

TAXBILLSERVICE

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TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TOBACCO, Increase rate on tobacco products

BILL NUMBER: SB 2496; HB 2078 (Identical)

INTRODUCED BY: SB by Baker, Wakai and 1 Democrat; HB by Belatti, C. Lee, Morikawa, Onishi, Rhoads, and Woodson

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS 245-3 to increase the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes and large cigars to 85% of the wholesale price sold by the wholesaler or dealer on and after July 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 equal to 85% of the wholesale price for each article or item of tobacco products, other than large cigars, 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: July 1, 2014

STAFF COMMENTS: Currently tobacco products, other than large cigars, are taxed at 70% of the wholesale price of the product. Beginning on January 1, 2015 tobacco products, other than large cigars, shall be taxed at 85% 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 2/6/14



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

The Hon. Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Testimony on Senate Bill 2496

Relating to Tobacco Products

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 7, 2014, 9:00 AM, Room 229

The Hawaii Primary Care Association urges your support for this measure with an amendment. A tax on tobacco products will provide a strong deterrent to use such damaging products, especially for young people who are more sensitive to costs. We ask the committees to consider depositing part of the proceeds for the benefit of critical public health and health care delivery institutions, specifically Community Health Centers.

Community Health Centers (CHCs) make up one of the most viable health care systems in Hawaii and save Hawaii taxpayers and insurers millions of dollars annually by providing high quality health care that reduces the use of specialty, emergency department, and inpatient care. Because of the advantages they derive as federally qualified health centers and their clinically effective and cost-saving model of care, CHCs should be looked to for expansion. New funds from this tobacco tax could be used for service expansion, capital, and workforce and infrastructure development since working capital is otherwise so hard to come by for this nonprofit system of care. This was the intent of the CHC cigarette tax special fund creation legislated in 2006; however, those monies have ended up being used for basic operations and health care for uninsured and underinsured individuals.

Such an investment in Community Health Centers will also help pay for otherwise uncompensated tobacco cessation programs at the centers. CHCs are serving the people who are most likely to use tobacco products and thus in greatest need of tobacco intervention.

Unfortunately, their programs are generally underfunded – if funded at all – by other tobacco settlement dollars, which are targeted for reduction in the coming fiscal biennium.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.

February 5, 2013

TO: Chair Josh Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Health
Chair Rosalyn Baker and Members of the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection

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

RE: **SB 2496** - Relating to Tobacco Products
Hearing Date: February 7, 2014
Time: 9:00 a.m.

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

CAA opposes SB 2496. 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 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mz9995@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 3:24:47 PM

SB2496

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
Michael Zehner	Hawaii Smokers Alliance	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.

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

From: [Sharon Shigemasa](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:17:53 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 SB2496, Relating to Tobacco Products

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2496. This bill raises the taxes on other tobacco products (OTPs) to achieve parity between cigarette taxes and OTPs. Raising the tax on OTPs will result in less people using smokeless tobacco. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i recommends the OTP tax be raised to 85 percent of the wholesale price.

Youth are more sensitive to price than adults, increasing the tax on these products will help prevent youth from starting.

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 prevention and control programs. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Sharon Shigemasa
1006 Leomele Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [Akemi Yamashita](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:03:54 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 this measure.

Akemi Yamashita

Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Andrea Davis](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 5:24:46 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
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Andrea Davis
59-468 Hoalike Road
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Andrea Davis
59-468 Hoalike Road
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: [Anna Pickering](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:48:01 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 this measure.

Anna Pickering
701 Ilalo St. Room 330K
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Barbara Nosaka](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 7:34:01 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

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

Barbara Nosaka
2216 Hoonanea Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Jermy Domingo](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:36:54 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 this measure.

Jermy Domingo
894 Queen St.
Honolulu, HI 96706

From: [Bryan Huynh](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 7:44:56 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

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Bryan Huynh
1498 Komohana St. Hilo HI 96720
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Chris Fukui](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:19:01 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
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Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Chris Fukui
380 Halaki St.
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [Debbie Apolo](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:43:50 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

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Debbie Apolo
810 Richard Street
Suite 750
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Forrest Batz](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:59:06 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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Forrest Batz
34 Rainbow Drive
Keaau, HI 96749

From: [Margaret Lim](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 12:03:39 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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Margaret Lim
1943 North King St.
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 2:12:30 PM

SB2496

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:

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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From: [Andy Wong](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:01:08 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

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

Andy Wong

Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Jeri Kim](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 6:36:03 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 this measure.

Jeri Kim
P. O. Box 893624
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [May Okihiro](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:45:57 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 SB2496, Relating to Tobacco Products

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As a pediatrician, I am well aware of the toll tobacco has on the health of our patients and their families.

Raising the tax on OTPs will result in less people using smokeless tobacco. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i recommends the OTP tax be raised to 85 percent of the wholesale price.

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May Okihiro
46-193 Yacht Club St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Aimee Choy](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:08:44 PM

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

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
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Aimee Choy
555 University Ave
APT#1403
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Kathryn Braun](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 5:50:29 AM

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

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
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Kathryn L. Braun
96813

Kathryn Braun
625 Iolani #504
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Michelle Smith](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:29:38 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 SB2496, Relating to Tobacco Products

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2496. This bill raises the taxes on other tobacco products (OTPs) to achieve parity between cigarette taxes and OTPs. Raising the tax on OTPs will result in less people using smokeless tobacco. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i recommends the OTP tax be raised to 85 percent of the wholesale price.

Youth are more sensitive to price than adults, increasing the tax on these products will help prevent youth from starting.

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 prevention and control programs. As we encourage tobacco users to quit, we must provide tobacco treatment for them.

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

Michelle Smith
331 Olu st
Hilo, HI 96720

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 10:49:17 PM

SB2496

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, Current research demonstrates a clear link between consumption of tobacco products and certain cancers. For those who continue to consume tobacco/nicotine products, it is reasonable a fair to place a tax on the tobacco product to provide funds for the Cancer Research Special fund. I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this measure. It is time we send a message to those who chose behaviors which are detrimental to good health. As a Nurse, I see too many families devastated by the ravages of cancer caused by smoking, chewing, and other tobacco related activities. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

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.

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

From: [kim Ora-a](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:35:50 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

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

kim Ora-a
2864 Liholani St.
2864 Liholani St. Makawao
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [Beau Lani Barker](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:59:33 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 this measure.

Beau Lani Barker
613 Iliaina St
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Liz and Jp Field](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:13:57 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 this measure.

Liz and Jp Field

Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Maggie Kwock](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:31:00 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

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

Maggie Kwock
814 Kinau St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Mark Levin](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:03:58 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 Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2496. This bill raises the taxes on other tobacco products (OTPs) to achieve parity between cigarette taxes and OTPs. Raising the tax on OTPs will result in less people using smokeless tobacco. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i recommends the OTP tax be raised to 85 percent of the wholesale price.

Moreover, many OTP's are designed and marketed to be attractive to youth. Youth are more sensitive to price than adults, increasing the tax on these products will help prevent youth from starting.

As cigarette tax increases, people who smoke 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 people 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 prevention and control programs. As we encourage people to quit, we must make tobacco treatment available for those who want it.

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

Mark Levin
2108 Hunnewell St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Roxine Iijima](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:56:29 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 this measure.

Roxine Iijima

Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Michelle Schiff](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:15:47 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 SB2496, Relating to Tobacco Products

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

Michelle Schiff
1655 Kanapuu Dr
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Tyler Ralston](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:18:27 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

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

Tyler Ralston
PO Box 10528
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Mark Goldman](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:50:48 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 this measure.

Mark Goldman
1396 Kinoole St.
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Karli Smallwood](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:54:06 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 this measure.

Karli Smallwood
227 Mahalani Street, Suite 99
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Michele Nihipali](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:39:27 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

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

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

From: [Rose Murtagh](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:24:58 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 SB2496, Relating to Tobacco Products

I encourage you to raise the taxes on Other Tobacco Products (OTPs). Tobacco is tobacco. Tobacco is addictive. Tobacco damages lives. Why should any tobacco product be taxed less? Are users less ill? Are OTP users guaranteed to not at some time switch to cigarettes and other higher taxed tobacco products?

Higher taxes for items that have no positive benefit to individual or societal health, those same products that produce income to line the pockets of Tobacco giants, and whose use cost us all by covering the lost productivity of workers and their health care costs.

Mahalo,
Rose Murtagh

Rose Murtagh
4095 Omao Rd
koloa
Koloa, HI 96756

From: [Cheryl Reeser](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:36:32 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

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

Cheryl Reeser
51-E Kealaloa Ave
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [Michelle Gray](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:17:33 PM

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

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Senator Brian Taniguichi, Vice Chair
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Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Michelle Gray
430 Lanipua Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Paul Perretta](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 7:18:36 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

Aloha

I strongly support the SB2496, Relating to Tobacco Products

Youth are more sensitive to price than adults, increasing the tax on these products will help prevent youth from starting.

Any Asthmatic Keiki, Adult or Kupuna will tell you there IS more than just water vapor in those electronic cigarettes !

Paul Perretta
1511 Punahou St Apt 208
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Maxwell Adams](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:00:38 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
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Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Maxwell Adams
68-1761
waikoloa, HI 96738