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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE  
FEASIBILITY OF PROHIBITING SMOKING ON ALL OF HAWAII'S  
BEACHES.

1           WHEREAS, tourism is the mainstay of the state economy, with  
2 approximately one out of every three jobs in the State linked  
3 directly or indirectly to the tourism industry; and  
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5           WHEREAS, for both residents and visitors alike, the State's  
6 beautiful beaches and coastlines, clean air, and other renowned  
7 natural resources make the 50<sup>th</sup> State an ideal place to live and  
8 visit; and  
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10           WHEREAS, according to the 2009 study "Litter in America" by  
11 Keep America Beautiful, tobacco products, consisting mainly of  
12 cigarette butts, are the most littered item in America,  
13 representing nearly 38 percent of all items collected; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, Hawaii's famed beaches are littered with cigarette  
16 filters, also known as cigarette butts; and  
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18           WHEREAS, as an example, in a recent beach cleanup at  
19 Waikiki Beach, 1,500 cigarette butts were collected in a span of  
20 one hour, and cigarette butts were the most reported type of  
21 litter found; and  
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23           WHEREAS, cigarette butts not only contain toxins from  
24 tobacco, they are also made of cellulose acetate, a plastic that  
25 takes decades to degrade and leaves a toxic residue in the  
26 environment that creates a hazard to Hawaii's indigenous species  
27 and other wildlife; and



1 WHEREAS, while there are littering laws, these laws have  
2 not been a deterrent to individuals who continue to violate  
3 them, causing significant cost to the State and counties to  
4 control litter and other pollutants; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, from a health perspective, the Centers for Disease  
7 Control and Prevention indicates that secondhand smoke exposure  
8 causes lung cancer and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases  
9 in nonsmoking adults and children, and causes an estimated  
10 46,000 heart disease deaths among United States nonsmoking  
11 adults each year; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, there is growing concern that outdoor secondhand  
14 smoke can pose a health hazard to both people and the  
15 environment; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, secondhand smoke concentrations in outdoor  
18 settings can be comparable to smoke concentrations in indoor  
19 settings; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, there is a compelling basis to institute a smoking  
22 ban in outdoor areas and several cities, including Chicago, Los  
23 Angeles, and New York City, have enacted such smoke-free laws;  
24 and

25  
26 WHEREAS, to preserve Hawaii's precious natural resources,  
27 natural beauty, and culture for both residents and visitors, it  
28 is necessary to start by protecting Hawaii's beaches from the  
29 dangers of cigarette smoking and the littering of cigarette  
30 butts; now, therefore,

31  
32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
33 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
34 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
35 Health is requested to conduct a study that examines the  
36 feasibility of prohibiting smoking on public beaches; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study examine:

- 39  
40 (1) The effects smoking has on Hawaii's public beaches,  
41 including adverse health and environmental effects  
42 with regard to littering;



# H.C.R. NO. 186

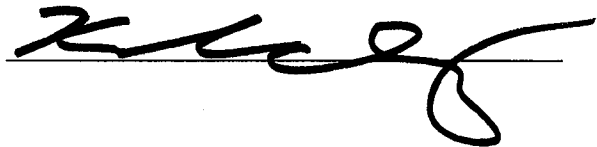
- 1           (2) The public health effects of secondhand smoke in
- 2           outdoor areas such as beaches;
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- 4           (3) What other states are doing to address the effects of
- 5           secondhand smoke in outdoor areas such as beaches,
- 6           including legislation from other states and any plans
- 7           states have implemented to ban smoking on beaches and
- 8           the outcome of those plans; and
- 9
- 10          (4) Other options to reduce the harmful effects smoking
- 11          has on Hawaii's beaches and coastal environment; and
- 12

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health submit  
14 a report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
15 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days  
16 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

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18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 07 2014

