

---

---

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that premium cigar  
2 sellers whose products are made for adult consumers, including  
3 cigars produced with Hawaii-grown tobacco, are unfairly burdened  
4 as a result of a percentage tax and a self-service display ban.  
5 As a result, cigar retailers are put at a competitive  
6 disadvantage when lower priced cigars can be purchased legally  
7 through mail order sales. Few, if any, consumers file usage  
8 taxes for cigars purchased through mail order sales, creating a  
9 loss of revenue for the State. The legislature further finds  
10 that the United States Food and Drug Administration's proposed  
11 rules defining premium cigars provide helpful guidance on these  
12 issues by recognizing that premium cigars are fundamentally  
13 different from other tobacco products and should be exempt from  
14 onerous regulations and restrictions.

15           The purpose of this Act is to ease the unfair burden on the  
16 local premium cigar industry, which has been at a competitive  
17 disadvantage as a result of a percentage tax and self-service



1 display ban, and to bring Hawaii's tobacco regulations into  
2 parity with the new rules proposed by the United States Food and  
3 Drug Administration.

4 SECTION 2. Section 245-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended as follows:

6 1. By adding two new definitions to be appropriately  
7 inserted and to read:

8 "Characterizing flavor" means a distinguishable taste or  
9 aroma of candy, chocolate, vanilla, fruit, berry, nut, herb,  
10 spice, honey, or an alcoholic drink that is imparted to tobacco  
11 or tobacco smoke either prior to or during consumption and is  
12 deemed to have a characterizing flavor if the cigar is  
13 advertised or marketed as having or producing the taste or aroma  
14 of candy, chocolate, vanilla, fruit, berry nut, herb, spice,  
15 honey, or an alcoholic drink. "Characterizing flavor" does not  
16 include a taste or aroma from tobacco.

17 "Premium cigar" means a cigar that:

- 18 (1) Is wrapped in whole tobacco leaf;  
19 (2) Contains 100 per cent leaf tobacco binder;  
20 (3) Contains primarily long filler tobacco;



- 1        (4) Is made by manually combining the wrapper, filler, and
- 2                binder;
- 3        (5) Has no filter, tip, or non-tobacco mouthpiece and is
- 4                capped by hand;
- 5        (6) Does not have a characterizing flavor other than
- 6                tobacco; and
- 7        (7) Weighs more than six pounds per one thousand units."

8        2. By amending the definition of "tobacco products" to  
9 read:

10        "Tobacco products" means tobacco in any form, other than  
11 cigarettes or little cigars, that is prepared or intended for  
12 consumption or for personal use by humans, including large  
13 cigars, premium cigars, and any substitutes thereof other than  
14 cigarettes that bear the semblance thereof, snuff, chewing or  
15 smokeless tobacco, and smoking or pipe tobacco."

16        SECTION 3. Section 245-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

18        "(a) Every wholesaler or dealer, in addition to any other  
19 taxes provided by law, shall pay for the privilege of conducting  
20 business and other activities in the State:



# H.B. NO. 143

- 1           (1) An excise tax equal to 5.00 cents for each cigarette  
2           sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer  
3           after June 30, 1998, whether or not sold at wholesale,  
4           or if not sold then at the same rate upon the use by  
5           the wholesaler or dealer;
- 6           (2) An excise tax equal to 6.00 cents for each cigarette  
7           sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer  
8           after September 30, 2002, whether or not sold at  
9           wholesale, or if not sold then at the same rate upon  
10          the use by the wholesaler or dealer;
- 11          (3) An excise tax equal to 6.50 cents for each cigarette  
12          sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer  
13          after June 30, 2003, whether or not sold at wholesale,  
14          or if not sold then at the same rate upon the use by  
15          the wholesaler or dealer;
- 16          (4) An excise tax equal to 7.00 cents for each cigarette  
17          sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer  
18          after June 30, 2004, whether or not sold at wholesale,  
19          or if not sold then at the same rate upon the use by  
20          the wholesaler or dealer;



- 1           (5) An excise tax equal to 8.00 cents for each cigarette  
2           sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer on  
3           and after September 30, 2006, whether or not sold at  
4           wholesale, or if not sold then at the same rate upon  
5           the use by the wholesaler or dealer;
- 6           (6) An excise tax equal to 9.00 cents for each cigarette  
7           sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer on  
8           and after September 30, 2007, whether or not sold at  
9           wholesale, or if not sold then at the same rate upon  
10          the use by the wholesaler or dealer;
- 11          (7) An excise tax equal to 10.00 cents for each cigarette  
12          sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer on  
13          and after September 30, 2008, whether or not sold at  
14          wholesale, or if not sold then at the same rate upon  
15          the use by the wholesaler or dealer;
- 16          (8) An excise tax equal to 13.00 cents for each cigarette  
17          sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer on  
18          and after July 1, 2009, whether or not sold at  
19          wholesale, or if not sold then at the same rate upon  
20          the use by the wholesaler or dealer;



- 1           (9) An excise tax equal to 11.00 cents for each little  
2           cigar sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or  
3           dealer on and after October 1, 2009, whether or not  
4           sold at wholesale, or if not sold then at the same  
5           rate upon the use by the wholesaler or dealer;
- 6           (10) An excise tax equal to 15.00 cents for each cigarette  
7           or little cigar sold, used, or possessed by a  
8           wholesaler or dealer on and after July 1, 2010,  
9           whether or not sold at wholesale, or if not sold then  
10          at the same rate upon the use by the wholesaler or  
11          dealer;
- 12          (11) An excise tax equal to 16.00 cents for each cigarette  
13          or little cigar sold, used, or possessed by a  
14          wholesaler or dealer on and after July 1, 2011,  
15          whether or not sold at wholesale, or if not sold then  
16          at the same rate upon the use by the wholesaler or  
17          dealer;
- 18          (12) An excise tax equal to [~~seventy~~] 70 per cent of the  
19          wholesale price of each article or item of tobacco  
20          products, other than large cigars [~~7~~] and premium  
21          cigars, sold by the wholesaler or dealer on and after



1           September 30, 2009, whether or not sold at wholesale,  
2           or if not sold then at the same rate upon the use by  
3           the wholesaler or dealer; [~~and~~]

4           (13) An excise tax equal to [~~fifty~~] 50 per cent of the  
5           wholesale price of each large cigar of any length,  
6           sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer on  
7           and after September 30, 2009, whether or not sold at  
8           wholesale, or if not sold then at the same rate upon  
9           the use by the wholesaler or dealer[~~-~~]; and

10          (14) An excise tax equal to 50.00 cents for each premium  
11          cigar of any length, sold, used, or possessed by a  
12          wholesaler or dealer on and after July 1, 2015,  
13          whether or not sold at wholesale, or if not sold then  
14          at the same rate upon the use by the wholesaler or  
15          dealer.

16       Where the tax imposed has been paid on cigarettes, little  
17       cigars, or tobacco products that thereafter become the subject  
18       of a casualty loss deduction allowable under chapter 235, the  
19       tax paid shall be refunded or credited to the account of the  
20       wholesaler or dealer. The tax shall be applied to cigarettes  
21       through the use of stamps."



1 SECTION 4. Section 245-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§245-15 Disposition of revenues. All moneys collected  
4 pursuant to this chapter shall be paid into the state treasury  
5 as state realizations to be kept and accounted for as provided  
6 by law; provided that, of the moneys collected under the tax  
7 imposed pursuant to:

8 (1) Section 245-3(a)(5), after September 30, 2006, and  
9 prior to October 1, 2007, 1.0 cent per cigarette shall  
10 be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii cancer  
11 research special fund, established pursuant to section  
12 304A-2168, for research and operating expenses and for  
13 capital expenditures;

14 (2) Section 245-3(a)(6), after September 30, 2007, and  
15 prior to October 1, 2008:

16 (A) 1.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the  
17 credit of the Hawaii cancer research special  
18 fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168,  
19 for research and operating expenses and for  
20 capital expenditures;





1 (B) 0.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to  
2 the credit of the trauma system special fund  
3 established pursuant to section 321-22.5; and

4 (C) 0.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to  
5 the credit of the emergency medical services  
6 special fund established pursuant to section  
7 321-234;

8 (3) Section 245-3(a)(7), after September 30, 2008, and  
9 prior to July 1, 2009:

10 (A) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the  
11 credit of the Hawaii cancer research special  
12 fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168,  
13 for research and operating expenses and for  
14 capital expenditures;

15 (B) 0.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the  
16 credit of the trauma system special fund  
17 established pursuant to section 321-22.5;

18 (C) 0.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to  
19 the credit of the community health centers  
20 special fund established pursuant to section  
21 321-1.65; and



1 (D) 0.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to  
2 the credit of the emergency medical services  
3 special fund established pursuant to section  
4 321-234;

5 (4) Section 245-3(a)(8), after June 30, 2009, and prior to  
6 July 1, 2013:

7 (A) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the  
8 credit of the Hawaii cancer research special  
9 fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168,  
10 for research and operating expenses and for  
11 capital expenditures;

12 (B) 0.75 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to  
13 the credit of the trauma system special fund  
14 established pursuant to section 321-22.5;

15 (C) 0.75 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to  
16 the credit of the community health centers  
17 special fund established pursuant to section  
18 321-1.65; and

19 (D) 0.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the  
20 credit of the emergency medical services special



1 fund established pursuant to section 321-234;

2 [and]

3 (5) Section 245-3(a)(11), after June 30, 2013, and  
4 thereafter:

5 (A) 2.0 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the  
6 credit of the Hawaii cancer research special  
7 fund, established pursuant to section 304A-2168,  
8 for research and operating expenses and for  
9 capital expenditures;

10 (B) 1.5 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to the  
11 credit of the trauma system special fund  
12 established pursuant to section 321-22.5;

13 (C) 1.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to  
14 the credit of the community health centers  
15 special fund established pursuant to section  
16 321-1.65; and

17 (D) 1.25 cents per cigarette shall be deposited to  
18 the credit of the emergency medical services  
19 special fund established pursuant to section  
20 321-234 [-]; and



1       (6) Section 245-3(a)(14), after June 30, 2015, all amounts  
 2       collected per premium cigar shall be deposited to the  
 3       credit of the Hawaii cancer research special fund,  
 4       established pursuant to section 304A-2168, for  
 5       research and operating expenses and capital  
 6       expenditures.

7       The department shall provide an annual accounting of these  
 8       dispositions to the legislature."

9       SECTION 5. Section 328J-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 10      amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
 11      and to read as follows:

12      "Premium cigar" means a cigar that:

- 13      (1) Is wrapped in whole tobacco leaf;
- 14      (2) Contains 100 per cent leaf tobacco binder;
- 15      (3) Contains primarily long filler tobacco;
- 16      (4) Is made by manually combining the wrapper, filler, and  
 17      binder;
- 18      (5) Has no filter, tip, or non-tobacco mouthpiece and is  
 19      capped by hand;
- 20      (6) Does not have a characterizing flavor other than  
 21      tobacco; and



1        (7) Weighs more than six pounds per one thousand units."

2        SECTION 6. Section 328J-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
3 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

4        "(b) This section shall not apply to:

5        (1) A duty-free sales enterprise selling duty-free  
6 merchandise in accordance with the provisions of title  
7 19 United States Code section 1555(b), and any  
8 implementing regulations; [and]

9        (2) Retail tobacco stores, bars, or any other  
10 establishment for which the minimum age for admission  
11 is eighteen[-]; and

12        (3) Premium cigars."

13        SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15        SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval  
16 and shall apply to the sale of tobacco products occurring on and  
17 after July 1, 2015.

18

INTRODUCED BY: *[Signature]*  
~~*[Signature]*~~  
~~*[Signature]*~~  
~~*[Signature]*~~  
JAN 22 2015

# H.B. NO. 143

**Report Title:**

Tobacco Products; Premium Cigars; Tax

**Description:**

Defines "premium cigar," and applies a tax of 50.00 cents per premium cigar. Exempts premium cigars from self-service display ban. Applies to the sale of tobacco products beginning on July 1, 2015.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

