



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

HCR0186, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF PROHIBITING SMOKING ON ALL OF HAWAII'S BEACHES

Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health

March 19, 2014
8:30 am, Room 329

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of HCR0186
2 which requests the DOH to conduct a study to examine the feasibility of prohibiting smoking on
3 public beaches.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The DOH supports the intent of HCR0186 which highlights the need
6 for protections against the effects of secondhand smoke (SHS) and cigarette butt litter on human
7 health and on Hawaii's beautiful, world-renowned beaches.

8 The Department suggests that development of the feasibility study include representation
9 from state and county agencies with jurisdiction for Hawaii's beaches. The DOH is willing to
10 convene and facilitate the participation of the agency representatives and from these discussions
11 prepare the summary recommendations for creating smoke-free beaches and coastal areas.

12 Creating smoke-free or tobacco-free beaches is a critical step toward protecting the public
13 from involuntary exposure to SHS and toxic effects of litter. On beaches, most cigarette butts
14 end up in the sand and present serious health risks to children, pets, and marine life due to

1 ingestion and choking. In 2013, the National Poison Control Center reported 5,509 cases of
2 children under the age of 5 years ingesting cigarettes and cigarette butts in the United States.
3 They receive between 15 to 23 calls from Hawaii each year for this age group. Moreover,
4 discarded cigarette butts leach toxic chemicals into marine and waterways, damaging the
5 ecosystem and threatening the longevity of the natural environment.

6 Smoke-free and Tobacco-free environments also promote healthy social norms which, in
7 turn, positively influence tobacco use behaviors. Studies show that smoke-free laws can reduce
8 youth initiation of smoking and can encourage adults who smoke to quit. The Surgeon General's
9 2000 Report on Reducing Tobacco Use found that smoke-free laws "have been shown to
10 decrease daily tobacco consumption and to increase smoking cessation among smokers."
11 Movement toward policies that prohibit tobacco use where many residents and tourists visit for
12 recreation will help dissociate the act of smoking from healthy lifestyles and may help improve
13 smoking outcomes in the State's population.

14 The DOH appreciates the intent of HCR0186 and encourages further discussions between
15 government agencies regarding jurisdictional matters.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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 L. Gourley, Policy & Advocacy Director
Date: March 17, 2014
Hrg: House Committee on Health; Wed., March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Rm 329
Re: **Support the Intent of HCR 186, Requesting the Department of Health to Conduct a Study on the Feasibility of Prohibiting Smoking on All of Hawaii's Beaches**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of the intent and recommendations on HCR 186**, which requests the Department of Health to conduct a study that examines the feasibility of prohibiting smoking public beaches.

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. The Coalition 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 supports statewide smoke free beaches; however a feasibility study may not be needed at this stage.

The majority of the state has already shown the feasibility of smoke free laws at state beaches through county ordinances. By the end of the year three out of the four counties may have smoke free beaches. Hawai'i County parks and beaches went tobacco-free in 2008¹ and all Oahu County parks and beaches became smoke-free on January 1, 2014.² The Maui County Council is currently considering a smoke and tobacco free beaches and parks bill with decision making on this Friday, March 21, 2014.³ These county ordinances reduce littering, adverse health and environmental effects regarding littering, and negative public health effects caused by secondhand smoke.

Qmark research conducted a poll in 2013 for the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii that shows overwhelming support for the smoke-free beaches law on Oahu with 76% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that our beaches should be smoke-free. In 2008, Hawaii County passed an ordinance prohibiting smoking and the use of all tobacco products at all County beaches and parks. There continues to be strong support for this law (86%).

The Coalition recommends discussing a statewide smoke free beaches law with the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

¹ Hawai'i County Code, 14-21b.

² Bill 25 (2013) CD RD 1.

³ EAR-36 (2014).



At the joint committee hearing on HB 325, Relating to Smoking, there was much discussion regarding the definition of “beach” and the jurisdictional and enforcement issues regarding implementation of the bill. The Coalition recommends focusing on these issues rather than a feasibility study.

Secondhand smoke has killed 2.5 million Americans and should be eliminated.

Growing scientific evidence shows that secondhand smoke has a harmful effect on air quality in some outdoor settings. Studies have shown that when people are in close proximity to each other, the levels of exposure to secondhand smoke can be comparable to secondhand smoke levels measured within enclosed spaces.⁴

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.⁵ 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiffany L. Gourley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Tiffany L. Gourley, esq.
Policy and Advocacy Director

⁴ Global Smokefree Partnership. (2009). “The Trend Toward Smokefree Outdoor Areas.” Accessed from <http://www.globalsmokefree.com/gsp/resources/recurso.php?id=225> on May 6, 2013.

⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). “The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General.” Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health.

morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:48 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: paulakomarajr@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR186 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM*



HCR186

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul A. komara, Jr.	Individual	Support	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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