



**American Heart Association testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2689,
"Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes"**

The American Heart Association supports SB 2689.

With the passage last year of state legislation raising the age to purchase electronic smoking devices and other tobacco products to 21, Hawaii has become a model for the country in taking positive action to keep young people in Hawaii from falling into a trap of lifelong addiction leading to disease and early death.

However, one weakness exposed by the law is Hawaii's enforcing authorities' inability to identify who sells electronic smoking devices. SB 2689 is needed to establish a licensing requirement, similar to that which exists for wholesalers and retailers who sell other tobacco products in our state. Not only will it allow enforcing agencies to monitor for the illegal sales of those products to underage buyers, but it would also allow for enforcement of tax payment should the state eventually decide to establish a special tax on electronic smoking devices.

The AHA also encourages legislators to increase the current fee levels for licensure and permitting to sell tobacco products to provide the funds necessary to expand enforcement to non-traditional tobacco merchants who engage in the business of selling electronic smoking devices. It's important to note that Hawaii's current tobacco licensing and permitting fees are well below the average fees charged by other states, and well below the licensing fees that Hawaii charges for alcohol sales. Raising those fees would also make their potential loss due to illegal sales more of a deterrent.

Please support SB 2689 as another tool in the state's effort to control and deter tobacco use.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald B. Weisman".

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations Director

*"Building healthier lives,
free of cardiovascular
diseases and stroke."*

life is why™ es por la vida™ 全为生命™

Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.





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To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair and members of the committee

Re: Opposition to SB2689

Hearing: CPH, JDL, Saturday, February 6, 2016 9:00 am

Thank you for allowing me to speak my name is Devin Wolery from PC Gamerz & Hawaii Vapers United Association.

- The definition in this bill would cause many issues on local economy.
 - By doing this, many shops would close.
 - The current local customers would switch to purchasing online, which would get the state no income. As online sales which are supposed to be reported and taxed, are not.
 - We as a state always push to support local. This would burden everyone.
 - 75-100+ vape shops are mom and pop businesses. They are not tied to big tobacco.
 - Big tobacco uses current distribution networks. Such as gas stations and convenience stores.
 - Vape shops do not. They put their livelihood on the line, by opening up their own stores.
 - The definition needs to change. And we need to wait for the FDA rulings.

- Electronic Smoking devices, IE Vape products are not Tobacco
 - People that vape, are anti tobacco. We want to get away from the smokers.
 - Devices and atomizers, coils, drip tips, tanks and any other accessory that is sold ala carte, does not contain nicotine and therefore should not be classified as a tobacco product.
 - If that is true for vape products, would that not also make it so that all rolling papers, lighters, glass “tobacco” pipes and other accessories would also be tobacco products?

- E-cigarettes are already more expensive than cigarettes.
 - Many users do not use cigalikes which are \$20-50 for a starter pack. Currently.
 - Majority of vape shop customers use A la carte devices that cost upwards of \$150-300 per combined kit.
 - Eliquid costs are already high at \$12 for a 15ml up to \$70 for a 120ml bottle.
 - Because they are buying more quantity upfront that saves them in the long run they should be punished?
 - Should we make a wasteful tax for buying more than we can use from Costco?



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- If this definition passes in ANY of the bills through the session.
 - It WILL guarantee a black market on the island. Putting many tax paying shops out of business.
 - There is already a black market on Craigslist and Facebook Groups.
 - Those outlets for the products are completely unregulated and do not hold themselves to the standards we want in place for the vape industry.
 - More people will get sick or hurt from this over reach.
 - Please defer this bill and consider discussion with Hawaii Vapers United Association.

If you are looking to drive revenue let me remind you that 40% of sales are non-nicotine, so no tax revenue. If you basically double the price, you are going to drive all sales to black market or online from china, so no revenue. You will also put 100 shops out of business. And all local producers and manufacturers. Volcano alone has 70+ employees, you will lose all that revenue as well.

Thank you for allowing me to speak, I am available for questions

Devin Wolery
Hawaii Vapers United Association
Representing 100 stores, An estimated 10,000 users And over 600 workers

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 9:34 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: justin@pcgamerzhawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2689 on Feb-6, 2016 09:00AM

SB2689

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Wolery	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: DO NOT PASS this absurd tax on vaping related products! There is ZERO evidence vaping devices cause cancer or other health effects and in fact are THE NUMBER ONE MOST EFFECTIVE SMOKING CESSATION DEVICE. This insanity needs to STOP. If these laws pass 2 of the nations largest vaping device online retailers will move out of the state of hawaii to arizona or colorado and most of the other local shops will go out of business as consumers continue to buy online. ALL YOU ARE DOING IS KILLING THE LOCAL ECONOMY STOP! Vaping devices are already just as expensive and in most cases MORE EXPENSIVE then smoking.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: susanlarson78@gmx.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2689 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Friday, February 05, 2016 12:33:23 PM

SB2689

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Larson	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.

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