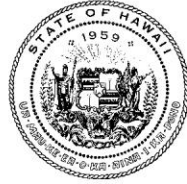


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1530
FAX NO: (808) 587-1584

FREDERICK D. PABLO
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

JOSHUA WISCH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

LATE

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Health

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2014
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

From: Frederick D. Pablo, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. No. 2496, S.D. 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of S.B. 2496, S.D. 2 and provides the following comments for the Committees' consideration.

S.B. 2496, S.D. 2 amends the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes and cigars by imposing the tax on sales made after January 1, 2015, at an unspecified rate of the wholesale price, and further stipulating that the rate shall automatically increase in the future at the same rate of any future increases to the tax on cigarettes or little cigars. This measure also specifies that the funds from the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes and cigars shall be deposited in the Hawaii cancer research special fund. S.D.2 has a defective effective date of January 1, 2050.

The Department defers to the Department of Health with respect to the effect a change in the tax rate and fund redistribution would have on the State's health and wellness.

In regards to the automatic rate increase provision for other tobacco products, the Department prefers that any rate change be done by the Legislature at the same time, when and if, the tax on cigarettes and little cigars is increased. This will prevent any confusion or misunderstanding as to the applicable rate on all tobacco subject to this tax.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

LATE

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2496, S.D. 2

March 19, 2014

RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Senate Bill No. 2496, S.D. 2, proposes an excise tax equal to an unspecified percentage of the wholesale price for tobacco products, other than cigarettes and large cigars, sold by a wholesaler or dealer on and after January 1, 2015; provided that if the excise tax rate imposed on cigarettes and little cigars increases on or after January 1, 2015, the excise tax rate imposed on tobacco products other than cigarettes and large cigars shall automatically increase by the same percentage. The bill also specifies that the disposition of the proposed revenues shall be deposited into the Hawaii Cancer Research Special Fund for research and operating expenses and for capital improvements.

We have concerns with this bill for the following reasons. First, with the recent Council on Revenues' reduced forecast for growth in State General Fund tax revenues, this bill has the potential of reducing tobacco tax receipts going to the general fund. Second, we are opposed, as a matter of general policy, to the practice of revenue earmarking for specific purposes. Finally, this proposal will, in effect, remove any proposed funding increases for the Cancer Research Center from the customary established budgetary process whereby all requests for funding must be justified and compete for limited public resources.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Jay Furfaro, Chair
Mason K. Chock, Sr., Vice Chair
Tim Bynum
Gary L. Hooser
Ross Kagawa
Mel Rapozo
JoAnn A. Yukimura



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk
Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone (808) 241-4188
Fax (808) 241-6349
Email cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 18, 2014



TESTIMONY OF ROSS KAGAWA
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 2496, SD2, RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS
Committee on Health
Wednesday, March 19, 2014
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of SB 2496, SD2, relating to tobacco products. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

I oppose this measure as it proposes to amend the excise tax rate for tobacco product. Any increase in tax at this time will greatly affect consumers, especially businesses, who are already struggling to recover from the tough economic downturn.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request that the Committee defer this measure. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ross Kagawa".

ROSS KAGAWA
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:lc



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Comments Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
March 19, 2014 at 8:30 am
by
Michele Carbone, MD, PHD
Director
University of Hawai'i Cancer Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2496 SD2 – RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center strongly supports this bill, which proposes to impose a tax on tobacco products other than large cigars and credit the resulting revenues to the Cancer Research Special Fund.

The Cancer Center is one of only 68 institutions in the U.S. that hold the prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation and is the only NCI designated center in the Pacific.

The NCI designation provides greater access to federal funding and research opportunities. More importantly, it gives the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region access to innovative and potentially life-saving clinical trials without the necessity of traveling to the mainland.

This bill addresses a serious concern among health professionals that addictive tobacco products other than cigarettes – including snuff, chewing tobacco or loose roll-your-own tobacco – are attracting a new generation of tobacco users. While the dangers of smoking are well known, national research also tells us there is no safe form of tobacco use.

Health advocates have urged consistent and equal taxation of the various forms of tobacco to avoid attracting consumers, especially youth, to products that are a less expensive substitute to cigarettes.

Since the cigarette tax increases were imposed beginning in 2006, sales have decreased steadily, which may indicate that the higher cost to consumers was the disincentive intended.

However, the declining revenue has had a negative impact on the Cancer Center's budget, and unless we compensate for the loss of revenue and obtain the necessary

funds to increase the size of our faculty, we will not meet the new and more stringent requirements to renew our NCI designation in 2017.

The additional revenue generated by this bill will allow the Cancer Center to continue to provide innovative clinical trials to Hawai'i residents to prevent and treat cancer, and to continue its research on the causes and cures for cancer, including those that are related to tobacco and smoking.

We are dedicated to enhancing community awareness of cancer-related issues, and we work with trusted organizations to address cancer health disparities in Hawai'i and the Pacific region. These organizations include Imi Hale (the native Hawaiian cancer network), the American Cancer Society, and the state Department of Health. Our community outreach helps people make better decisions about their health.

The incidence of cancer is increasing significantly and may double during the next twenty years, according to recent estimates by the International Agency for Cancer. It is imperative that we maintain NCI designation to provide our state residents access to the most novel clinical trials here in Hawai'i, in order to reduce the incidence of cancer in our state and to eliminate the need for our cancer patients to travel to the mainland to have access to novel therapies.

We respectfully urge you to pass this bill.



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: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: March 17, 2014

Hrg: House Committee on Health; Wed., March 17, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Rm 329

Re: **Support for SB 2496, SD2, Relating to Tobacco Products**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of SB 2496, SD2**, which proposes to raise the tax on other tobacco products to achieve parity between cigarette taxes and other tobacco products (OTPs).

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. 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.

Health is Promoted By Increasing the Tax on Tobacco Products Other Than Cigarettes

By increasing the cost of each tobacco product sold and making it comparable to cigarettes, tobacco use by adults and young people will decrease. This will result in a decline in the serious health conditions that arise from use of smokeless tobacco including cancer of the esophagus pharynx, larynx, stomach, and pancreas, gum disease, and the risk of cardiovascular disease, and a decrease in the diseases caused by smoking roll-your-own tobacco.

Adolescents and young adults are two to three times more sensitive to tobacco price changes than adults—when price increases, less youth will begin using smokeless tobacco and other tobacco products and more will reduce their consumption. Hawaii has seen youth use of smokeless tobacco fluctuate despite our decreasing smoking rates.



Currently, the tax on OTPs (other than large cigars) in Hawaii is 70% of the wholesale price. The amount recommended to achieve tax parity is 85% of wholesale value.

A Portion of the Revenues Must Be Earmarked for Tobacco Prevention and Control

In a recent poll conducted by Qmark for the Coalition, Hawaii residents overwhelmingly agree (94%) that it's important for the state to earmark some of the revenue from cigarette and tobacco taxes to fund tobacco prevention and quit smoking programs. When the price of tobacco increases, more seek help to quit. We ask that you earmark a portion of these new funds to tobacco prevention and tobacco dependence treatment services.

The Coalition strongly supports creating parity between OTPs and cigarettes and asks you to pass SB 2496, SD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



Jessica Yamauchi, M.A.
Executive Director



Executive Officers:
Stanley Brown, ConAgra Foods - Chairperson
John Schilf, RSM Hawaii - Vice Chair
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores - Treasurer
Lisa DeCoito, Aloha Petroleum - Secretary
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

1050 Bishop St. PMB 235
Honolulu, HI 96813
Fax : 808-791-0702
Telephone : 808-533-1292

TO:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Belatti, Chair
Rep. Morikawa, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 19, 2014
TIME: 8:30am
PLACE: Conference Room 329

RE: SB 2496

Position: Opposition

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Hawaii has the second highest tobacco taxes of any state. Tobacco cessation programs are already successfully operating in the state and have access to large funding sources from existing tobacco taxes and tobacco settlements.

This bill targets wholesalers, rather than focusing efforts on tobacco users. It does not specify what the increased rates will be when the bill is implemented. This bill also ties taxes for one product to taxes for a different product, which means that taxes for certain items can go up unexpectedly by unknown amounts. This makes it impossible for businesses to budget and plan ahead, and could result in them having to raise prices on other goods, not just tobacco to make up for the constant increases and uncertainty.

Tobacco use is decreasing around the country, including here in Hawaii. The laws we have in place and the fees and taxes charged are sufficient. Please vote no on this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

March 18, 2014

TO: Chair Della Au Belatti and Members of the House Committee on Health

FROM: Cigar Association of America, Inc.
(William Goo)

RE: **SB 2496 SD2** - Relating to Tobacco Products
Hearing Date: March 19, 2014
Time: 8:30 a.m.

My name is William Goo. I represent the Cigar Association of America, Inc. (CAA).

CAA opposes SB 2496 SD2. Although this bill is focused in part on the use of tobacco products by adolescents and young adults, it would impact users of products such as pipe or smokeless tobacco. These products are not typically favored nor used by adolescents and young adults in Hawaii. To the extent that the bill attempts to equalize the tax rate on such products with the tax rate on cigarettes, they are very different products. For example, pipe tobacco is not consumed in the same manner as cigarettes and cigarette consumers are not likely to substitute cigarettes for pipe tobacco. Increasing the tax on such products which is already among the highest in the nation would be devastating for those consumers who have responsibly chosen to use them. As to the Legislature's concern of the temptation to purchase less expensive products such as loose or roll-your-own tobacco, any tax increase should apply only to that specific product.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TOBACCO, Increase rate on tobacco products

BILL NUMBER: SB 2496, SD-2

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Beginning on January 1, 2015 this measure proposes to tax tobacco products, other than cigarettes and large cigars, at ___% of the wholesale value and that the revenues derived from the proposed tax increase on tobacco products shall be deposited into the Hawaii cancer research special fund. The increased tax on tobacco products may result in less consumption and less tax revenue to the Hawaii cancer research special fund, so lawmakers may want to consider a direct appropriation to this program area.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS 245-3 to increase the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes and large cigars to ___% of the wholesale price sold by the wholesaler or dealer on and after January 1, 2015; provided that if the excise tax rate of 16 cents for each cigarette or little cigar increases on or after January 1, 2015, the excise tax rate in this paragraph shall automatically increase by the same percentage in the increase as the excise tax rate per cigarette or little cigar.

Amends HRS section 245-3(a)(13) to provide that the revenue generated under the rate increase shall be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii cancer research special fund for research and operating expenses and capital expenditures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2050

STAFF COMMENTS: Currently tobacco products, other than cigarettes and large cigars, are taxed at 70% of the wholesale price of the product. Beginning on January 1, 2015 tobacco products, other than cigarettes and large cigars, shall be taxed at ___% of the wholesale value. The proposed measure also provides that the revenues derived from the proposed tax increase on tobacco products shall be deposited into the Hawaii cancer research special fund.

Care should be exercised in attempting to generate additional revenues from specific excise taxes like the tobacco tax as it should be noted that Hawaii's tax rates on these products are among the highest in the nation. Not only would another rate increase reaffirm the perception that Hawaii is a tax hell, but it would probably have an effect on the patterns of consumption of taxed product. Such a hike will, no doubt, have an effect on behavioral responses and affect actual consumption of these products and it will probably drive consumers to find other sources for these products that would not incur the tax. Mail order and Internet sales are sources of product that could escape taxation as well as black market purchases made from the military reservations in Hawaii. So instead of seeing growing collections from higher tax rates, lawmakers may just find that collections will drop due to its effect to discourage consumption and send consumers to other markets. As noted above, the higher one pushes the cost of these products, the greater the possibility of actually seeing a decline in consumption as consumers

moderate consumption or shift it in ways that would avoid the tax. In fact, as was evidenced in the states of New Jersey and Maryland, lawmakers there counted on an increase in the cigarette tax to help balance their budgets only to learn that collections actually went down below their prior levels. Thus, care should be exercised in targeting these products for specific programs or services.

For this very reason, earmarking the tax for a specific project or program could actually backfire. For example, should cigarette consumption decline, the amount earmarked for the cancer center will also decline. What will the cancer research center then do if the resources are not sufficient to maintain operations? If it is the intent of the legislature to provide adequate revenue to Hawaii cancer research, a direct appropriation would be preferable.

It should be noted that the hikes in the cigarette tax have begun to have an effect on collections not only locally but also nationally. For the first time in the continual drive to raise the tax on cigarettes, collections have fallen below their previous levels. For whatever reason, the rise in rate has jeopardized this source of revenue. If nothing else, lawmakers need to make up their minds whether or not they see this tax a source of revenue or a means by which deter consumption.

Digested 3/18/14



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817
808.432.9149
www.acscan.org

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

Hearing: March 19, 2014; 8:30 a.m.

SB 2496 SD2 – RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Cory Chun, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Pacific
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of SB 2496 SD2, which increases the tax on other tobacco products other than large cigars to 85% of the wholesale price and also includes automatic excise tax increases on other tobacco products in conjunction with an increase in cigarette taxes.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nation's leading cancer advocacy organization. ACS CAN works with federal, state, and local government bodies to support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

The purpose of this measure is to ensure parity between the taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products. In addition, any increase in cigarette taxes will also trigger an automatic increase in the tax on other tobacco products, so that parity continues between the two products.

While some other tobacco products, like smokeless tobacco products including snus, dissolvable strips, sticks and orbs, do not create combustible chemical smoke like cigarettes, they are still harmful to our health. To date, use of smokeless tobacco has been shown to cause:

- Cancer of the mouth, pancreas, and esophagus;
- Precancerous mouth lesions;
- Dental problems including gum recession, dental cavities , and bone loss around the teeth; and
- Nicotine addiction.

Having consistency with the taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products prevents having one product be significantly less expensive than the other, and discourages the purchase and use of all tobacco products.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.



LATE

Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB2496

Dear House Committee on Health,

The Hawaii Smokers Alliance STRONGLY OPPOSES SB2496.

We oppose this bill for the following reasons.

1. This tax increase is regressive in nature and unfairly increases the tax burden on those LEAST able to pay. Why is this liberal Democrat legislature going after the little guy for money again? Bill 2496 sure isn't a tax on the rich.
2. These ever increasing taxes on already overtaxed products will only farther stress the revenue flow to those organizations that depend on these taxes.
3. The government is completely overlooking additive nicotine containing products that come in candy flavors and gums such as Nicorette gum. These types of gums ARE used by kids for a "kick".
4. The bill does not fairly represent your constituents that enjoy these products. They have NOT asked for the bill.

Sincerely,

Michael Zehner, Co-chair of the Hawaii Smokers Alliance.

808-952-0275

Hawaiismokersalliance.net

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Maxwell Adams <maxwelladams15@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:51 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2496, SD2. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to 85% to create parity between cigarettes and OTPs.

Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease use, ultimately saving lives. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to use tobacco products.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look to wards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses. I also ask that you earmark a portion of the tax for tobacco cessation and prevention programs. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Maxwell Adams
68-1761
waikoloa, HI 96738

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Debbie Apolo <debz96789@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:32 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Debbie Apolo
95-045 Waikalani Drive
#G104
Mililani, HI 96789

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Jante Azares <azares@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:15 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Jante Azares
7161 Aina Pono
Kapaa, HI 96746

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Beau Lani Barker <beau.barker@cancer.org>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:35 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Beau Lani Barker
613 Iliaina St
Kailua, HI 96734

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Forrest Batz <fbatz@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 3:10 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Forrest Batz
34 Rainbow Drive
Keaau, HI 96749

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Karli Bergheer <karli@pacificcancerfoundation.org>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:06 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Karli Bergheer
221 Mahalani Street, Suite 99
Wailuku, HI 96793

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Boyd, Manager Richard Boyd <boyd.mgr.mterrace@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 3:12 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Boyd, Manager Richard Boyd
250 Kawaihae St
250 Kawaihae St
Honolulu, HI 96825

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Abby Brown-Watson <abbykailua@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 7:07 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Abby Brown-Watson
769 N. Kainalu Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Jermy Domingo <jdomingo@papaolalokahi.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 7:36 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Jermy Domingo
894 Queen St.
Honolulu, HI 96706

morikawa2-Joanna

From: pat fleck <pat.fleckconsulting@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:12 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Respectfully,

Patricia Fleck

pat fleck
75-5660 Kopico Street, Ste. C7-330
kailua kona, HI 96740

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Katherine Freer <Kbfreer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:13 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Katherine Freer Moyer

Katherine Freer
1515 avon way
Honolulu, HI 96822

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Maile Goo <goomaile@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:04 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Maile Goo
3683 Woodlawn Terrace Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Jennifer Griffith <jegriffi@bayclinic.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 6:51 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Griffith
PO Box 399
Honolulu, HI 96728

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Lynda Hirakami <diabeatit@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 5:48 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Lynda Hirakami
12-4265 Pahoia Kalapana Rd
Pahoia, HI 96778

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Roxine Iijima <roxinemijima@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 7:11 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Roxine Iijima
45-610 Hinamoe Loop
Kaneohe, HI 96744

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Pualei Kaohelaulii <pualei.kaohelaulii@doh.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:05 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Pualei Kaohelaulii
3040 umi street
P.O. Box 52
Lihue, HI 96766

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Rebecca Knight <rebecca.knight6@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:04 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Rebecca Knight
2439 Kapiolani Blvd #1004
Honolulu, HI 96826

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Koa Robinson <koa.robinson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:39 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Koa Robinson
3059 Seaview Rise
Honolulu, HI 96822

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Janelle Kubo <janeltk@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:19 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Janelle Kubo
2860 Waialae Ave.
Apt. 114
Honolulu, HI 96826

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Michelle Kwock <nina2beach@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:45 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Michelle Kwock
814 Kinau St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Lisa Maddock <biedy143@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 7:15 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Lisa Maddock
120 Kaeleloi Pl.
120 Kaeleloi Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96821

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Lillian K. Matsumoto <elmats1225@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:21 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Lillian K. Matsumoto
360 Ulua Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

Lillian K. Matsumoto
360 Ulua Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Bryan Mih <bmih@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 3:57 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2496, SD2

As a pediatrician in Honolulu and medical director of the HEALTHY Quit Smoking Program, I strongly support SB2496.

The early initiation of smoking before age 18 is an important problem to address. Almost 90% of adult smokers started when they were younger than 18. I care for many children that suffer from secondhand smoke and urge you to consider the adverse health effects from tobacco use.

Raising the prices of all tobacco products helps deter the initiation of tobacco use, especially for young people, who are more sensitive to increased prices of these products. SB2496 raises the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to the same level as cigarettes, so that the price barrier for all tobacco products is equivalent.

Please also consider earmarking a portion of the funds from these taxes towards supporting tobacco cessation and prevention programs. As the medical director of the HEALTHY Quit Smoking Program, I have seen the positive outcomes from cessation efforts.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important measure.

Sincerely,
Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP
Pediatrician

Bryan Mih
1944 Naniu Pl
Honolulu, HI 96822

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Erin Nielsen <enielsen@waikikihealth.org>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:04 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Erin Nielsen
1649 Kanalui St.
Honolulu, HI 96816

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Michele Nihipali <nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:36 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Michele Nihipali
54-074 Kamehameha Hwy. # A
54-074 A Kam Hwy
Hauula, HI 96717

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Barbara Nosaka <barbrick@hawaiiintel.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:32 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Barbara Nosaka
2216 Hoonanea Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Paul Perretta <g3sea@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 6:19 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

Aloha

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Mahalo.

Paul Perretta
1511 Punahou St Apt 208
Honolulu, HI 96822

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Tyler Ralston <dgkahalas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 7:10 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2496, SD2. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to 85% to create parity between cigarettes and OTPs.

Increasing the tax on OTPs will decrease use, ultimately saving lives. Serious health conditions like cancer, gum disease, and cardiovascular disease caused by snuff and chew will be reduced, saving lives and money to the state. Youth are more sensitive to prices than adults. Increasing the tax on OTPs is an additional disincentive for youth to use tobacco products.

As cigarette tax increases, smokers will look towards quitting or they will find cheaper means to continue using tobacco. We must be sure taxes on all tobacco products are equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses. I also ask that you earmark a portion of the tax for tobacco cessation and prevention programs. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Tyler Ralston
PO Box 10528
Honolulu, HI 96816

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Cheryl Reeser <joelypop@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:43 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Cheryl Reeser
51-E Kealaloa Ave
Makawao, HI 96768

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Ron fleck <fleckconsulting@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:51 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.
Respectfully,
Ron Fleck

Ron fleck
75-5660 Kopiko Street, c7-330
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Howard Saiki <zhongxin51039@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:59 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Howard Saiki
45-480 B Apiki Street
Apt. D1202
Kaneohe, HI 96744

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Kim Swartz <kswartz@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 7:31 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Kim Swartz
98-1394 Hinu Pl, #B
Pearl City, HI 96782

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Brent Tamamoto <AieaPediatrics@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:22 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Brent Tamamoto
98-1065 Kaamilo Street
Aiea, HI 96701

morikawa2-Joanna

From: pamela verrey <pamverrey@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:15 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

pamela verrey
1255 Kaluawaa St
honolulu, HI 96816

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Valerie Yontz <vyontz@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:39 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

I appreciate your support. Valerie Yontz

Valerie Yontz
677 Auwina Street
677 Auwina Street Kailua, HI 96734-3430
Kailua, HI 96734

morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 7:27 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: antonchris10@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM*

SB2496

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
Chris Anton	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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morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 5:27 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jchangworld@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Chang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The taxes are way to high as it is.

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morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 6:37 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: brianportal808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Santiago	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this greedy and unfair money grab.

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morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:15 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: michrobins3@myself.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM*

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Robinson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:58 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: pipelinemax@outlook.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimo Cruz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Strongly oppose SB2496.

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

morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:33 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: 1hawaii4me@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM*

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Dietrich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 6:31 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: chevyriderhhh@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM*

SB2496

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Wells	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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morikawa2-Joanna

From: Mary Chun <mchun5@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:33 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health



Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Mary Chun
33 Poniu Circle
Wailuku, HI 96793

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Stacey krenelka <skrenelka@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:35 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products



To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Stacey krenelka
172 waipahe st
kihei, HI 96753

From: Paul Ochoa <Paul.Ochoa@VA.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:07 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products



To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Paul Ochoa
4485 Pahee St.
Lihue, HI 96766

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Angela Sy <sya@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:24 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health



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Taxes on all tobacco products need to be equitable so that those who are addicted to nicotine will quit. More smokers quitting, means less cost to our state in tobacco-related medical expenses. Also, as we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Angela Sy
2600 Campus Rd.
QLSSC #413, attn: Maile Goo
Honolulu, HI 96817

LATE

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 2, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: March 19, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Ramon Sumibcay
92-1269 Umena St.
Kapolei, HI 96707

LATE

March 14, 2014

Dear Representative Kobayashi,

On behalf of Hawaii's retailers and small business owners, I would like to humbly submit this testimony and join the chorus of voices against the proposed tax increases on tobacco products.

While I appreciate the tough decisions our legislators must make, the proposed tax increases on tobacco products are not policies that should be pursued. Additional tax increases on other tobacco products could have serious repercussions on the state's retailers who are just starting to recover from the recession of recent years.

The sale of tobacco products to adult consumers are a crucial part of in-store sales for many of Hawaii's retailers. Therefore, any increase in the already-high excise tax rates on tobacco products could seriously imperil many retailers ability to operate their businesses and provide jobs if consumers shift their purchases to other outlets with lower tax burdens. It should be noted that Hawaii already has some of the highest tobacco excise tax rates in the country.

Additionally, as authorized tobacco product retailers, we take seriously our obligation to adhere to all applicable laws regarding tobacco sales, packaging and advertising. We also try to work closely with the Department of Health. As a result, our combined effort has been successful. I have read that the overwhelming majority of retailers recently surveyed in Hawaii were compliant with laws that rightfully bar the sale of tobacco products to anyone less than 18 years of age, and the percentage of retailers that were not compliant was miniscule. Clearly, this is a promising trend.

I hope that you consider these thoughts and all of the possible consequences and forego the proposed tax increases on tobacco products.

Sincerely,
Thomas A. Rea
Kaimana Pantry

morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:59 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mauimoonflower@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM*



SB2496

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
Sabrina Spencer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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LATE

TO:
House Committee on Health
Rep. Belatti, Chair
Rep. Morikawa, Vice Chair

FROM:
Andrea Kilmartin

March 19, 2014
8:30am
Conference Room 329

RE: SB 2609

Position: Oppose

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, members of the Committee;

At a time when some Hawaiian families are finally seeing some subtle signs of an economic recovery, it's startling that some of our lawmakers in Honolulu want to unwisely raise tobacco taxes again.¹

Tobacco products are already heavily taxed but the proposed tax increase would raise our state's cigarette tax even higher! I imagine some of our policymakers have forgotten about the regressive nature of tobacco excise tax increases and the unintended consequences they may have on Hawaii's lower-income households. The proposed tax increase could diminish adult consumers' disposable incomes that could otherwise be spent elsewhere in the economy, supporting local businesses and the people they employ.

I want to express my strong opposition to these proposed tobacco tax hikes. I plan to urge my friends, neighbors and fellow Hawaiians to do same. Raising taxes on a small segment of the population, who in most cases are the least able to part with any more of their hard-earned dollars, are not policies our state should enact.

Sincerely,
Andrea Kilmartin

¹ *The Hawaiian Reporter*, [Annual Report Highlights Hawaii's Improving Economic, Fiscal Trajectory](#), 2/3/14

LATE

TO:
House Committee on Health
Rep. Belatti, Chair
Rep. Morikawa, Vice Chair

FROM:
Carissa Hayashi
2888 Ala'Ilima Street apt 2111
Honolulu, HI 96818

March 19, 2014
8:30am
Conference Room 329

RE: SB 2609

Position: Oppose

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, members of the Committee;

I understand you and some of your colleagues are considering an increase to excise taxes on tobacco products as part of efforts to infuse more taxpayer money into the budget. I urge you to oppose such a measure that could hinder the fragile economic recovery.

Increasing taxes on tobacco products could place undue pressure on low-income residents of Hawaii who are still working their way back from the economic downturn that took place some years ago.

Furthermore, you should keep in mind that some consumers could seek out other locations to make their tobacco purchases where the state taxes might not be collected. When this happens, Hawaii's small businesses could suffer. When taxes go up black market activity increases, which does not serve anyone's best interests.

Please oppose an increase on tobacco products.

Regards,
Carissa Hayashi

TO:
House Committee on Health
Rep. Belatti, Chair
Rep. Morikawa, Vice Chair

LATE

FROM:
Charles Hua

March 19, 2014
8:30am
Conference Room 329

RE: SB 2609

Position: Oppose

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, members of the Committee;

I understand you and some of your colleagues are considering an increase to excise taxes on tobacco products as part of efforts to infuse more taxpayer money into the budget. I urge you to oppose such a measure that could hinder the fragile economic recovery.

Increasing taxes on tobacco products could place undue pressure on low-income Hawaiians who are still working their way back from the economic downturn that took place some years ago.

Furthermore, you should keep in mind that some consumers could seek out other locations to make their tobacco purchases where the state taxes might not be collected. When this happens, Hawaii's small businesses could suffer.

Please oppose an increase on tobacco products.

Regards,

Charles Hua

morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 4:45 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: fred@ejlounge.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM*



SB2496

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
Fred Remington	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

TO:

HLTtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

House Committee on Health

Rep. Belatti, Chair

Rep. Morikawa, Vice Chair

FROM:

Hugo.ortega@altria.com

March 19, 2014

8:30am

Conference Room 329

RE: SB 2609

Position: Oppose

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, members of the Committee;

I've seen firsthand how the economic crisis has affected folks in my community. My hope is that our leaders in Honolulu are doing all they can to promote an economic recovery. However, I'm concerned that legislators are considering raising taxes on tobacco products.

Not only do many retail stores rely heavily on tobacco sales as a source of income, raising taxes on tobacco products has been said to be one of the most regressive of taxes. Adults who buy tobacco products are hardworking taxpayers and voters just like the rest of us. It's not fair for legislators to single them out for higher taxes. And since the proposed tax hikes are not based on income, they could hurt some of the people who were hardest hit by the economic downturn and are still struggling to get by. An increase in tobacco product taxes could reduce their already strapped financial resources which could have subsequent negative economic effects locally.

Tobacco tax increases and other policies that disproportionately diminish the bottom-line of Hawaii's lower-income households are not what Hawaii needs right now. I hope you will work to oppose these tax increases and encourage those you serve with to oppose them as well.

Sincerely,
Hugo Ortega

morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:21 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: paulakomarajr@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM*



SB2496

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	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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morikawa2-Joanna

From: William Wheeler <toddwheeler14@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 6:34 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 2496 testimony opposition



TO:
House Committee on Health
Rep. Belatti, Chair
Rep. Morikawa, Vice Chair

FROM:
Todd Wheeler

March 19, 2014
8:30am
Conference Room 329
RE: SB 2609

Position: Oppose

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, Members of the Committee,

I've seen firsthand how the economic crisis has affected folks in my community. My hope is that our leaders in Honolulu are doing all they can to promote an economic recovery. However, I'm concerned that legislators are considering raising taxes on tobacco products.

Not only do many retail stores rely heavily on tobacco sales as a source of income, raising taxes on tobacco products has been said to be one of the most regressive of taxes. Adults who buy tobacco products are hardworking taxpayers and voters just like the rest of us. It's not fair for legislators to single them out for higher taxes. And since the proposed tax hikes are not based on income, they could hurt some of the people who were hardest hit by the economic downturn and are still struggling to get by. An increase in tobacco product taxes could reduce their already strapped financial resources which could have subsequent negative economic effects locally.

Tobacco tax increases and other policies that disproportionately diminish the bottom-line of Hawaii's lower-income households are not what Hawaii needs right now. I hope you will work to oppose these tax increases and encourage those you serve with to oppose them as well.

Sincerely,

Todd Wheeler