

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

To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Date: Friday, February 07, 2014
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Frederick D. Pablo, Director
Department of Taxation

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

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

S.B. 2496 amends the tax on tobacco products other than cigarettes and cigars by imposing the tax on sales made after January 1, 2015, at a rate of 85% 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.

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 small 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.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Comments Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 7, 2014 at 9:00 am
by
Michele Carbone, MD, PHD
Director
University of Hawai'i Cancer Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2496 – RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Chairs Green and Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees:

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, there have been steadily decreasing sales, 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 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.

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.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Comments Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 7, 2014 at 9:00 am
by
Michele Carbone, MD, PHD
Director
University of Hawai'i Cancer Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2496 – RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Chairs Green and Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees:

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, there have been steadily decreasing sales, 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 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.

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.

Date: February 7, 2014

Board of Directors

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

John Coefield
Montana

Re: Support with recommendations for SB 2496: Relating to tobacco products

Mike Fenello
Idaho

Patty Ginsburg
Alaska
Chair Elect

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2496 with recommendations for your consideration. I serve as the Hawaii director for the American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific; our mission is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

Virginia Hall
Oregon

Don Lojek
Idaho

Increasing the price of tobacco products is one of the best ways to keep youth from ever using tobacco and it also encourages current users to quit.

Robert Merchant, MD
Montana

Establishing tax parity between cigarettes and other tobacco products works to ensure smokers won't switch from cigarettes to cheaper other tobacco products. I would ask you to consider increasing the tax on other tobacco products to eighty-five per cent of the wholesale price.

Tad Seder
Washington
Secretary

Sterling Yee
Hawaii
Treasurer

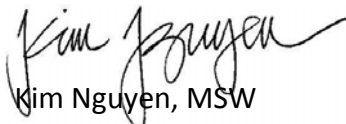
The American Lung Association encourages your consideration of a significant portion of the new revenue generated from this proposal to be dedicated to tobacco prevention and control programs. The effectiveness of increasing tobacco taxes in reducing tobacco-related death and disease is amplified when combined with other components of a comprehensive tobacco control program, including tobacco cessation services and anti-tobacco media campaigns. Tobacco tax increases can spur significant numbers of people to try to quit, and tobacco cessation services need to be available to help these tobacco users quit for good.

Ted Zurcher
Oregon
Chair

Renée Klein
President and CEO

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Fighting for Air



Kim Nguyen, MSW
Hawaii Director

American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific

ALA in Alaska
500 W. Int'l Airport Rd. # A
Anchorage, AK 99518
(907) 276-5864

ALA in Hawaii
810 Richards St., #750
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 537-5966

ALA in Idaho
1412 W. Idaho St. #100.
Boise, ID 83702-5255
(208) 345-5864

ALA in Montana
3919 Heritage Way
Missoula, MT 59802
(406) 728-0368

ALA in Oregon
7420 SW Bridgeport Rd, #200
Tigard, OR 97224
(503) 924-4094

ALA in Washington
822 John St
Seattle, WA 98109
206-441-5100



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

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Hearing: February 7, 2014; 9:00 a.m.

SB 2496 – RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2496, 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.



To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

Members, Senate Committee on Health

Members, Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: February 6, 2014

Hrg: Senate Committee on Health/Commerce and Consumer Protection; Fri., February 7, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Rm 229

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

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of SB 2496**, which raises the taxes on other tobacco products to 85% of the wholesale price to achieve parity between cigarette taxes and other tobacco products (OTPs).

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is a program under the Hawaii Public Health Institute working to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our program consists of over 100 member organizations and 2,000 advocates that work to create a healthy Hawaii through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts.

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.



COALITION FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

Adolescents and young adults are two to three times more sensitive to tobacco price changes than adults—when price increases, less youth will begin to start 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.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Jessica Yamauchi, M.A.
Executive Director



To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

Members, Senate Committee on Health

Members, Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: February 6, 2014

Hrg: Senate Committee on Health/Commerce and Consumer Protection; Fri., February 7, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Rm 229

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

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of SB 2496**, which raises the taxes on other tobacco products to 85% of the wholesale price to achieve parity between cigarette taxes and other tobacco products (OTPs).

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is a program under the Hawaii Public Health Institute working to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our program consists of over 100 member organizations and 2,000 advocates that work to create a healthy Hawaii through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts.

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.



COALITION FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

Adolescents and young adults are two to three times more sensitive to tobacco price changes than adults—when price increases, less youth will begin to start 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.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Jessica Yamauchi, M.A.
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mz9995@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM*
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 10:02:56 PM

SB2496

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

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: [Mercedes Harwood-Tappe](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Sunday, February 09, 2014 10:44:12 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.

Mercedes Harwood-Tappe

Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Howard Saiki](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Saturday, February 08, 2014 4:46:09 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

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Feb 10, 2014 13:00PM*
Date: Saturday, February 08, 2014 12:08:51 PM

SB2496

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Feb 10, 2014 13:00PM 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.

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

From: [Hillary Sue Ramos](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Saturday, February 08, 2014 10:37:28 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.

Hillary Sue Ramos

Hilo, HI 96814

From: [Brent Tamamoto](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Saturday, February 08, 2014 8:32:29 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

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.

Brent Tamamoto
98-1065 Kaamilo Street
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Dawn Pung](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Friday, February 07, 2014 7:18:58 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

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.

Dawn Pung
645 Ainako Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Tina Fujimoto](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Friday, February 07, 2014 12:17:47 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

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.

Tina Fujimoto
3109 Catherine St
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Joseph Keawe Kaholokula](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Friday, February 07, 2014 11:00:52 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.

Joseph Keawe Kaholokula
2316 Kanealii Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Pualei Kaohelaulii](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Friday, February 07, 2014 9:57:18 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.

Pualei Kaohelaulii
8010 Iwipolena Road
P.O. Box 52
Kekaha, HI 96752

From: [Kathryn Sthay](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Friday, February 07, 2014 8:20:18 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.

Kathryn Sthay
5414 Kirkwood Place
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: icalkins@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Friday, February 07, 2014 6:16:31 AM
Attachments: [.-lock.DEMOCRATIC PARTY LINE.odt#](#)

SB2496

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
IRA CALKINS	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: IRA CALKINS GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCHER 730 Captain Cook Ave Unit 426 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2161 It appears the Hawaii State Legislators are being black mailed in to voting the Democratic party line, or the Democratic Party will not support the State of Hawaii Legislator in the next state wide election. It does not matter what the people think, the Democratic Party has already decided for us on all bills before the State of Hawaii Legislature . The chairman's in all committee meetings has a script to follow that the Speaker of the House, and the Speaker of the Senate has given the Committee Chairs to follow, to instruct the committee how to vote on a any given measure, all Bills in all committees of the State of Hawaii Legislature. It is determined ahead of time by the Democratic Party members how a committee member will vote when staying with the party line on any given Bill in the State of Hawaii Legislature, Democracy has been taken away from the tax payers in this state. The Democratic Party Line has replaced the will of the people in the State of Hawaii Legislature. Ira Calkins Honolulu 4696434 or 3498667 FAX 808-545-4707 Washington D.C. 202-697-9782

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: [Maureen O'Brien](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 10:40:28 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 Taniguchi, 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.

Maureen O'Brien
435 Seaside Ave.
Apt. 1604
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: brianportal808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM*
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 10:22:34 PM

SB2496

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Santiago	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.

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

From: [Helen Barrow](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 10:09:35 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

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.

Helen Barrow
Po Box 822
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [Daria Fand](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 9:55:36 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

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.

Daria Fand
1545 Kalakaua Ave., Apt. 709
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Patricia Fleck](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 4:33:50 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

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.

Respectfully,

Patricia Fleck

Patricia Fleck
75-5660 Kopico Street, Ste. C7-330
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: AlexisAPChapman@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 3:11:00 PM

SB2496

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexis CHapman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Chairs Green and Baker, Vice Chairs Baker and Taniguchi, and members of the Committees; These types of taxes are regressive and unnecessary. The existing taxes on tobacco are sufficient to fund the programs they support. Tobacco smoking is decreasing, and increasing the states reliance on a dwindling revenue stream is poor planning and sets a dangerous precedent. Please vote no on this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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: [Erin Moncada](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 3:07:24 PM

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

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

Re: Strong Support for 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.

Erin Moncada
121 Opio Road
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Angela Sy](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 2:57:20 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

Mahalo 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.

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.

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. 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.

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

From: [Bryan Mih](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 2:27:40 PM

TO: Senate Committee on Health

Re: Support for SB2496, Relating to Other Tobacco Products

Dear Senate Committee on Health:

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

From: [Serenity Chambers](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 2:19:43 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

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.

Serenity Chambers
PO box 631411
Lanai city, HI 96763

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: CathyTsauro@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 2:08:58 PM

SB2496

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Tsauro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Senator Green, Senator Baker, and Senator Taniguchi 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, Catherine Tsauro

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



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION

SB2496, RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Acting Director of Health

February 7, 2014
9:00 AM, Room 229

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports SB2496 which imposes an excise
2 tax equal to 85% of the wholesale price of any tobacco product, other than large cigars, as an amount
3 that would provide parity with the current tax on cigarettes. The DOH also supports the requirement
4 that any increase in excise tax on cigarettes would trigger an automatic excise tax increase on other
5 tobacco products (OTP); however, would defer to the Department of Taxation on matters of
6 implementation and revenue generation. The DOH offers suggestions regarding the disposition of the
7 additional monies collected.

8 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

9 **Purpose and Justification:** The National Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids has recommended an
10 excise tax of 85% of the wholesale value as the amount to achieve parity between the tax on cigarettes
11 and OTPs in Hawaii. The last change in excise tax for OTPs was in 2009.

12 OTPs are currently taxed lower than cigarettes, yet are similarly addictive and dangerous. They
13 present a significant health risk leading to cancer, heart disease, respiratory illnesses, and other serious
14 diseases. Adult and youth smokers are attracted to purchase the less expensive tobacco products,
15 including small cigars, smokeless, loose, or roll-your-own tobacco. This is heightened as a result of

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness

1 Hawaii's high tax on cigarettes. OTPs pose a danger as gateway products that can lead to habitual
2 tobacco use, including smoking and long term addiction to nicotine.

3 As part of Hawaii's and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) overall
4 comprehensive approach to tobacco control, increasing the price of tobacco products by raising tax rates
5 reduces the demand for the products, which, in turn, leads to significant reductions in the use of tobacco
6 by current consumers and in the initiation of tobacco use by youth.

7 The 2014 CDC Office on Smoking and Health document, Best Practices for Comprehensive
8 Tobacco Control Programs, reports that smoking and tobacco use are the leading causes of preventable
9 death and disease in Hawaii, claiming 1,200 lives each year and creating \$526 million in annual health
10 care costs.

11 DOH supports this excise tax measure that provides parity with the current tax on cigarettes
12 along with a mechanism that triggers an automatic excise tax increase on OTPs when the tax of
13 cigarettes increases. Higher tax rates on all tobacco products prevent initiation or switching to lower-
14 taxed and lower-priced tobacco products.

15 With regard to the disposition of the excise tax revenues, the DOH suggests that, instead of the
16 entire amount of excise tax collected being credited only to the Hawaii Cancer Research Center Special
17 Fund, that equal amounts of the additional monies collected be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii
18 Cancer Research Center Special Fund, the Trauma System Special Fund, the Community Health Centers
19 Special Fund, and the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: [aimee rice](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 11:51:34 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.

aimee rice
1166a 20th ave
honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Melissa Little](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 11:19:00 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.

Melissa Little
708 Illalo St., Suite 400
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Jerry Lelesch](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 10:53:04 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.

Jerry Lelesch
44160 #2 Kou Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Erin Nielsen](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 10:05:21 AM

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

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

Re: Strong Support for 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.

Erin Nielsen

Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Koa Robinson](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 9:52:33 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

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.

Koa Robinson
3059 Seaview Rise
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Boyd, Manager Richard Boyd](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2496
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 9:43:49 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.

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