



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS

C O R P O R A T I O N

Quality Healthcare For All

**House Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair**

Wednesday, February 5, 2014
Conference Room 329
8:35 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony Supporting House Bill 2313, Relating to the Use of Tobacco and e-Cigarettes on Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Premises. Amends chapter 323F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to prohibit the use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes at Hawaii Health Systems Corporation health facilities.

Alice M. Hall
Acting President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2313.

The multitude of scientific evidence in recent history indisputably establishes the hazardous health effects of direct and second-hand exposure to tobacco products. In a 2005 study conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (hereinafter, "CDC"), the CDC surveyed mortality rates connected with tobacco use in a four year period and concluded that tobacco use is the foremost preventable cause of death in the United States. In particular, during the survey period, tobacco use was determined to be responsible for an estimated 438,000 deaths per year, or about one out of every five deaths. Other data provided by the CDC estimates that approximately 8.6 million people in the United States are currently afflicted with serious illnesses attributable to tobacco use.

In addition to the substantial loss of life and debilitating diseases caused by tobacco, tobacco use is also responsible for billions of dollars in healthcare costs and lost productivity. According to data provided by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, tobacco-related illness is annually responsible for approximately \$96 billion in public and private healthcare costs in the United States, including \$30.9 billion in Federal and state

3675 KILAUEA AVENUE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816 • PHONE: (808) 733-4020 • FAX: (808) 733-4028

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Medicaid payments, \$27.4 billion in Federal Medicare payments, and \$9.6 billion in other federal expenditures. The data further indicates that approximately \$97 billion is lost each year in productivity as a result of lives shortened by tobacco-related deaths. In Hawaii alone, data from the CDC provides that annual tobacco-related medical costs totals approximately \$336 million and lost productivity totals approximately \$308 million.

In light of the devastating effects of tobacco use, it is important for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (“HHSC”) to take all available steps to protect patients, employees and visitors from exposure to tobacco products while they are on HHSC premises. Moreover, given HHSC’s status as a large public health system in the nation and Hawaii’s predominant health care provider on the outer islands, HHSC also has a special responsibility to set positive examples for other organizations as well as the local communities it serves. It goes without question that a tobacco-free environment on all of HHSC’s premises would set a prime example of positive health practices.

With respect to e-cigarettes, preliminary research conducted by the United States Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) suggests that the ingredients contained in many e-cigarette cartridges are not free from harmful substances. Specifically, according to a July 22, 2009 news release, the FDA noted that its Division of Pharmaceutical Analysis examined the ingredients in a small sample of cartridges from two leading brands of e-cigarettes. In one sample, the FDA’s analyses detected diethylene glycol, a chemical used in antifreeze that is toxic to humans. In several other samples, the FDA analyses detected carcinogens such as nitrosamines. While future testing of e-cigarettes may yield different results from the FDA, the potentially harmful effects of e-cigarettes and nicotine vapor simply cannot be ignored. As such, HHSC must oppose the use of e-cigarettes on the premises of its facilities.

Although current law forbids smoking INSIDE the premises, this legislation, if passed, would eliminate the use of tobacco products anywhere on the HHSC campuses, including parking lots. We believe this expansion of the rule is needed to protect all of our patients and visitors.

In short, given HHSC’s mission of providing and promoting quality healthcare for the people of Hawaii, HHSC is unequivocally in support of HB 2313. If enacted, patients, employees and visitors to HHSC’s facilities would be free to enjoy clean, tobacco-free air on all of HHSC’s properties. Additionally, employees would be given the opportunity to participate in tobacco cessation programs offered by HHSC to help them overcome their reliance on tobacco products. It is our sincere hope that patients, visitors and other employees would likewise be encouraged to quit tobacco use which, in the long run, would result in a healthier population, diminished health care costs and improved productivity.

Thank you for the opportunity to express HHSC’s support of this important measure.

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2313,
“Relating to the use of tobacco and e-cigarettes on Hawaii Health Systems
Corporation premises”**

The American Heart Association strongly supports HB 2313, “Relating to the use of tobacco and e-cigarettes on Hawaii Health Systems Corporation premises.”

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 one of the leading preventable risk factors for cardiovascular diseases. As we’ve learned through our policy efforts to restrict smoking in public and work places, such policies not only reduce exposure to non-smokers of deadly environmental tobacco smoke, but also have the added benefit of changing the public norms regarding tobacco use. The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation’s decision to eliminate tobacco use on its campuses will further send the clear message to its community that tobacco use is no longer encouraged in our society, and help support those who continue to use tobacco, but want to quit, to achieve the goal of cessation.

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

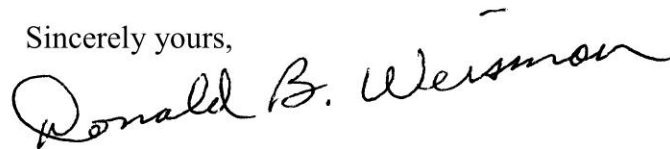
Maui:
Office: (808) 244-7185
Fax: (808) 538-3443

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

Kauai:
Serviced by the Oahu office.

The American Heart Association encourages legislators to support this strong health policy.

Sincerely yours,



Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations/Community Relations Director



To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health
From: Tiffany Gourley, Policy & Advocacy Director
Date: February 3, 2014
Hrg: House Committee on Health; Wed., February 5, 2014 at 8:35 a.m. in Rm 329
Re: **Support with comments for HB 2313, Relating to the Use of Tobacco and E-Cigarettes on Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Premises**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 2313, which amends chapter 323F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to prohibit the use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes at Hawaii health systems corporation facilities (“health system”).

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is a program under 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. The Coalition also supports the public through its Smoke-Free Homes Initiative, designed to create smoke-free apartments and condos through voluntary policy adoption.

The Coalition supports a system-wide smoke-free and tobacco-free Hawaii health system and tobacco cessation programs for public employees.

Smoking and tobacco use contribute to a wide range of institutional costs. These costs include employee absenteeism, extensive health care costs and increased medical insurance costs, fire risk, negative environmental impacts, and increased cleaning and maintenance costs.

Furthermore, secondhand smoke is dangerous; the 50th Anniversary U.S. Surgeon General Report released on January 17, 2014 states that any level of exposure to secondhand smoke is dangerous and can be harmful and over 2.5 million people have died from secondhand smoke. The International Agency for Research on Cancer and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency both note that environmental tobacco smoke (or secondhand smoke) is carcinogenic to humans. Secondhand smoke contains 7,000 identifiable chemicals, 69 of which are known or probable carcinogens.

The Coalition recommends amending the definition of “tobacco product” to be consistent with HB 2321.

To provide continuity and avoid disparities among definitions in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Coalition recommends amending the proposed definition of “tobacco product” in HB 2313 to be consistent with the proposed definition in HB 2321. The Coalition recommends:

“Tobacco product” means any product made or derived from tobacco, that contains nicotine or other substances, and is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumer,



whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, a cigarette, cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, snus, or an electronic smoking device. "Tobacco product" does not include any product specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for legal sale as a tobacco cessation product that is being marketed and sold solely for that approved purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany L. Gourley', with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Tiffany L. Gourley, esq.
Policy and Advocacy Director

morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 7:07 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: surfmaster008@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2313 on Feb 5, 2014 08:35AM*

HB2313

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for HLT on Feb 5, 2014 08:35AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Higa	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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LATE

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

HB2313, RELATING TO THE USE OF TOBACCO AND E-CIGARETTES ON HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PREMISES

Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Acting Director of Health

February 5, 2014
8:35 am, Room 329

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports HB2313 which prohibits tobacco
2 or e-cigarette use on Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) premises and acknowledges the
3 Hawaii health systems corporation for offering tobacco cessation and education. DOH defers to the
4 HHSC as to implementation and labor concerns.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** Tobacco use is primarily a health issue. The scientific findings from the
7 2006 United States Surgeon General's Report, The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to
8 Tobacco Smoke, disclosed that there is no safe level or amount of exposure to secondhand smoke. The
9 Report further stated that hospitals with tobacco-free policies are particularly effective because they not
10 only protect patients from secondhand smoke exposure but also project a positive, healthy image, send a
11 consistent message, and also encourage and support tobacco use cessation among both patients and staff.
12 A majority of the private hospitals in Hawaii have adopted policies creating smoke-free campuses.

13 This measure proposes prohibit tobacco or e-cigarette use on HHSC premises by amending
14 Chapter 323F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include a new section: Tobacco and e-cigarette use

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness

1 prohibited. Included in the new section are definitions of “tobacco product,” “e-cigarette,” “tobacco or
2 e-cigarette use,” and “premises.”

3 The DOH recommends that the definitions included in HB2313 be amended to be consistent with
4 those proposed by HB2321, as follows:

5 "Electronic smoking device" means any electronic product that can be used to vaporize and
6 deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited, to
7 an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, or electronic pipe, and any cartridge or other
8 component of the device or related product.

9 "Tobacco product" means any product made or derived from tobacco, that contains nicotine or
10 other substances, and is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether smoked,
11 heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited
12 to, a cigarette, cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, snus, or an electronic smoking device.

13 "Tobacco product" does not include any product specifically approved by the United States Food and
14 Drug Administration for legal sale as a tobacco cessation product that is being marketed and sold solely
15 for that approved purpose.

16 "Smoke" or "smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated
17 tobacco product or plant product intended for inhalation in any manner or in any form. "Smoking"
18 includes the use of an electronic smoking device.

19 The DOH supports this measure with recommendations and offers its assistance with education
20 and signage.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 11:32 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2313 on Feb 5, 2014 08:35AM*



HB2313

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for HLT on Feb 5, 2014 08:35AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB2313

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for HLT on Feb 5, 2014 08:35AM in Conference Room 329

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melvin D Burton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HHSC is a health facility. Nicotine in the form of tobacco or in the e-cigarette has no health benefit and has known health risk. I strongly support the measure to ban these products at all HHSC facilities / premises.

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HB2313

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for HLT on Feb 5, 2014 08:35AM in Conference Room 329

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Representatives I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2313 which prohibits the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems on all HHSC campuses. The unregulated use of electronic smoking devices is potentially hazardous to health and is disruptive to work environments. Using an electronic smoking device closely resembles the act of smoking by having a user inhale vaporized liquid nicotine created by heat through an electronic ignition system. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined various samples tested contained not only nicotine but also detectable levels of known carcinogens and toxic chemicals. We are so fortunate to live in Hawai'i where the air is much cleaner than other locations in the U.S., and I do not wish to introduce more toxins into the air. As a nurse, I believe we have a duty and obligation to protect the health of the people of Hawai'i. This is one step in that direction, and a good one. I urge you to support HB 2313 and move it promptly forward to ensure the Public Health is protected. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2313 regarding electronic cigarette prohibition on HHSC campuses.

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