



From: [Andrea Davis](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 11:56:40 AM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: February 20, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 211

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2496, SD1. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to 85% to create parity between cigarettes and OTPs.

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

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

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

Mahalo.

Andrea Davis
59-468 Hoalike Road
Haleiwa, HI 96712



From: [Angela Sy](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 12:11:21 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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

Mahalo.

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



From: [Bryan Mih](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2496, Relating to Other Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 11:58:38 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: February 20, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 211

Dear Senate Committee:

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



LATE

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SB2496,SD1, RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Comments of David Sakamoto, MD, MBA
Deputy Director, Health Resources Administration

February 20, 2014
9:00AM, Room 211

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of SB2496,SD1 because
2 of the public health impact of the measure, while deferring to the Department of Taxation (DoTax) on
3 matters of implementation and revenue generation.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** The DOH offers suggestions regarding the disposition of the additional monies
5 collected.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** The National Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids has recommended an
7 excise tax of 85% of the wholesale value as the amount to achieve parity between the tax on cigarettes
8 and other tobacco products (OTPs) in Hawaii. The last change in excise tax for OTPs was in 2009. The
9 DOH supports the requirement in SB2496, SD1 that any increase in excise tax on cigarettes would
10 trigger an automatic excise tax increase on OTPs.

11 OTPs are currently taxed lower than cigarettes, yet are similarly addictive and dangerous. They
12 present a significant health risk leading to cancer, heart disease, respiratory illnesses, and other serious
13 diseases. Adult and youth smokers are attracted to purchase the less expensive tobacco products,
14 including small cigars, smokeless, loose, or roll-your-own tobacco. OTPs pose a danger as gateway
15 products that can lead to habitual tobacco use, including smoking and long term addiction to nicotine.

1 The 2014 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health publication,
2 “Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs,” reports that smoking and tobacco use
3 are the leading causes of preventable death and disease in Hawaii, claiming 1,200 lives each year and
4 creating \$526 million in annual health care costs.

5 SB2496 SD1 is consistent with the recommended strategy of the CDC to reduce the demand for
6 tobacco through increasing the price of the products by raising tax rates. This in turn will lead to
7 significant reductions in the use of tobacco by current consumers, encourage more people to quit, and
8 reduce the initiation of tobacco use by youth. The DOH supports this excise tax measure that provides
9 parity with the current tax on cigarettes along with a mechanism that triggers an automatic excise tax
10 increase on OTPs when the tax of cigarettes increases. Higher tax rates on all tobacco products prevent
11 initiation or switching to lower-taxed and lower-priced tobacco products.

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

17 We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on SB2496, SD1.



From: [Debbie Apolo](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 3:31:15 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

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

Mahalo.

Debbie Apolo
810 Richard Street
Suite 750
Honolulu, HI 96817



From: [Diane Omura](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 1:46:18 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

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

Mahalo.

Diane Omura
1650 Kaahumanu Ave.
Wailuku, HI 96793



From: [Erin Moncada](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:34:36 AM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
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Mahalo.

Erin Moncada
121 Opio Road
Hilo, HI 96720



From: [Howard Saiki](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 6:49:07 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

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

Mahalo.

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



From: [Io Loa](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 12:28:07 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

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

Mahalo.

Io Loa
143 Lahainaluna Rd
Lahaina, HI 96761



From: [Jermy Domingo](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 1:46:59 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Jermy Domingo
894 Queen St.
Honolulu, HI 96706



From: [Kyle Frazier](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 2:45:02 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

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

Mahalo.

Kyle Frazier
27-106 Hikina Pl. 96720
Hilo, HI 96720



From: [Lisa Maddock](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 9:56:18 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

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

Mahalo.

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



From: [Marilyn Gagen](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:51:01 AM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo.

Marilyn Gagen
59-398 Ka Nani Drive
N/A
Kamuela, HI 96743



From: [Maxwell Adams](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 12:55:16 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

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

Mahalo.

Maxwell Adams
68-1761
waikoloa, HI 96738



From: [Michelle Kwock](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:51:49 AM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

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Mahalo.

Michelle Kwock
100 N. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96817



From: [AAP Hawaii - K Sthay](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2496, Relating to Other Tobacco Products
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014 8:15:51 AM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

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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,

R. Michael Hamilton, MD, MS, FAAP
President
AAP-Hawaii Chapter
Voice 808/377-5738
Fax 808/377-3683
www.hawaiiap.org



From: [Ramon Sumibcay](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 12:08:32 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

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

Mahalo.

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



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: babyjean@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 7:19:28 PM

SB2496

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronnie Perry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly OPPOSE the taxing of e-cigarettes. We need to encourage people who smoke regular cigarettes to switch to the e-cigarette as there are many benefits to switching such as: no second hand smoke, no smell, no litter, less cost and better for your health. Please do not kill the only alternative to cigarettes people have. The e-cigarette saves lives. Mahalo Ronnie Perry

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: [Serenity Chambers](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 4:02:14 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
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Mahalo.

Serenity Chambers
PO box 631411
Lanai city, HI 96763

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: smith.timothy379@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2496 on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:12:59 AM



SB2496

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tim Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: i am not even a smoker and i still feel that this tax is wrong increasing taxes is not the answer to everything as it seems that has been happening a lot in the past few years

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From: [Tyler Ralston](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 6:06:25 PM

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2496 SD 1, Relating to Tobacco Products

Hrg: February 20, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 211

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2496, SD1. I support increasing the tax on other tobacco products (OTPs) to 85% to create parity between cigarettes and OTPs.

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

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

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

Mahalo.

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