

SCR 161 /

SR 118

Testimony

Measure Title: ENCOURAGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A TOBACCO-FREE UNIVERSITY POLICY FOR ALL UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES AND FACILITIES.

Report Title: Tobacco Free UH

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HRE/HTH

Introducer(s): TANIGUCHI, BAKER, TOKUDA, Ruderman, Shimabukuro, L. Thielen

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SCR0161, ENCOURAGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A TOBACCO-FREE
UNIVERSITY POLICY FOR ALL UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES AND FACILITIES

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

April 11, 2013
2:45PM, Room 414

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of SCR0161 which encourages
2 the University of Hawaii to establish and implement 100 percent tobacco-free policies for all campuses
3 and facilities. This action would set an example for all institutions of higher education and demonstrate
4 a proactive investment in the health of future generations.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** None

6 **Purpose and Justification:** Tobacco use continues to endure as one of the worst public health
7 problems in our nation's history. Creating Tobacco-Free College campuses is not only a growing trend
8 in the United States, but it is considered to be an effective strategy to combat the tobacco-use epidemic
9 today. As the University of Hawaii system of schools is the largest provider of higher education in the
10 State, encouraging implementation of Tobacco-Free campuses has the potential to dramatically reduce
11 the health and economic burdens placed upon our state related to smoking.

12 Although the prevalence of adult smokers has declined due to either quitting smoking or
13 premature death, youth and young adults remain the sole source of "replacement smokers" by the
14 tobacco industry. According to the U.S. Surgeon General's report, nearly 9 out of 10 smokers start

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness

1 smoking by age 18 and 99% start by age 26, if young people don't start using tobacco by age 26, they
2 most likely will never start. One of the recommended strategies proposed by the Surgeon General to
3 help young adults to quit or never start is to create community norms where seeing people smoke or use
4 other tobacco products is the exception, rather than the norm.

5 While aggressive measures to curb tobacco marketing to youth and young adults, as well as
6 restricting accessibility of products are also necessary components of tobacco control, proactive steps to
7 change the social norms around the acceptability of tobacco-use is a missing and critical step.
8 Establishing official policies to prohibit smoking in environments where young adults explore their
9 individual identities and establish lifelong behavior patterns may dramatically impact the health of an
10 entire generation of Americans.

11 Smoke-free college campuses not only impact health, but have broader reaching positive effects
12 as well. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the benefits of smoke-free
13 campuses include increased productivity and decreased use of sick time, decreased risk of fire, and
14 possible decreased maintenance expense for facilities and grounds in managing related litter.

15 Smoke-free college campuses are a growing nationwide trend. As of January 2013, the
16 American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation reports that nearly 800 colleges and universities across the
17 country have adopted a 100 percent tobacco-free policy. Encouraging the University of Hawaii System
18 of Schools to follow suit would not only demonstrate a serious commitment to health, but could prove to
19 be a small investment with exponential gains in terms of cost-savings, decreased health burden on our
20 State, and prolonged quality of life for those impacted by tobacco-use.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair, Committee on Higher Education
The Honorable Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair, Committee on Higher Education
Members, Senate Committee on Higher Education
The Honorable Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Health
From: Annie Hollis, Policy Director
Date: April 11, 2013
Hrg: Senate Committees on Higher Education and Health; April 11, 2013, 2:45 PM, Rm 414
Re: **Support for SCR 161/SR 118, Encouraging the University of Hawai'i
Administration to Establish and Implement a Tobacco-Free University Policy for
All University Campuses**

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii (Coalition) strongly supports SCR 161/SR 118.

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

Cigarette smoking is the single leading cause of preventable disease and preventable death in the United States, leading to more than 400,000 deaths annually. Each University of Hawai'i school campus has a different policy; UH-Manoa prohibits smoking within 20 feet of building entrances, exits and courtyards, and within 50 feet of campus and public bus stops; Maui and Leeward Colleges require designated smoking areas only; and Hilo follows similar guidelines to Manoa, except that they have also designated smoking areas within dorms.

In a 2010 survey, researchers also discovered that knowledge and enforcement of current policies is inconsistent; perhaps because current rules can be confusing and difficult to follow. About 65% of students surveyed stated they are bothered by secondhand smoke.¹ Students also reported that litter from cigarettes, especially cigarette butts, is a significant problem on the UH-Manoa campus.² 62% of students surveyed support or strongly support having a smoke-free campus.³ Findings from interviews and focus groups at Maui College, Leeward Community College, and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo were similar, and pointed out that enforcement of designated smoking areas is a significant problem. Students at UH-Hilo also stated that the use of chewing



tobacco on campus is a significant problem, stating that some students leave bottles with chew spit around campus or in the cafeteria.⁴ Walking tours of 5 different campuses (Manoa, Maui, Leeward, Kapiolani and Hilo) revealed that cigarette butts were seen littered on all campuses and that people smoke in unauthorized locations at every campus.⁵ Current tobacco policies at the UH system schools can be confusing and difficult to enforce, resulting in secondhand smoke exposure and excessive litter. Designated smoking areas on a few campuses do not seem to help the issues of litter and secondhand smoke.

As of April 2013, there are at least 783 100% tobacco-free campuses, without exceptions, across the United States, including the entire University of California System, the University of Guam, all 24 campuses in the City University of New York system, and all public universities and community colleges in the states of Oklahoma, Iowa, and Arkansas. There are 376 additional campuses that ban smoking on campus.⁶ The University of Hawai'i system, given its focus on training the next generation of Hawai'i's health professionals, should be a leader in tobacco prevention and control.

The Coalition strongly supports a completely smoke-free University of Hawai'i—to protect the health of all students, faculty, employees, and visitors to the University, to cut down on litter and environmental damage from cigarettes, and to align with current community norms and expectations regarding tobacco use in public places.

Annie Hollis
Director of Public Health Policy & Advocacy

¹ Scholly, K. & Kehl, L. (2010). University of Hawaii Tobacco Policy Assessment Report. Hawaii State Department of Health, Tobacco Prevention and Education Program.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation. (2013). "U.S. Colleges and Universities with Smokefree and Tobacco-Free Policies." Accessed from <http://www.no-smoke.org/pdf/smokefreecollegesuniversities.pdf>.

April 10, 2013

Dear Members of the Senate Committee:

The University of Hawaii Student Health Advisory Council strongly supports the efforts of State of Hawai'i Legislative session 2013, to pass SCR 161/SR 118 and create 100% tobacco-free campuses at the University of Hawai'i (UH).

The Student Health Advisory Council is a UH System-wide student advisory council that plays a pivotal role in the development and implementation of the health policies and programs that impact the UH System campuses. We remain deeply committed to the mission of improving the public health environment concerning tobacco products and we would be excited for all of the UH System campuses to become tobacco-free.

The adoption of campus-wide 100% tobacco-free policies is strongly recommended by the American College Health Association (2009) and in response, hundreds of university campuses across the country have implemented tobacco-free policies. This past year on the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH Manoa) campus, the Associated Students of University of Hawaii passed a Tobacco-Free UH Manoa Campus Resolution which was also endorsed by the Mānoa Faculty Senate, requesting that the Chancellor prohibit all forms of tobacco use on campus. A tobacco-free UH System would discourage all community members from using any form of tobacco while attending any of the UH campuses, particularly enrolled students. In addition, a tobacco-free UH would promote smoke-free access for people with disabilities, particularly people with respiratory and mobility impairments, and also prepare students for future employment in tobacco-free workplaces.

Mahalo nui loa, for your efforts to create a healthier place for thousands of students, faculty and staff to learn and work.

Aloha on behalf of the Student Health Advisory Council,

Tiffany Lozano, Chair



American Heart Association® | American Stroke Association®

Learn and Live.

Serving Hawaii

Testimony in strong SUPPORT of SCR 161/SR 118, "Encouraging the University of Hawaii Administration To Establish and Implement a Tobacco-Free University Policy For All University Campuses and Facilities"

The American Heart Association strongly supports SCR 161/SR 118.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). An American has a coronary event (heart attack) nearly every 25 seconds, resulting in death about every minute. Smoking is the leading risk factor for heart disease.

Evidence suggests that exposure to secondhand smoke also can result in adverse health effects, including heart disease in nonsmoking adults. Secondhand smoke, also known as environmental tobacco smoke, consists of a mixture of gases and particles including smoke from burning cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and exhaled mainstream smoke. Smoking bans are making progress at reducing involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke in workplaces, and other public places in the United States and abroad. Over 500 college campuses across the U.S. have implemented tobacco-free campus policies.

Such legislation and policy has also provided the opportunity to study the effects of smoking bans on the health of smoking and nonsmoking adults. Study results consistently indicate that exposure to secondhand smoke increases the risk of coronary heart disease by 25 to 30 percent.

Furthermore, exposure to tobacco smoke – even occasional smoking or secondhand smoke – causes immediate damage to your body that can lead to serious illness or death, according to a report released in 2010 by U.S. Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin. The comprehensive scientific report - Benjamin's first Surgeon General's report and the 30th tobacco-related Surgeon General's report issued since 1964 - describes specific pathways by which tobacco smoke damages the human body and leads to disease and death.

The report, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease*, finds that cellular damage and tissue inflammation from tobacco smoke are immediate, and that repeated exposure weakens the body's ability to heal the damage. Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke can cause cardiovascular disease and could trigger acute cardiac events, such as heart attack. The report describes how chemicals from tobacco smoke quickly damage blood vessels and make blood more likely to clot. The evidence in this report shows how smoking causes cardiovascular disease and increases risks for heart attack, stroke, and aortic aneurysm.

Given the prevalence of heart attacks, and the resultant deaths, smoking restriction laws save thousands of lives each year in the U.S. alone. The savings, as measured in human lives, is undeniable.

Alternatively, the costs of not restricting smoking in public and workplaces are equally staggering. According to the American Heart Association's 2013 Statistical Update, the total direct and indirect cost of CVD and stroke in the United States for 2009 is estimated to be

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For information on the AHA's educational or research programs, contact your nearest AHA office, or visit our web site at www.americanheart.org or e-mail us at hawaii@heart.org

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677 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 600
Honolulu, HI 96813-5485
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Maui County:
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Hawaii:
400 Hualani Street, Ste. 15
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Phone: 808-961-2825
Fax: 808-961-2827

Kauai:
(Served by Oahu office)
Phone: 808-538-7021
Fax: 808-538-3443

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

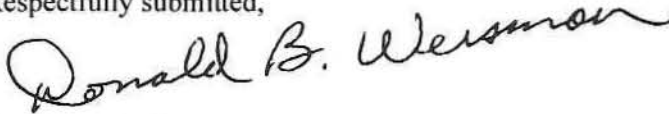
\$312.6 billion. Direct medical costs (\$96 billion) and lost productivity costs (\$97 billion) associated with smoking totaled an estimated \$193 billion per year between 2000 and 2004.

As greater attention has been focused on the tobacco industry's marketing efforts toward minors, it has begun to focus toward addicting young adults. Tobacco-free campus policies protect the health of students and university employees and help reduce tobacco use among a population that is heavily targeted by the tobacco industry.

As the latest U.S. Surgeon General's report on tobacco concluded, tobacco prevention efforts must focus both on children and young adults as almost no one starts smoking after age 25. The report found that nearly 9 out of 10 smokers started smoking by age 18, and 99 percent started by age 26. Progression from occasional smoking to daily smoking almost always occurs by age 26.

The American Heart Association strongly urges Hawaii legislators to SCR 161/SR 118.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald B. Weisman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations /Mission:Lifeline Director

Aloha Committees on Higher Education and Health,

My name is Ryan Mandado and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I would like to ask for your support for SR 118 and SCR 161 which encourages the UH administration to establish and implement a tobacco-free policy for all University of Hawaii campuses.

The reason that the Committee on Health should support this piece of legislation is because there have been multiple studies across the nation that show how the use of tobacco is dangerous to one's health. Tobacco use and inhalation of tobacco smoke can lead to many diseases such as cancer. The American College Health Association (ACHA) recognizes second hand smoke as a Class-A carcinogen and that there is no safe level of exposure to second hand smoke. It is so bad that they also recognize it as a toxic air contaminant.

As represents of the people of Hawai'i, one of your jobs is to make sure that the lives of our citizens are safe. We can no longer have many people exposed to the dangerous chemicals that circulate the air due to second hand smoke. Second hand smoke contains a number of poisonous gases and chemicals including hydrogen cyanide (used in chemical weapons), ammonia (used in household cleaners), and carbon monoxide (found in car exhaust).

There has been a lot of support for efforts of a tobacco free campus. I served as Senator for the Colleges of Arts and Sciences of the 99th Senate for the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH). As my time as Senator, I was supported by my fellow student Senators to pass ASUH Resolution 05-12 which would encourage the UH Administration to pass a tobacco free policy. We also received support from our faculty. The Faculty Senate endorsed Senate Resolution 05-12 on March 2012.

With the growing amount of deaths due to tobacco smoke, I think it is crucial that the University of Hawai'i system quickly implement a policy that would abolish tobacco smoke on all campus. This can happen if we get support from our State leaders on SR 118 and SCR 161.

Thank you very much for letting me submit my thoughts on this issue.

Much Mahalo,

Ryan Mandado
1720 Kalani St. Apt 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 12:26 AM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: bmih@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SR118 on Apr 11, 2013 14:45PM

SR118

Submitted on: 4/10/2013

Testimony for HRE/HTH on Apr 11, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Mih	HEALTHY Program	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senate Committee on Higher Education: I appreciate your time and consideration of SR 118 & SCR 161, which I ardently support. I am a practicing pediatrician, assistant professor of pediatrics at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and the medical director of the HEALTHY Quit Smoking Program at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children. I am often on campus and have witnessed individuals smoking near building entrances and other common areas. Many other universities and colleges across the country have already gone tobacco-free. This promotes the health and well-being of all students, faculty, staff, and visitors on campus. Allowing the continued use of tobacco on campus normalizes this behavior and makes it seem acceptable. As an institution of higher learning, especially one that also helps educate medical and nursing students, it is imperative that the UH system lead by example and ban tobacco use on its campuses. Please support SR 118 & SCR 161. Sincerely, Bryan Mih, MD MPH FAAP

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

April 10, 2013

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Hearing: April 11, 2013; 2:45 p.m.

**SCR 161/ SR 118 – ENCOURAGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ADMINISTRATION TO
ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A TOBACCO-FREE UNIVERSITY POLICY FOR ALL
UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES AND FACILITIES.**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 103 and HR 79, which encourages the University of Hawaii administration to adopt a tobacco-free system-wide university policy.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, 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.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General's 2012 report, 99% of all first tobacco use occurs by age 26.¹ Many young people in the college aged group, ages 18-26, are likely to try tobacco products when tobacco use may be seen as societal norm on college campuses.

This measure encourages the University of Hawaii to adopt a tobacco-free policy, similar to tobacco-free policies at other universities across the county. Creating a tobacco-free policy would promote and support a healthy lifestyle for many of Hawaii's higher education populations. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.

¹ *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General. Executive Summary, 2012 at 2.

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair, Committee on Higher Education
The Honorable Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair, Committee on Higher Education
Members, Senate Committee on Higher Education
The Honorable Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Date: April 11, 2013

Hrg: Senate Committees on Higher Education and Health; April 11, 2013, 2:45 PM, Rm 414

Re: **Support for SCR 161/SR 118, Encouraging the University of Hawai'i Administration to Establish and Implement a Tobacco-Free University Policy for All University Campuses**

I am a doctoral student at University of Hawai'i's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Public Health Sciences and I strongly support SR 118/SCR 161, encouraging the University of Hawai'i to establish a 100% tobacco-free policy for all UH system campuses and facilities.

I am a student of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH) campus and have been for almost 10 years, attaining my Bachelor of Arts degree, Master of Public Health Degree, and currently pursuing a Doctor of Public Health Degree. I love how UH helps to fulfill my academic goals without having to leave Hawai'i, my home. Through the years, I often walk the length of UH's sprawling campus to get to my classes. Walking provided me a good dose of physical activity, but I can honestly say walking on campus was also unhealthy for me. I am an asthmatic and allergic to cigarette smoke. Whenever I am on campus, my inhaler is in my pants pocket, ready to be used when I have an asthma attack. Because of the smokers on campus, I use it often. As a devoted student, I would like to see a change in the university to promote a healthy environment for us and for future students, such as my *keiki*.

My youngest daughter, Nalani, is 4 years old and also a student of UH. She attends the UH Mānoa Children's Center as a preschooler, and she too is asthmatic. As a mother and a public health professional, I want my child to be healthy, safe, and protected from unhealthy behaviors, but it is difficult when our university does not support that environment. **It is my hope that she and Hawai'i's *keiki* will inherit a university that is tobacco-free.**

Mahalo for giving me an opportunity to voice my support for SCR 161/SR 118.

Sincerely,



May Rose I. Dela Cruz, MPH
University of Hawai'i DrPH student
isnec@hawaii.edu

April 10, 2013

Dear Members of the Senate Committee,

I am Master of Social Work candidate at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and I am submitting this letter in strong support of the resolution to pass SCR 161/SR 118 which seeks to create 100% tobacco-free campuses at the University of Hawaii (UH).

The Hawaii Department of Health reports that smoking and tobacco use are the number one preventable cause of death state and nationwide. In Hawaii, this results in over 1,100 deaths per year and \$525 millions dollars in medical costs and lost productivity.

As a social work student I feel a strong responsibility to prevent individuals from exposure to second hand smoke while attending a public educational institution.

Thank you for your consideration,

Courtney Voss, MSW Candidate 2013

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair, Committee on Higher Education
The Honorable Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair, Committee on Higher Education
Members, Senate Committee on Higher Education
The Honorable Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Health

Date: April 11, 2013

Hrg: Senate Committees on Higher Education and Health; April 11, 2013, 2:45 PM, Rm 414

Re: **Support for SCR 161/SR 118, Encouraging the University of Hawai'i Administration to Establish and Implement a Tobacco-Free University Policy for All University Campuses**

I am Amanda Jones, a nursing student, at UHMC and I strongly support SR 118/SCR 161, encouraging the University of Hawai'i to establish a 100% tobacco-free policy for all UH system campuses and facilities.

This policy is necessary in protecting the health of all people who visit, work, and study at all UH system campuses and facilities. Each University of Hawai'i school campus has a different policy. Current tobacco policies at the UH system schools can be confusing and difficult to enforce, resulting in secondhand smoke exposure and excessive litter. Designated smoking areas on a few campuses do not seem to help the issues of litter and secondhand smoke.

As of April 2013, there are at least 783 100% tobacco-free campuses, without exceptions, across the United States, including the entire University of California System, the University of Guam, all 24 campuses in the City University of New York system, and all public universities and community colleges in the states of Oklahoma, Iowa, and Arkansas. There are 376 additional campuses that ban smoking on campus.¹ Students, faculty, and staff at the UH Maui College have worked hard to support this policy change—Nearly 500 petition signatures have been collected in support for a Tobacco-Free UHMC and nearly 10,000 cigarette butts have been collected on campus. Faculty Senate and Student Government are actively looking at this issue as an immediate concern to the UHMC campus.

Our University system should be a community leader in the areas of tobacco control and prevention, especially given our focus on training Hawai'i's next generation of doctors, nurses, public health experts, social workers, dental hygienists, and other health professionals. I strongly support a completely tobacco-free University of Hawai'i—to protect the health of all students, faculty, employees, and visitors to the University, to cut down on litter and environmental damage from cigarettes, and to align with current community norms and expectations regarding tobacco use in public places.

¹ American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation. (2013). "U.S. Colleges and Universities with Smokefree and Tobacco-Free Policies." Accessed from <http://www.no-smoke.org/pdf/smokefreecollegesuniversities.pdf>.

Sincerely,

Amanda K Jones

Testimony of
Emily M. Morihara
Masters in Social Work Student, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Testimony in Support of SCR 161

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Chair, Senator Brain T. Taniguchi
Vice Chair, Senator Gilbert Kahele
and
Senate Committee on Health
Chair, Senator Josh Green
Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Wednesday, April 11, 2013
2:45PM, Conference Room 414

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Chair Green, Vice Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee:

My name is Emily Morihara and I am a Masters in Social Work student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Additionally I work for the University Health Services – Health Promotion Program as the Alcohol Social Norms Campaign Coordinator. I would like to ask for your strong support for the Senate Concurrent Resolution 161, encouraging the University of Hawaii administration to establish and implement a Tobacco-Free university policy for all university campuses and facilities.

As a graduate student employee for the Health Promotion Program, I have witnessed first-hand the staggering amount of support that we have received from students at our educational events. Students are always willing and excited to sign the petition and become supporters for a Tobacco-Free University of Hawaii. Many universities and college campuses have taken the initiative to become completely smoke-free, and it is about time that our policies reflect our health-driven values.

I am sure all of you are aware that tobacco and second-hand smoke cause many health problems. This is something that you can not only help to raise awareness about, but you can also assist in preventing health issues for the current and future students of the University of Hawaii. Today's hearing is about making a statement. It shows further evidence of your commitment to protecting the community and reducing the death toll of tobacco.

Mahalo for giving me an opportunity to voice my opinion and support for SCR 161/SR 118.

Sincerely,

Emily M. Morihara
University of Hawai'i at Manoa, MSW student
emilymm@hawaii.edu