POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET + HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • INTERNET: www.honolulupd.org

KIRK CALDWELL MAYOR



LOUIS M. KEALDHA CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO MARIE A. McCAULEY DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE RV-YZ

February 7, 2014

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair and Members
Committee on Health
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair and Members
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Green and Baker and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2029, Relating to Health

I am Rade Vanic, Acting Captain of the Community Affairs Division, Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2029, which increases the minimum age to purchase tobacco products from 18 years to 21 years of age.

The HPD supports efforts to reduce tobacco sales to juveniles through enforcement of tobacco product sales prohibitions on sellers. Increasing the minimum age to purchase will encourage sellers not to take a chance on underage tobacco sales.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2029.

Sincerely,

Rade Vanic, Acting Captain Community Affairs Division

APPROVED:

LOUIS M. KEALOHA Chief of Police

Serving and Protecting With Aloha



1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 691-5900

S.B. 2029, RELATING TO HEALTH Senate Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection February 7, 2014; 9:00 a.m.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of S.B. 2029, Relating to Health. This measure will increase the minimum age to purchase tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, from eighteen to twenty-one.

Every year, 430,000 people die from tobacco use in the United States -- smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car accidents, illicit drug use, homicides, and suicides combined. More than 9 in 10 started smoking before they turned 21. Between the ages of 18 and 21 is when young adults transition from experimentation with tobacco to becoming regular, daily smokers.

According to the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii, nearly 1,200 Hawaii residents die each year from diseases that can be attributed to smoking. Of those, more than 90 percent of them became daily tobacco users before the age of 18. Tobacco companies actively target young adults between 18 and 21, because they know it is a critical time period when they will transition from experimentation to addiction. If a person can make it to their 21st birthday without becoming addicted to tobacco, they are much more likely to live their entire lives tobacco-free.

In 2005, Massachusetts raised the tobacco-purchasing age to 21 to "protect teens and prevent many people from ever starting to smoke," according to Health Commissioner Thomas A. Farley. This was followed by the New York City Council approving the "Tobacco 21" bill, which included electronic cigarettes, and was signed into law by Mayor Bloomberg who stated, "By increasing the smoking age to 21, we will help prevent another generation from the ill health and shorter life expectancy that comes with smoking."

On November 20, 2014, Hawaii County Council unanimously (9-0) passed Bill 135, which raised the legal age of sale of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to 21. Mayor Billy Kenoi signed Bill 135 into law saying, "I signed this bill for the benefit of our community, and most importantly, our kids. With all of the known harmful effects of tobacco use, this measure is in the best interest of public health and safety." The ordinance will take effect on July 1, 2014 and result in a fine of up to \$2,000 for any person who distributes tobacco or electronic cigarette products to an underage customer.

Therefore, the Queen's Health Systems seeks your strong support to do everything possible to prevent smoking and other tobacco or smoking simulated use among our young people – it saves lives. If that is not enough, please visit www.twentyonereasons.org.

February 6, 2014

To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair

Members, Senate Committee on Health The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Members, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Cory Smith, VOLCANO Fine Electronic Cigarettes®

CEO and Owner

RE: SB2029 – oppose.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

VOLCANO Fine Electronic Cigarettes[®] is the largest manufacturer and retailer of vapor products and vaping accessories here in the State of Hawaii and is widely considered one of the fastest growing companies in the state. We currently own and operate 11 locations statewide and employ over 100 full-time workers to support sales of our products not only here in Hawaii, but to all 50 states as well as Japan and the UK. We stand in opposition to SB2029 for the following:

- SB2029 unfairly restricts sales of vapor products to young adults between the ages of 18 and 21, including those 18, 19 and 20 year old adults who are already legal consumers of tobacco products or electronic cigarettes. This prohibition even extends to vapor products that do not contain nicotine, yet it does not apply to tobacco-free and nicotine-free products like herbal cigarettes or imitation snuff.
- While we agree with Hawaii's existing prohibition on the sale of nicotine containing and non-nicotine electronic cigarettes to those under the age of 18, we feel that this bill reaches too far. It is widely accepted across the US that 18 is the year at which a person becomes an adult and is able to make decisions in regards to their own health and well-being. We agree with this standard. By arbitrarily forcing this restriction on young adults -- including those young adults who can legally purchase tobacco products or electronic cigarettes today -- it could have the unintended consequence of encouraging them to engage in what could be perceived as 'dangerous behavior.' This feeds into the same prohibition mentality that has been proven to not work time and time again over many decades of well-intentioned legislative sessions.
- SB2029 does not include bans on nicotine containing cessation products such as lozenges, patches, inhalers and other nicotine containing products. Evidence indicates that these products

have risk profiles similar to electronic cigarettes.

• The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has wisely taken its time on developing regulations for the vapor product industry and has not determined that these products are in fact tobacco products. At this time, with the exception of youth access laws targeted at keeping electronic cigarettes out of the hands of those below the age of 18, we feel that any action by state legislatures with regard to electronic cigarettes is premature.

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10826076.2011.572213

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or VOLCANO's representative Celeste Nip at nipfire@me.com.

Sincerely,
Cory Smith
CEO and Owner
VOLCANO Fine Electronic Cigarettes®

1003 Sand Island Access Rd. Suite #1260, Honolulu, HI 96813

 From:
 Akemi Yamashita

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support SB2029

Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:04:55 AM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2029. I strongly support raising the age of sale of tobacco products to 21.

Tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and in Hawai`i, and costs our state over \$336 million in healthcare expenditures every year. The cost of tobacco is real: in lives cut short by cancer, cardiovascular disease, COPD and other chronic lung diseases—for both the smoker and people exposed to secondhand smoke. More than 1,000 people die in Hawai`i every year from tobacco use.

Nearly all smokers begin smoking regularly before they turn 21. According to the Surgeon General, 95 percent of adult smokers start smoking before they turn 21. Tobacco companies heavily target kids and young adults with marketing and advertising.

This policy will also reduce access to tobacco for youth under 18--by keeping tobacco out of our schools. Any effort to prevent tobacco use among young people is worthwhile--it will save lives.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Akemi Yamashita

Hilo, HI 96720

From: <u>mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov</u>

To: <u>HTHTestimony</u>

Cc: <u>teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu</u>

Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2029 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM

Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 11:06:44 PM

SB2029

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Senators, Evidence clearly demonstrates the target for new onset tobacco (or other nicotine) products is in the teenage years. If a teen begins using tobacco/nicotine, the likelihood of their being able to successfully quit those products drops dramatically in comparison to those who begin using in their adult years. Whatever we can do to reduce the availability of tobacco/nicotine products to teenagers, the smaller the health impact will be on their lives as well as the greater public health. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of raising the age to legally purchase tobacco/nicotine products to 21. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

 From:
 Paul Perretta

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 7:23:22 PM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Please pass Bill SB2029!

. I strongly support raising the age of sale of tobacco products to 21.

This is one way of preventing our youth from becoming Tobacco Terrorists who inflict so much damage on their own health as well as others through their filthy habit!

Paul Perretta 1511 Punahou St Apt 208 Honolulu, HI 96822
 From:
 Andrea Davis

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 5:25:43 AM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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This policy will also reduce access to tobacco for youth under 18--by keeping tobacco out of our schools. Any effort to prevent tobacco use among young people is worthwhile--it will save lives.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Andrea Davis 59-468 Hoalike Road Haleiwa, HI 96712

Andrea Davis 59-468 Hoalike Road Haleiwa, HI 96712
 From:
 Beau Lani Barker

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support SB2029

Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:59:02 AM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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This policy will also reduce access to tobacco for youth under 18--by keeping tobacco out of our schools. Any effort to prevent tobacco use among young people is worthwhile--it will save lives.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Beau Lani Barker 613 Iliaina St Kailua, HI 96734 From: <u>Cheryl Reeser</u>
To: <u>HTHTestimony</u>

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:32:32 AM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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This policy will also reduce access to tobacco for youth under 18--by keeping tobacco out of our schools. Any effort to prevent tobacco use among young people is worthwhile--it will save lives.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Cheryl Reeser 51-E Kealaloa Ave Makawao, HI 96768 From: Forrest Batz
To: HTHTestimony

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:00:42 AM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2029. I strongly support raising the age of sale of tobacco products to 21.

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According to the Surgeon General, 95 percent of adult smokers start smoking before they turn 21. Tobacco companies heavily target kids and young adults with marketing and advertising.

This policy will also reduce access to tobacco for youth under 18--by keeping tobacco out of our schools. Any effort to prevent tobacco use among young people is worthwhile--it will save lives.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Forrest Batz 34 Rainbow Drive Keaau, HI 96749
 From:
 Jermy Domingo

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support SB2029

Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:40:31 AM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2029. I strongly support raising the age of sale of tobacco products to 21.

Tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and in Hawai`i, and costs our state over \$336 million in healthcare expenditures every year. The cost of tobacco is real: in lives cut short by cancer, cardiovascular disease, COPD and other chronic lung diseases—for both the smoker and people exposed to secondhand smoke. More than 1,000 people die in Hawai`i every year from tobacco use.

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This policy will also reduce access to tobacco for youth under 18--by keeping tobacco out of our schools. Any effort to prevent tobacco use among young people is worthwhile--it will save lives.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Jermy Domingo 894 Queen St. Honolulu, HI 96706 From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

To: <u>HTHTestimony</u>

Cc: <u>lynhowe1946@yahoo.com</u>

Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2029 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM*

Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 5:55:01 PM

SB2029

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

 From:
 Magagie Kwock

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support SB2029

Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:30:47 PM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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This policy will also reduce access to tobacco for youth under 18--by keeping tobacco out of our schools. Any effort to prevent tobacco use among young people is worthwhile--it will save lives.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Magggie Kwock 814 Kinau St. Honolulu, HI 96817 From: <u>Mark Levin</u>
To: <u>HTHTestimony</u>

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:16:45 AM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

The dangers from tobacco products -- both incendiary and vapor devices -- are supremely compounded by the addictiveness of nicotine. Medical doctors would explain that the process is the construction of nicotine receptors in our brains. And younger brains, still the most "under construction," are where receptors will develop fastest and most securely.

This science is what lies at the base of the Big Tobacco's money machine. But the industry also knows that it is the poor judgments of youth and young adults that make them the full-on designed targets of product marketing. Nearly all people who smoke begin smoking regularly before they turn 21, when they are the most susceptible to the industry's devastating art.

By barring sales in Hawai'i to youth and young adults before age 21, we'll have fewer in our state becoming addicted. Fewer fighting the battle to quit. Fewer losing the battle to cancer and the other diseases caused by smoking. We will be getting ahead of the game for the 21st century.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2029. I strongly support raising the age of sale of tobacco products to 21.

Mark Levin 2108 Hunnewell St. Honolulu, HI 96822
 From:
 Barbara Nosaka

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support SB2029

Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 7:34:32 PM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Barbara Nosaka 2216 Hoonanea Street Honolulu, HI 96822
 From:
 Tyler Ralston

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:05:23 PM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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This policy will also reduce access to tobacco for youth under 18--by keeping tobacco out of our schools. Any effort to prevent tobacco use among young people is worthwhile--it will save lives.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Tyler Ralston PO Box 10528 Honolulu, HI 96816
 From:
 Mark Goldman

 To:
 HTHTestimony

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:50:42 AM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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This policy will also reduce access to tobacco for youth under 18--by keeping tobacco out of our schools. Any effort to prevent tobacco use among young people is worthwhile--it will save lives.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Mark Goldman 1396 Kinoole St. Hilo, HI 96720
 From:
 Karli Smallwood

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support SB2029

Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:54:20 AM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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This policy will also reduce access to tobacco for youth under 18--by keeping tobacco out of our schools. Any effort to prevent tobacco use among young people is worthwhile--it will save lives.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Karli Smallwood 227 Mahalani Street, Suite 99 Wailuku, HI 96793 From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

To: <u>HTHTestimony</u>
Cc: <u>mendezj@hawaii.edu</u>

Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2029 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM*

Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 2:13:59 PM

SB2029

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

 From:
 Ron Fleck

 To:
 HTHTestimony

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 7:11:24 PM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Respectfully,

Ron Fleck

Ron Fleck 75-5660 Kopiko Street, c7-330 Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
 From:
 Michele Nihipali

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support SB2029

Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:39:55 PM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Michele Nihipali 54-074 Kamehameha Hwy. # A 54-074 A Kam Hwy Hauula, HI 96717
 From:
 Anna Pickering

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support Si

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 9:00:21 AM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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Tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and in Hawai'i, and costs our state over \$336 million in healthcare expenditures every year. The cost of tobacco is real: in lives cut short by cancer, cardiovascular disease, COPD and other chronic lung diseases—for both the smoker and people exposed to secondhand smoke. More than 1,000 people die in Hawai'i every year from tobacco use.

Nearly all smokers begin smoking regularly before they turn 21. According to the Surgeon General, 95 percent of adult smokers start smoking before they turn 21. Tobacco companies heavily target kids and young adults with marketing and advertising.

This policy will also reduce access to tobacco for youth under 18--by keeping tobacco out of our schools. Any effort to prevent tobacco use among young people is worthwhile--it will save lives.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Anna Pickering 701 Ilalo St. Room 330K Honolulu, HI 96813
 From:
 Michelle Schiff!

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support S

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:21:06 PM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Michelle Schiffl 1655 Kanapuu Dr Kailua, HI 96734 Dear Chairs Green and Baker, Vice-Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak out AGAINST SB2029, which would raise the legal age for tobacco use to 21 and also include e-liquid vaporizing (AKA e-cigarette use or vaping) in the law. Although reduction in smoking-related health costs is a positive goal, it should be balanced with the positive goal of maintaining the freedom to make personal choices. Including vaping in this increase is not justified in any way.

Tobacco and/or nicotine use is legal. We as a society have decided that certain substances may be used recreationally. Eighteen is the age of majority in Hawaii and that is the age at which a person should by default be allowed to make their own decisions about recreational substance use. There is no scientific evidence that tobacco/nicotine use affects the body much differently at 18 than 21.

Tobacco and/or nicotine does not alter behavior significantly. There is a precedent for increasing the legal age above age of majority with alcohol. However, compared to alcohol, tobacco/nicotine does not alter behavior nearly as significantly and does not create additional public risks by impairing judgment or reaction times. So there is no maturity-based justification for raising the age.

In the case of vaping, there are no smoking-related health costs. Vaping health costs as far as we know today are negligible, and if used as smoking cessation, there may actually be benefits.

Vaping is not smoking. There is a large and growing body of science showing that vaping produces little to none of the exposure to harmful substances found in tobacco smoke. This is in absolute terms, not just as compared to smoking. Studies have also shown that "secondhand vapor" is effectively nonexistent – no dangerous substances are detectable in room air, and even nicotine is undetectable.

P. Kuromoto, Honolulu, HI

 From:
 Rose Murtagh

 To:
 HTHTestimony

 Subject:
 Strong Support

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:20:41 PM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

Whether it's peer pressure from friends, those they want to be friends with, those they want to impress, or those they fear; or because they were raised in a smoky home or social environment, kids do make the choice to smoke. Kids believe they are invulnerable. They do not fully realize the risk they are taking with their lives.

We as adults need to make certain decisions for kids, for their health and safety. Why keep them safe in car seats, flame retardant clothing and cribs that won't trap them only to watch them die later of heart or lung disease?

Kids need the protection of good laws. Keeping cigarettes out of their hands - let's face it, we can only make it a bit harder to get them - may at least give them the chance to get a better start in life before making such a disastrous decision. At 21 they have completed high school and are either working or in college, gaining responsibilities in life and having to pay bills. They may be better able to understand what they risk by jumping into the arms of Big Tobacco.

Please give Hawaii's kids a chance to grow up.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2133. I strongly support raising the age of sale of tobacco products to 21.

Mahalo, Rose Murtagh

Rose Murtagh 4095 Omao Rd koloa Koloa, HI 96756 From: Michelle Gray To: **HTHTestimony** Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:31:24 PM Date:

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Strong Support for SB2029, Relating to Health

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Michelle Gray 430 Lanipuao Street Honolulu, HI 96825 From: Roxine lijima
To: HTHTestimony

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:59:46 AM

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Roxine Iijima

Kaneohe, HI 96744

Sharon Shigemasa From: **HTHTestimony** To:

Subject: Strong Support SB2029

Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:24:15 AM Date:

TO; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Health, and

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2029.

Sharon Shigemasa 1006 Leomele Street Pearl City, HI 96782