

---

---

# 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  
4

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  
9

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  
17

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  
22

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

28 WHEREAS, while there are littering laws, these laws have  
29 not been a deterrent to individuals who continue to violate



1 them, resulting in significant cost to the State and counties to  
2 control litter and other pollutants; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, from a health perspective, the Centers for Disease  
5 Control and Prevention indicates that secondhand smoke exposure  
6 causes lung cancer and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases  
7 in nonsmoking adults and children, and causes an estimated  
8 46,000 heart disease deaths among United States nonsmoking  
9 adults each year; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, there is growing concern that outdoor secondhand  
12 smoke can pose a health hazard to both people and the  
13 environment; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, secondhand smoke concentrations in outdoor  
16 settings can be comparable to smoke concentrations in indoor  
17 settings; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, there is a compelling basis to institute a smoking  
20 ban in outdoor areas and several cities, including Chicago, Los  
21 Angeles, and New York City, have enacted such smoke-free laws;  
22 and

23  
24 WHEREAS, to preserve Hawaii's precious natural resources,  
25 natural beauty, and culture for both residents and visitors, it  
26 is necessary to start by protecting Hawaii's beaches from the  
27 dangers of cigarette smoking and the littering of cigarette  
28 butts; now, therefore,

29  
30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
31 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
32 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
33 Health is requested to conduct a study that examines the  
34 feasibility of prohibiting smoking on public beaches; and

35  
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study examine:

37  
38 (1) The effects smoking has on Hawaii's public beaches,  
39 including adverse health and environmental effects  
40 with regard to littering;

41 (2) The public health effects of secondhand smoke in  
42 outdoor areas such as beaches;

43



1 (3) What other states are doing to address the effects of  
2 secondhand smoke in outdoor areas such as beaches,  
3 including legislation from other states and any plans  
4 states have implemented to ban smoking on beaches and  
5 the outcome of those plans; and  
6

7 (4) Other options to reduce the harmful effects smoking  
8 has on Hawaii's beaches and coastal environment; and  
9

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

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.  
17  
18  
19  
20

