94-1059 Lemikala St. Waiipahu 96797	hanneyes1435@yahoo.com	[Signature]
Diane Spiritz	603 Main St, Fremont NH 03044	bobviedi@gmail.com	[Signature]
Aurice Hurst	112 Kinan St. Hal, HI 96814	nanicurst@yahoo.com	[Signature]
TALIA UNTALAN	1451 MAKIKI ST. B, HON., HI 96822	btuntalan@gmail.com	[Signature]
Emmeline Charfannos	911031 kaimalie each, HI 96706	elcharfannos76@hotmail.com	[Signature]
Ryan Gallagher	824 McCull HI 96826	gblzonly@yahoo.com	[Signature]
Jeff Hamilton	2550 Date St. Apt #44	Kpchawaii@yahoo.com	[Signature]
	7511 Toluca Ave #3		[Signature]