

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

LATE

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SB0651, RELATING TO HEALTH

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

February 11, 2014
1:45 pm, Room 016

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of SB0651 which
2 prohibits smoking in and around public housing under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Public Housing
3 Authority (HPHA). DOH agrees with the purpose of this measure to protect residents of public housing
4 by banning smoking in public housing projects. DOH offers suggestions to the language regarding
5 designated smoking areas.

6 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure amends Chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes to prohibit
8 smoking in any public housing project or state low-income housing project. It requires designation of
9 one or more permissible smoking areas not less than twenty feet from any residential building or
10 community facility. In Section 356D(a) the DOH recommends adding item, "(5) parking lots; and" (see
11 lines 4 to 12). Additionally, we suggest replacing the word, "shall" with "may in subsection (b) (see line
12 13) to allow the HPHA the flexibility to provide the designated smoking areas.

13 Regarding the purpose of this measure, DOH recognizes the scientific findings and
14 recommendations of the United States Surgeon General regarding the hazards of involuntary exposure to
15 secondhand smoke (SHS) by nonsmokers. Those findings disclose that: 1) There is no safe level or

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1 amount of exposure to SHS, and breathing even a little amount can be dangerous; 2) Children are more
2 likely to have lung problems, ear infections, and severe asthma from being around tobacco smoke;
3 3) Breathing SHS is a known cause of sudden infant death syndrome; 4) SHS is a known human
4 carcinogen (cancer-causing agent); and 5) Inhaling SHS causes lung cancer, coronary heart disease, and
5 strokes in nonsmoking adults.

6 Hawaii's current smoke-free workplace and public places law, Chapter 328J enacted in 2006,
7 protects the public in enclosed and partially-enclosed areas, but does not cover private residences. The
8 federal Housing and Urban Development Authority actively supports and encourages the creation of
9 smoke-free residential public housing properties governed under that authority.

10 DOH supports the intent of this bill to improve the living conditions of the residents of public
11 housing projects and state low-income housing projects by prohibiting smoking, and will continue to
12 collaborate with the HPHA in its implementation of smoking cessation efforts.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 8:40 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: regiedelacruz@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB651 on Feb 11, 2014 13:45PM*

SB651

Submitted on: 2/11/2014
Testimony for HMS on Feb 11, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
regie dela cruz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB651

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for HMS on Feb 11, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments: I strongly OPPOSE this bill. Vaping is a great alternative to smoking cigarettes. I hate cigarettes, but I welcome the e-cigarette because it has no ash, no smell, no smoke and helps people quit if they choose to. the e-cigarette has also helped many in my family, as I replaced their cigarettes with the e-cigarette and it has helped their health and those around them from having to deal with all the side effects of smoking regular cigarettes.

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