

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
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WRITTEN ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2690 SD1**

**RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

SENATOR JILL N TOKUDA, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 25, 2016

Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** SB2690 SD1 proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little  
2 cigars sold on or after July 1, 2016 to twenty cents per cigarette or little cigar. The increased  
3 taxes collected will be designated to various funds, including four cents to the Hawaii Cancer  
4 Research Special Fund, and two cents to the Department Of Health, Chronic Disease Prevention  
5 and Health Promotion Division (CDPHPD) for smoking cessation programs and education in  
6 Hawaii.

7 **Department Testimony:** DOH supports SB2690 SD1, which proposes to increase the excise  
8 tax on tobacco products to twenty cents per cigarette or little cigar. The Department also  
9 supports the designation of the tax revenues collected to various funds, including four cents to  
10 the Hawaii Cancer Research Special Fund and two cents to the DOH CDPHPD for smoking  
11 cessation programs and education in Hawaii. The DOH defers to the Department of Taxation on  
12 matters relating to taxation and administration.

13 Tobacco use continues to be the single most preventable cause of disease, disability and  
14 death in the United States and in Hawaii.<sup>1</sup> Despite the successful enactment of smoke-free  
15 workplace and public place laws and other strong tobacco control policies that protect Hawaii's  
16 people and communities, there is evidence that smoking continues to exact an enormous health  
17 toll and is a significant economic burden for Hawaii: "Health effects associated with smoking

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<sup>1</sup> The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General, 2014 (Rep.) (n.d.).  
<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/>, accessed 2/3/16

1 include heart disease, cancer, pulmonary disease, adverse reproductive outcomes, and the  
2 exacerbation of multiple chronic health conditions.”<sup>2</sup> Smoking claims 1,400 adult lives each  
3 year and contributes to 21,000 premature deaths from tobacco among youth under 18. It adds  
4 \$526 million in annual health care expenditures and \$387.3 million in lost productivity costs to  
5 the State.<sup>3</sup>

6 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends increasing the price  
7 of tobacco products as the “single most effective way to prevent initiation among nonsmokers  
8 and to reduce consumption.”<sup>4</sup> Hawaii has not increased the excise tax on cigarettes since 2012.  
9 Raising the excise tax to twenty cents per cigarette or little cigar would “lead to reductions in the  
10 prevalence of smoking and its intensity among youth and young adults.”<sup>5</sup>

11 SB2690 SD1 also proposes to designate a portion of the tax revenues collected to DOH  
12 CDPHPD, for smoking cessation programs and education. These funds would be used for  
13 ongoing efforts to support smoke-free policies and social norms, promote cessation, assist  
14 tobacco users to quit; and prevent initiation of tobacco use. Funding would also be used to  
15 enhance educational campaigns, enforce recently enacted laws, and increase prevention efforts in  
16 communities still experiencing higher tobacco use rates. Most importantly, SB2690 SD1  
17 significantly increases the excise taxes on tobacco products and is part of the Department’s  
18 comprehensive approach to tobacco control to prevent the initiation of youth smokers and  
19 promote cessation among current smokers. Such an increase can produce significant long-term  
20 improvements in health, and make further progress towards a Hawaii that is free from the burden  
21 of tobacco. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

22 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

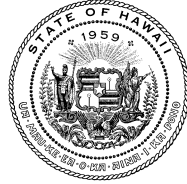
<sup>3</sup> Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. 2015, [https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts\\_issues/toll\\_us/hawaii](https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/hawaii), accessed 2/3/2016

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012. Page 707

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**  
P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540  
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

MARIA E. ZIELINSKI  
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

JOSEPH K. KIM  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: February 25, 2016

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Maria E. Zielinski, Director  
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. 2690, S.D. 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments on S.B. 2690 for your consideration.

S.B. 2690, S.D.1, amends the Cigarette and Tobacco Tax Law by raising the tax on cigarettes and little cigars from \$0.16 per cigarette or little cigar to \$0.20 per cigarette or little cigar. S.B. 2690, S.D. 1 also amends how the tax collected on cigarettes and little cigars is allocated. S.B. 2690, S.D. 1 is effective July 1, 2016.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health made the Department's suggested amendments to S.B. 2690. The Department appreciates the consideration of its comments and notes that it can administer S.B. 2690, S.D. 1, as currently drafted.

The Department defers to the Department of Health with respect to the effect raising the tax on cigarettes and little cigars would have on the State's health and wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 25, 2016 at 9:30 am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

and

Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM

Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine

Interim Director, University of Hawai'i Cancer Center

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2690 SD1 – RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center strongly supports this bill.

The UH Cancer Center is one of only 69 institutions in the United States that hold the prestigious National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, and is the only NCI-designated center in the Pacific. The NCI designation provides cancer researchers in Hawai'i with greater access to federal funding and research opportunities. More importantly, it gives the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific region access to many innovative and potentially life-saving clinical trials without the necessity of traveling to the mainland.

Our passion at the UH Cancer Center is to be a world leader in eliminating cancer through research, education, and improved patient care. Because tobacco consumption is a leading preventable cause of cancer, we take all issues related to tobacco in Hawai'i very seriously. Whereas the UH Cancer Center always has supported strong tobacco control measures in Hawai'i, the recent emergence of electronic smoking devices (e-cigarettes) presents new challenges for tobacco control and tobacco-related legislation. To address these challenges, UH Cancer Center researchers have been actively involved in conducting studies about cigarette smoking and e-cigarette use among adolescents in Hawai'i, a vulnerable population for initiation of both cigarette smoking and e-cigarette use.

The bill addresses a serious concern among health professionals that addictive tobacco products other than cigarettes – including snuff, chewing tobacco, and 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, and tobacco use continues to be a problem in Hawaii.

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 has created the intended disincentive to cigarette use. A further increase in the taxes would

serve as a greater economic disincentive to tobacco use and decrease the number of individuals who smoke.

We appreciate the Committee's allocation of a portion of the additional tax revenues to the Hawai'i Cancer Research Special Fund. The additional revenue generated by this bill will allow the UH Cancer Center to continue to provide new knowledge about prevention of adolescent smoking, continue to provide innovative clinical trials in Hawai'i to help prevent and treat cancer, and continue its research into natural products from organisms found only in Hawai'i that may be used to treat cancer. Several patents on promising products have already been filed.

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 the UH Cancer Center maintain its NCI designation to foster research relevant to those in Hawai'i and to provide our state's residents with access to the most innovative clinical trials here in Hawai'i, in order to reduce the incidence of cancer in Hawai'i and eliminate the need for our cancer patients to travel to the mainland for access to novel therapies.

We respectfully urge you to pass this bill.

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

**SUBJECT:** TOBACCO, Increase Tobacco Tax Rate on Cigarettes and Little Cigars

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 2690, SD-1

**INTRODUCED BY:** Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** This is a 25% tax increase beginning on 7/1/16 on cigarettes and little cigars. The increased taxes are having an effect on consumption, which means the tax cannot be expected to produce stable funding. Lawmakers may want to consider direct appropriations to programs now being supported by earmarks from this tax.

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** Amends HRS 245-3 to increase the tax on cigarettes and little cigars to 20 cents per unit sold, used, or possessed by the wholesaler or dealer on and after 7/1/16.

Amends HRS section 245-15 to provide that the revenue generated under the rate increase shall be distributed as follows:

- 4.0 cents per unit to the Hawaii cancer research special fund (2 cents more than current law);
- 1.125 cents per unit, but not more than \$7,400,000 in a fiscal year, to the trauma system special fund (same as current law);
- 1.25 cents per unit, but not more than \$8,800,000 in a fiscal year, to the community health centers special fund (same as current law);
- 1.25 cents per unit, but not more than \$8,800,000 in a fiscal year, to the emergency medical services special fund (same as current law);
- 2.0 cents per unit to the department of health chronic disease prevention and health promotion division, for smoking cessation programs and education in Hawaii (new); and
- Any excess goes to the general fund.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2016.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** This measure is clearly a tax hike. Previous increases have begun to have an effect on collections not only locally but also nationally. Collections have fallen below their previous levels, and the increase in the legal smoking age from 18 to 21 also is anticipated to have a negative effect on consumption. For whatever reason, the rise in rate has jeopardized this source of revenue. If nothing else, lawmakers need to make up their minds whether or not they see this tax as a source of revenue or a means by which to deter consumption.

Digested 2/23/2016

Date: February 24, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenue for tobacco prevention and cessation programs. I serve as the Hawai'i director for the American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific; our mission is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

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. Tobacco use costs our state \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. Moreover, populations at risk that continue to experience higher rates of smoking would be the primary beneficiaries of tobacco control and cessation programs that these tax revenues would finance.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,



Kim Nguyen, MSW  
Executive Director – Hawai'i  
American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific



## Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2690, SD1 “Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes”

The American Heart Association strongly supports SB 2690, SD1.

A one-time sizeable cigarette tax increase would have a greater impact on reducing smoking rates in Hawaii, especially on the lower income and youth markets, which are more price sensitive, and which are the most highly targeted by tobacco industry marketing and advertising. The AHA also strongly recommends that a portion of the increased revenue be earmarked to support State-funded tobacco prevention, education and cessation programs.

Because smoking levels are highest among people with low incomes, the cigarette companies will try to argue that cigarette tax increases are regressive taxes that fall disproportionately hard on lower-income families and communities. But this argument turns reality upside down. These are the same companies that have been preying on low-income and poor communities for decades. The cigarette companies have no problem with levying new charges on low-income smokers when it increased their own profits. They only oppose the new charges when someone else (like a state government) gets the new revenues, instead. In fact, when the federal government implemented a new increase on cigarette taxes the cigarette companies wasted no time immediately after the law passed hiking the prices on their products to profiteer on the increase during the interim period between passage of the law and its implementation.

The fact that smoking rates are highest among lower-income groups means that lower-income families and communities currently suffer the most from smoking and will, consequently, benefit the most from any effective new measures to reduce smoking, including increased state cigarette taxes. Their health problems caused by tobacco use also disproportionately affect Medicaid costs to the state.

Smokers who do not reduce their smoking because of a cigarette tax increase will also still benefit economically, along with every other state taxpayer. In Hawai'i alone, tobacco use claims 1,200 lives each year and creates \$526 million in annual health care costs directly caused by smoking. \$147 million of that is covered by the state Medicaid program. Hawaii residents' state & federal tax burden from smoking-caused government expenditures is \$835 per household. Hawaii's estimated tobacco tax and license revenue, estimated to be almost \$130 million does not come close to offsetting the losses to the state caused by tobacco use. Smoking declines caused by state cigarette tax increases directly reduce these smoking-caused tax burdens for all taxpayers.

Those who stop smoking in response to cigarette tax increases will greatly improve their own health, which could also significantly reduce their healthcare costs. Because of their higher rate of illness and disability, smokers have substantially higher annual and lifetime healthcare costs than nonsmokers or former smokers (despite living shorter lives).

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Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.







Those who quit smoking as a result of a tax increase would also then have additional money to spend on taxable products that don't result in over a \$500 million in healthcare costs to the state. The money doesn't go up in smoke; instead it will likely be spent on more productive things that can benefit the smokers' families and our state.

The AHA particularly supports the allocation of additional cigarette tax revenue to prevention and control programs. Low-income smokers and their communities disproportionately benefit when the new revenues from cigarette tax increases are directed to programs to help people quit smoking and prevent kids from starting – both because smoking is more prevalent among low-income persons and because they may have much less access or exposure to any such programs than people with higher incomes.

The Hawaii legislature last increased Hawaii's cigarette tax in 2006. Since that time, inflation of 17.6% has decreased the value of the cigarette tax to 85 cents on the dollar. While Hawaii's adult smoking rate has dropped to among the lowest levels in the country, there remain broad disparities in smoking rates within our communities. Smoking rates remain significantly higher in lower socioeconomic and lower educated populations leading to disparately higher levels of chronic diseases in that population. An article published in Sept. 2015 in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported that in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, The Queen's Medical Center's two hospitals treated 3,441 patients who were homeless. Nine out of ten cases were treated in Queen's emergency rooms. And many of them involved patients who made more than one visit. Over the past two fiscal years, Queen's has cared for an unsheltered patient 12,271 times at a price tag of more than \$5 million a year. Other Hawaii hospitals reported similar experiences. More community funding is needed to address tobacco prevention, control and cessation in those hard-to-reach populations to reduce their smoking rates to levels comparable to Hawaii's broader adult population. An increase in Hawaii's cigarette tax would help to provide the needed funding to address one of the leading major health risks among Hawaii's most vulnerable populations.

The American Heart Association urges your support of SB 2690, SD1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald B. Weisman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Donald B. Weisman  
Hawaii Government Relations Director

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free of cardiovascular  
diseases and stroke."*

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Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.





American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network  
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817  
808.432.9149  
[www.acscan.org](http://www.acscan.org)

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

**SB 2690, SD1 – RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of SB 2690, which increases the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars sold on or after July 1, 2016, to twenty cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold.

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.

Regular, significant increases in the retail price of cigarettes reduce the number of people who begin smoking and increase the number of smokers who quit.

- Significant increases in the price of cigarettes leads to a reduction in overall cigarette consumption and a reduction in youth consumption.
- Low-income adults, youth, and pregnant women are especially likely to quit or reduce their smoking when the price increases.
- Lower smoking rates translate into fewer smoking-related cancers and premature deaths, reduced spending on smoking-related health problems, and more productive workers.

Small tax increase amounts do not produce significant public health benefits or cost savings because tobacco companies can easily offset the beneficial impact of such small increases with temporary price cuts, coupons, and other promotional discounting. Increasing the tax rate with inflation will also help to ensure that the public health and revenue benefits of the tax increase do not diminish as quickly over time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on this measure.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Room 211

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT ON SB 2690, SD1**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keola K. Beale, MD, and I am a practicing physician in Hawaii specializing in oncology. I have been in practice for 13 years.

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2690. Cigarette and tobacco use are the leading preventable causes of cancer. Smoking also leads to other health problems and creates a financial burden on our health care system. While the current rate of the excise tax on cigarettes has acted as a disincentive to smoking, many people still continue to smoke. Some people have moved over to cheaper forms of tobacco use such as snuff, loose tobacco, chewing tobacco and roll-your own tobacco. I believe increasing the tax on cigarettes would serve as a further disincentive to tobacco use and decrease the number of people who smoke, thus saving lives and decreasing the cancer burden on our community.

The UH Cancer Center has been an integral partner within our healthcare community and has made a tremendous difference in the lives of many cancer patients and their families.

The ethnic diversity in Hawaii is unlike other populations in other parts of the country. We in Hawaii face different challenges as the types and incidents of cancer as well as mortality rates may not be like those seen in other states. The UH Cancer Center is acutely aware of Hawaii's unique diversity and healthcare needs. Its focus is finding treatment, drugs and protocols that are specific to our community.

Therefore, the additional revenue generated by the increased taxes on cigarettes would benefit the UH Cancer Center and enable it to continue the ground-breaking work it is doing.

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



Date: February 24, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB2690, SD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Conference Room 211

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2690, SD1, which proposes to increase the tobacco tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and dedicates a portion of the revenue to the Department of Health Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division, for smoking cessation programs and education.

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i (Coalition) is a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) that is dedicated to reducing tobacco use through education, policy, and advocacy. With nearly two decades of history in Hawai'i, the Coalition has led several campaigns on enacting smoke-free environments, including being the first state in the nation to prohibit the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to purchasers under 21 years of age.

Majority of registered Hawai'i voters support an increase in cigarette taxes (74%) and nearly nine in ten registered voters (87%) feel that it is important for the State to dedicate part of its revenue to tobacco prevention and cessation programs<sup>i</sup>. The Coalition appreciates that SB2690, SD1 dedicates a portion of the proposed revenue to the Department of Health for tobacco cessation programs and education. **Previously, no money from tobacco taxes has been allocated towards tobacco prevention and control**, and passing this bill will have a direct public health impact. Populations at risk that continue to experience higher rates of smoking would be the primary beneficiaries of these education and cessation activities, helping to provide them with the resources needed to quit smoking.

According to the United Nations Global Tobacco Epidemic 2015 report, one person dies from a tobacco-related disease approximately every six seconds, which is equivalent to about 6 million people per year. In Hawai'i alone, 1.3 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by kids each year<sup>ii</sup>. **There has not been an increase in taxes on cigarettes and little cigars for the last**

[tobaccofreehawaii.org](http://tobaccofreehawaii.org) • [hiphi.org](http://hiphi.org) • 850 Richards Street, suite 201 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813



**five years.** Raising taxes has been a proven strategy to reduce consumption on tobacco products that harm our residents and children.

Tobacco use is still the number one preventable cause of death and costs our State \$526 million annually. According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, an estimated 21,000 kids under the age of 18 in Hawai'i will die prematurely as a result of smoking<sup>iii</sup>. President Obama in his 2014 and 2015 federal budgets proposed an additional 94 cent increase per pack to help reduce the number of premature deaths due to smoking. It is time for Hawai'i to raise its taxes on tobacco and help reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs for the State.

Raising tobacco taxes encourages people to quit smoking and helps to prevent youth and young adults from starting. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and this bill will continue to champion our efforts in reducing smoking rates across the state.

The Coalition strongly supports SB 2690, SD1 and respectfully asks you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi  
Executive Director

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<sup>i</sup> This study by Ward Research, Inc. is an independent poll conducted for the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i and summarizes findings from a phone survey among n=806 Hawaii registered voters, conducted between October 17 and November 8, 2015.

<sup>ii</sup> Coalition for Tobacco-Free Kids. "The Toll of Tobacco in Hawai'i" 25 Sept 2015.  
[https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts\\_issues/toll\\_us/hawaii](https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/hawaii)

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2016

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2690, SD1**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Virginia Weinman. I am a member of the Friends of the Cancer Board and have been involved with the UH Cancer Center for about ten years.

My husband, Barry Weinman & I have supported the University of Hawaii for fifteen years, totaling over \$7M in donations. We have provided full scholarships to 10 students at UH JABSOM and have underwritten the Chair of Dr. Hedges, Dean of JABSOM. In addition, the Weinman Symposiums have enabled six Nobel Laureates in cancer research to visit and work with the Cancer Center's researchers.

We strongly support research and higher education in medicine in Hawaii. The continuation of the Cancer Center is vital to the growth of Hawaii and we hope to continue our philanthropy if the Cancer Center is adequately funded.

**I am writing to express my support for SB 2690.** Cigarette and tobacco use are the leading preventable causes of cancer. Smoking also leads to other health problems and creates a financial burden on our health care system. While the current rate of the excise tax on cigarettes has acted as a disincentive to smoking, many people still continue to smoke. Some people have moved over to cheaper forms of tobacco use such as snuff, loose tobacco, chewing tobacco and roll-your own tobacco. I believe increasing the tax on cigarettes would serve as a further disincentive to tobacco use and decrease the number of people who smoke.

The UH Cancer Center has been an important partner within the healthcare community of the state, and has made a tremendous difference in the lives of many cancer patients and their family.

The ethnic diversity in Hawaii is unlike other populations in other parts of the country. We in Hawaii face different challenges as the types and incidents of cancer as well as mortality rates may not be like those seen in other states. The UH Cancer Center is acutely aware of Hawaii's unique diversity and healthcare needs. Its focus is finding treatment, drugs and protocols that are specific to our community.

Therefore, the additional revenue generated by the increased taxes on cigarettes would benefit the UH Cancer Center and enable it to continue the ground-breaking work it is doing.

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



Aloha from Hawaii'i...

Virginia S. Weinman

President, The Weinman Foundation



Hearing on 2-25-16

**Testimony in Strong Opposition to Senate Bill 2690**

Dear Senate WAM,

The Hawaii Smokers Alliance STRONGLY OPPOSES SB2690 for the following reasons.

1. The tax bill is highly regressive in nature, targeting lower income voters the hardest right before an election.
2. The bill will further encourage the continued development in the local black market in cigarettes, causing further tax revenue declines. The presence of foreign made or non-stamped packs is an increasing common sight now in Hawaii. Most of the black market trade is P2P and all but impossible to stop. The only way to reduce said black market would be to lower tobacco taxes to take away the financial incentive.
3. The bill seeks not to CUT overspending but instead taxes on an already overtaxed product. Such overtaxes are already responsible for the decline in openly taxed sales. To increase the tax further will only increase shortfalls, not solve them.
4. The bill seeks to give more money to the same anti-smoking elements that caused the revenue problem in the first place. The Anti-smoking Lobby's financial foolishness should not be tolerated or worse still rewarded with increased funding.

Sincerely,

Michael Zehner, Co-chair of the Hawaii Smokers Alliance.

808-952-0275. [Hawaiiismokersalliance.net](http://Hawaiiismokersalliance.net)

**From:** [Alaina Cunningham](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:45:52 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents each per cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenues to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Alaina Cunningham  
2370 Nuunanu Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96825



**From:** [Barbara Nosaka](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:54:06 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Barbara Nosaka  
2216 Hoonanea Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [Brienne Lyn Nagamine](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:45:28 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents each per cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenues to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Brienne Lyn Nagamine  
94-1045 Hapapa St  
Waipahu, HI 96716

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Room 211

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT ON SB 2690, SD1**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Charles Miller, and I am a physician in Hawaii specializing in oncology. I have been in practice for over 40 years.

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2690. Cigarettes and other tobacco products are the leading preventable causes of cancer and create an incredible financial burden on our health care system. While the current excise tax on cigarettes has acted as a disincentive to smoking, many of our state residents still continue to smoke. I believe increasing the tax on cigarettes would serve as a further disincentive to tobacco use and decrease the number of people who smoke.

However, I would urge your committee to consider changing the allocation of the additional revenues generated by the excise tax increase to provide a greater share to the University of Hawaii Cancer Center. Out of the twenty-cent increase in excise tax per cigarette/cigar SB 2690 allocates only \$0.01 to the Hawaii cancer research special fund; I believe this allocation should be increased to at least \$0.02 or \$0.03. The Cancer Center is currently woefully underfunded and is an invaluable and irreplaceable resource for our state.

The UH Cancer Center has been an important partner within the healthcare community of the state, and has made a tremendous difference in the lives of many cancer patients and their families. Because of the ethnic diversity in Hawaii we face different challenges as the types and incidents of cancer and cancer mortality rates may not be like those seen in other states. The UH Cancer Center is uniquely suited to study this diversity in healthcare needs. Its focus is finding treatment, drugs and protocols that are specific to our community.

Therefore, the additional revenue generated by the increased taxes on cigarettes would benefit the UH Cancer Center and enable it to continue the ground-breaking work it is doing.

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Charles F Miller, MD, FACP  
Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
State Affiliate Council Representative

**From:** [Christopher La Chica](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:38:57 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenue for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Christopher La Chica  
94-1410 Lanikuhana Ave #436  
Mililani, HI 96789

**From:** [Cyd L. Hoffeld](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:45:10 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenue for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Cyd L. Hoffeld  
RR2 Box 4549  
Kalapana-Pahoa, HI 96778

**From:** [Cynthia P Chow](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:28:55 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenue for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Cynthia P Chow  
46-369 Haiku Road  
D-6  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**From:** [Dale Cole](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:21:21 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenue for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Dale Cole  
Kaanee Place  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

**From:** [Danielle Boyer](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 2:45:41 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents each per cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenues to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Danielle Boyer  
113 Komohana Court #202  
Wahiawa, HI 96786



**From:** [Debbie Apolo](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:00:49 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents each per cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenues to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Debbie Apolo, CTTS

Debbie Apolo  
95-045 Waikalani Drive  
#G104  
Mililani, HI 96789

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Room 211

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2690, SD1**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Diane T. Ono, and I am a member of the Friends of the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center Board of Directors. I have been actively involved with supporting the UH Cancer Center for almost 13 years. As a private citizen, I am a firm believer in cancer research and the important role our University of Hawai'i can and should play in promoting and supporting cancer research here in our state.

The reason I so passionately and completely support the work of the UH Cancer Center is because my daughter was on a clinical trial administered by the Cancer Center from 1997 to 1999. My daughter successfully completed her 2-1/2 years of treatment for acute lymphocytic leukemia, and today she is 23 years old. I know she is one small example of the way the Cancer Center has helped the people of our state.

Cancer research is vital to the needs of the people in our community. The research taking place right here at the UH Cancer Center involves our diverse ethnic population as well as our natural resources. Having a recognized and National Cancer Institute designated cancer research center here in Hawaii is important not only for us, the citizens of our state, but also for the important role that Hawaii can play to contribute to the overall effort of finding better treatments through a deeper and more sophisticated understanding of the complex array of diseases called cancer. If you or your loved one is touched by cancer, I know you would want and expect the best treatment available anywhere to ensure a good outcome. The UH Cancer Center is just that for the people of our state. Clinical trials taking place over many decades along with the research in the laboratory were the key to curing once incurable diseases like my daughter's childhood leukemia. Through clinical trials administered by the UH Cancer Center, our citizens are afforded the ability to receive state of the art treatment at local hospitals here in Hawaii surrounded by family and friends with the support they need.

I am writing to express my support for SB 2690. Cigarette and tobacco use are the leading preventable causes of cancer. Smoking and cigarette use also lead to other health problems creates a financial burden on our health care system. I believe imposing an excise tax on other tobacco products would serve as a further disincentive to tobacco use and decrease the number of people who smoke.

The UH Cancer Center has been an important partner within the healthcare community of the state, and has made a tremendous difference in the lives of many cancer patients and their family.

The ethnic diversity in Hawaii is unlike other populations in other parts of the country. We in Hawaii face different challenges as the types and incidents of cancer as well as mortality rates may not be like those seen in other states. The UH Cancer Center is acutely aware of Hawaii's unique diversity and healthcare needs. Its focus is finding treatment, drugs and protocols that are specific to our community.

Therefore, the additional revenue generated by the taxes imposed on other tobacco products would benefit the UH Cancer Center and enable it to continue the important research it is doing.

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Room 211

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT ON SB 2690, SD1**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Brian Issell. I am a physician scientist specializing in medical oncology and cancer research for over 40 years. I was director of the University of Hawaii Cancer Center when it first achieved National Cancer Center designation in 1996.

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2690. This bill will have a two-fold effect on relieving the cancer burden experienced by Hawaii's people. First, it will reduce cancer's single greatest known cause and second, it will provide critical funding to support the UH Cancer Center's exemplary work towards preventing and treating cancer

Increasing the cost and restricting the use of all tobacco and nicotine containing products is the most effective way to reduce untimely deaths and suffering due to addiction to these products. And allocating revenue from this legislative action to the UH Cancer Center is critical at this time to sustain the Center and its National Cancer Institute support.

Before coming to the UH Cancer Center in 1988, I had led the development of new anti-cancer drugs that had revolutionized the care of patients with several types of advanced cancer. I came to Hawaii because I saw an even greater opportunity to impact the prevention and treatment of cancer through understanding reasons for the remarkable cancer rate differences of Hawaii's diverse ethnic groups and opportunities to discover more effective anti-cancer drugs from Hawaii's unique natural environment. These opportunities, which have been well exploited by Center researchers over past years, are still there to have an extraordinary impact on the global fight against cancer.

The Center's greatest service to Hawaii's people, of which I am most proud, is its contribution to keeping cancer care in our state up to date. The Center provides national clinical trials to Hawaii's cancer care providers and attracts new well trained physician scientists to our islands. National clinical trials guarantee standard best care and exciting new approaches. The people of Hawaii and elsewhere would lose so much if the Center with its continuing National Cancer Center designation was unable to thrive through inadequate financial support.

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Brian F Issell, MD, FACP

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2016

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT ON SB 2690, SD1**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Lori Phillips, and I work at a local nonprofit that works in the field of educational research. The region we serve includes Micronesia. I am also a member of the Friends of the Cancer Board and have been involved with the UH Cancer Center for 8 years. I have been deeply involved with the Micronesian community both in Micronesia and in Hawaii. I also work in the Hawaii DOE Schools and am familiar with the migration of Micronesians to our Hawaii community.

The UH Cancer Center has been an important partner within the healthcare community of the state, and has made a tremendous difference in the lives of many cancer patients and their family. The UH Cancer Center is acutely aware of the Pacific and its unique diversity and healthcare needs. Its focus is finding treatment, drugs and protocols that are specific to our community.

As you know, the UH Cancer Center is a nationally recognized research center. Along with its many research projects much of the center's work focuses on Pacific Islander health, specifically Micronesians. **The following are just some of the research projects that assist in understanding Micronesian health:**

The UH Cancer Center and the University of Guam are collaborating to develop stronger cancer programs aimed at understanding the reasons behind cancer disparities among racial and ethnic minority and socio-economically disadvantaged populations. -The University of Guam and UH Cancer Center Partnership is one of only 13 Comprehensive Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (CPACHE), a program funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The UOG/UHCC Partnership is the only partnership within NCI's CPACHE program that serves Pacific Islanders, specifically Micronesians.

**The \$5.5 million (U54) five-year grant was awarded to the UH Cancer Center and addresses cancer health disparities among Pacific Islanders** in Hawaii, Guam and neighboring U.S. Associated Pacific Island.

Research projects funded for the new 5-year cycle (2015-2020) include a health communications study designed to increase **cervical cancer screening among Micronesian women in Hawai'i and Guam.**

A betel nut intervention in Guam is being initiated. The first of its kind; and **a study to identify molecular components of the Areca (betel) nut that promotes chronic inflammation in the immune system.** Betel nut chewing is practiced by many Pacific Island populations in the Western Pacific region. According to UH Cancer Center

researchers chewing betel nut causes oral lesions and skin changes in the mouth that can lead to the development of esophageal and oral cancers as well as other diseases. **The UH Cancer Center's betel nut research is of global and regional importance as study findings could inform future public health interventions and clinical recommendations for betel nut users in the Pacific region and worldwide.**

Therefore, **I am writing to express my support for SB 2690**

The additional revenue generated by the taxes imposed on tobacco products would benefit the UH Cancer Center and enable it to continue the ground-breaking work.

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Lori Phillips Ed. D.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [earls2@hotmail.com](mailto:earls2@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:17:34 AM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
earl stoner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in favor of this measure.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [fweber@unfi.com](mailto:fweber@unfi.com)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:20:51 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents each per cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenues to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

HI 96740



**From:** [Forrest Batz](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:53:22 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenue for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually.

Increasing the tax on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and other vulnerable groups. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our continuing fight against the damaging effects of tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable members of our community.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Forrest Batz, PharmD

Forrest Batz  
HC3 Box 4730  
Keaau, HI 96749

**From:** [Hau'oli Tomoso](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:19:03 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenue for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW  
51 Ku'ula Street  
Kahului, HI 96732-2906

Hau'oli Tomoso  
51 Ku'ula Street  
Kahului, HI 96732

**From:** [Holly Kessler](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:02:53 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenue for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Holly Kessler  
PO Box 61681  
Honolulu, HI 96839

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2016

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT ON SB 2690, SD1**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

I am Howard Stephenson, retired chairman of the Bank of Hawaii and former chair of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am writing in support of SB 2690, SD1 now before you.

For more than 20 years I have been involved as a member of the board of the Friends of the UH Cancer Center. My interest initially was due to the fact that my wife was a cancer victim and subsequently passed away. I learned from my experience with the Cancer Center that it makes a great contribution to cancer patients in Hawaii and has been responsible for saving many lives here both directly and indirectly. We should be most proud that Hawaii has been recognized as an NCI cancer center, one of the relatively few in the country. It would be a terrible blow to this state and its people if we should lose this tremendous asset.

I hope the legislature will see fit to approve this bill and provide needed support to the UH Cancer Center. None of us knows just when we may need its help.

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Howard Stephenson

**From:** [Inji Kim](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:27:52 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents each per cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenues to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Inji Kim  
810 Richards Street  
Suite 750  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Jaylen Murakami](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:22:45 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Jaylen Murakami  
801 South Street Apt. 2404  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Jerome Lee](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:36:28 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Jerome Lee  
1319 Punohou St  
Honolulu, HI 96826

**From:** [Kanani Kilbey](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:54:57 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kilbey  
53-510 Kamehameha Highway  
Attn: Dr. Bryan Mih, HEALTHY program  
Hauula, HI 96717



**From:** [Kenneth Nakamura](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:33:15 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kenneth Nakamura  
1319 Punahou St  
Honolulu, HI 96826

**From:** [Kevin Cassel](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:19:11 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kevin Cassel  
1054 Green St  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [Kim Swartz](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:25:05 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kim Swartz  
98-1394 Hinu Pl B  
Pearl City, HI 96782

**From:** [Lawrence Denis](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:24:51 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Lawrence Denis  
PO Box 385847  
Waikoloa, HI 96738

**From:** [Lillian McCollum](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:25:10 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Lillian McCollum  
35 S Kuakini St Apt F  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Manuel Navalta](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:34:14 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Manuel Navalta  
601 Kamokila Blvd, Room 360  
Kapolei, HI 96707

**From:** [Marian Melish](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:30:08 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

I am a physician and am well educated about the harms done by tobacco from a scientific standpoint. In addition I am the daughter of two parents who died of tobacco related diseases so I have a profound belief that we should use every proven tool to keep up-coming generations from becoming tobacco addicted and diseased. Raising the tobacco tax is the right thing to do on both medical and economic grounds.

Mahalo,

Marian Melish  
174 N Kalaheo Ave  
Kailua,, HI 96734

**From:** [Mark Levin](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:42:42 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Mark Levin  
2108 Hunnewell St.  
Honolulu, HI 96822



**From:** [May Rose Dela Cruz](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:35:19 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

May Rose Dela Cruz  
894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Michael Kellar](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:31:16 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Michael Kellar  
435 Haleloa Place, Apt. E  
Honolulu, HI 96821

**From:** [Michele Nihipali](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:54:51 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Michele Nihipali  
54-074 Kamehameha Hwy. # A  
54-074 A Kam Hwy  
Hauula, HI 96717

**From:** [Michelle Gray](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:50:45 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Michelle Gray  
430 Lanipua Street  
Honolulu, HI 96825

**From:** [Michelle Kwock](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:34:06 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Michelle Kwock  
814 Kinau #303  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Milette Oliveros](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:12:41 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Milette Oliveros  
1319 Punahou St  
Apt 2308  
Honolulu, HI 96826

**From:** [Nan Pheatt](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:02:25 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenue for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Nan Pheatt  
75-5919 Alii Drive  
N23  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

**From:** [Nicole Kerr](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:33:27 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Nicole Kerr  
520 N. Kalaheo  
Kailua, HI 96734



**From:** [Patricia Blair](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:48:57 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Patricia Blair  
522 Uluhala St.  
Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** [Patricia Fleck](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:32:40 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Fleck

Patricia Fleck  
77-215 Ho'owaiwai Court  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**From:** [Patti Ornellas](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:43:56 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Patti Ornellas  
3343 Kanakolu Street  
Lihue, HI 96766

**The Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**February 25, 2016**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT ON SB 2690, SD1**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee

My name is Penelope Rogers and I am a member of the Friends of the Cancer Board. I have been involved with the UH Cancer Center for more than 10 years. (808) 734-2193, [penrichrogers@juno.com](mailto:penrichrogers@juno.com).

**I strongly support SB 2690, SD1.**

Picture this: You or a family member has just received a cancer diagnosis from the doctor. Shock, fear, helplessness overwhelm you. This scenario is repeated daily all over our islands. No family is immune.

Consider your first call being to the Clinical Trials Office at the UH Cancer Center- (808) 564-5994. It is the central hub for all clinical trials and studies taking place in Hawaii. At present, there are some 120 active clinical trials and studies of new treatments and technologies for adults and children taking place in our state. The Center coordinates the screening, safety, and quality data of trials for partner hospitals and clinics. These trials will impact not just the participants but, like pebbles in a pond, ever widening circles of patients who will benefit. People of Hawaii may well not need to travel elsewhere at great expense and loss of familial support to access potentially life-saving treatments.

The UH Cancer Center founded in 1971, is now headquartered in a premier new building in Kakaako. The Center is National Cancer Institute designated cancer research center, one of only 69 out of more than 1600 cancer centers in the U.S. Its grants ensure us top researchers who are focused on Hawaii's unique racial/ethnic in types, incidence and mortality of cancer. This designation was hard won and prized, bringing millions of dollars into Hawaii and must not be lost. Our unique population has specific needs and weaknesses. For example, Hawaii has one of the highest rates of liver cancer in the nation. Natural products from our own environment can turn into treatments and cures (more than 2,856 natural products are being tested against human tumors) –no other center can make this claim.

Researchers in the Center are working in concert to bring cures to Hawaii and the world. NCI has competitive grants available for that purpose, totaling billions of dollars over the years which can be competed for by only NCI designated centers. Our researchers receive an average of \$20 million in national grants annually, which funds hundreds of jobs, provides training to graduate and undergraduate students, research to discover new products and patents to generate revenue for UH, and conduct public information and symposiums such as on melanoma, liver cancer, and mesothelioma.

In the State of the Union Address, President Obama and Vice president Biden announced a national government focus on curing cancer. How can Hawaii not support our crown jewel in the all-out effort?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**From:** [Rhiana Lau](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:48:59 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Rhiana Lau  
1314 South King Street, Suite 415  
Honolulu, HI 96814

**From:** [Boyd, Manager Richard Boyd](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:25:25 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

**From:** [Ronald Kuriki](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:37:07 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Ronald Kuriki  
1655-C Palolo Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816



**From:** [Sharlene Chun-Lum](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:18:06 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Sharlene Chun-Lum  
894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Stephanie Austin](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 2:46:19 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

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The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Stephanie Austin  
495 Awalau Rd.  
Haiku, HI 96708

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [konaking@live.com](mailto:konaking@live.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 12:25:10 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeff Stevens	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: This proposed tax increase is a slap in the face.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Theresa Richardson](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:01:53 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Theresa Richardson  
P.O.Box 6447  
Oceanview, HI 96737

I am submitting personal testimony on SB2690 based on my research with adolescents in Hawaii, which was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health. I am the interim director for the Cancer Prevention and Control Program in the University of Hawaii Cancer Center. The comments presented here are my personal testimony and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Institutes of Health or the University of Hawaii Cancer Center.

SB2690 would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and would allocate part of the tax to the UH Cancer Center.

**I strongly support this legislation** because our research indicates that use of electronic smoking devices (hereafter, e-cigarettes) is quite prevalent among adolescents in Hawaii. Our publication in the journal Pediatrics reported that 29% of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in six Hawaii high schools have used e-cigarettes at least once and 18% use them regularly. This rate of e-cigarette use by adolescents in Hawaii it is considerably higher than what is found in current studies of adolescents in other areas of the US. Moreover, our study showed that 12% of this sample of adolescents used both e-cigarettes and cigarettes.

In addition to the Pediatrics article, our recent publications in the journal Tobacco Control have provided valuable new knowledge about adolescent smoking. For example we have shown that using e-cigarettes makes adolescents more interested in smoking and that adolescent nonsmokers who use e-cigarettes are more likely to start smoking 1 year later. That is, e-cigarette use increases smoking initiation among adolescents. This has public health implications because a factor that increases adolescent smoking will have negative effects on public health. Our research conducted in Hawaii has shown that e-cigarette use increases smoking uptake and our results have been confirmed by four other studies conducted in different parts of the mainland.

Our findings indicate that more action is necessary to reduce the rate of cigarette smoking among adolescents. Taxation has previously been shown effective for reducing rates of adolescent cigarette smoking. Thus there is a justification for increasing the tax on cigarettes as a means for protecting the health of the people of Hawaii.

Our research, which followed a sample of 2,300 adolescents over time, would not have been possible without the research infrastructure provided by the UH Cancer Center. Our research is funded by Federal grants that we compete for, hence does not cost the State money, but conducting this research requires the kind of scientific environment that is only available through the NCI Cancer Center designation. For these reasons, I request that part of the revenue from the increased excise tax be allocated to the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, to help support the infrastructure that has made our research possible.

Our research programs, in addition to helping to prevent adolescent smoking and increasing scientific visibility for Hawaii, bring money to the Islands that provides jobs for local young people, both students and community residents. Supporting the mission of the UH Cancer Center will help these important activities continue. **I strongly support SB2690** for these reasons.

Thomas A. Wills  
5079 Maunalani Circle  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [Trisha Udani](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:25:44 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Trisha Udani  
91-1039 Papaa St  
Kapolei, HI 96707

**From:** [True Dinson](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:54:51 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

True Dinson  
Walua Road  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**From:** [Tyler Ralston](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:50:41 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Tyler Ralston  
PO Box 10528  
Honolulu, HI 96816



**From:** [Venkataraman Balaraman](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:33:59 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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Mahalo,

Venkataraman Balaraman  
94-1015 Ahiu Place  
Mililani, HI 96789

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**Cc:** [anthony\\_orozco@yahoo.com](mailto:anthony_orozco@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 1:52:27 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This voter says no to this tax increase. Make due with what you've got.

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**Cc:** [neo777@graduate.org](mailto:neo777@graduate.org)  
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**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 7:01:30 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bill Patterson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I kindly ask you to consider lowering the cigarette taxes I have to pay instead. Will remember in November.

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**Cc:** [brianportal808@gmail.com](mailto:brianportal808@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:08:35 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Santiago	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Carl Sobrado, R.N.  
105 Lilioukalani Lane  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 769-1021

24 February 2016

Ways & Means Committee  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Honorable Representatives:

My name is Carl Sobrado, and I am a constituent of Hilo, Hawai'i. I would like to take this opportunity to rise in opposition to SB2690.

I am outraged at my representatives for proposing yet another tax. This tax will impact small businesses that sell tobacco products.

What some of you fail to understand is that these businesses employ real people. These businesses employ real families. Taxes on these small businesses will devastate these families because it will force the owners to reduce hours and cut hiring.

It is so difficult for people to get jobs in this state. This is especially true on the Big Island. Businesses that sell tobacco products gives jobs to people who have children to feed.

Stop taxing us. We are sick of taxes.

Instead, help the job creators. Do your job and help your constituents get jobs, not find ways to tax for government revenue.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Sobrado

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**Cc:** [bubbleheadchad@gmail.com](mailto:bubbleheadchad@gmail.com)  
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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chad Wheeling	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please vote no! Bill 2690 is an insulting money grab from working people.

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To: [WAM Testimony](#)  
Cc: [antonchris10@gmail.com](mailto:antonchris10@gmail.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM  
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 5:56:04 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Anton	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: This tax increase is bad because: 1. They are regressive and disproportionately burden lower- and middle-income people. Not only are lower-income earners more likely to smoke, they also smoke more frequently. They bear more of the tax burden than higher-income earners, in absolute terms and as a percentage of income. 2. They are an unreliable and unsustainable source of revenue and don't structurally fix budget deficits. Many states rely on these revenues to balance their budgets, year in and year out. More than 20 states are considering tax hikes to fill current budget holes. But tobacco tax hikes don't address what's causing the holes in the first place. 3. They are a discriminatory tax on a minority of the population. The smoking public represents only about 18 percent of the population, and there has been a general decline in smoking for decades. Tobacco taxes are part of the "divide and conquer" approach implemented by big-spending legislators who find it easier to tax small groups of the population one at a time to avoid widespread constituency backlash. 4. They hurt local businesses and the overall economy. Hav-A-Tampa cigar closed its factory in Florida and laid off about 495 employees this summer due to the federal excise tax hike on tobacco products signed earlier this year by President Barack Obama. Many people travel outside the state to buy their tobacco products, and they are likely to make other purchases out of state as well, thereby hurting local businesses. 5. They encourage cross-border, black market, and Internet purchases. As tobacco taxes have risen, so has tax evasion. The Mackinac Center reports tax-induced smuggling has become so widespread that it "undermines both the revenue and health goals of higher cigarette taxes, while producing unintended consequences for individual states and American society as a whole." 6. They help keep government spending up. As policymakers adopt new and expanded programs that rely on tobacco tax revenues, other taxes will inevitably go up when the tobacco tax revenues fall short of the programs' funding needs. 7. They kick the real fiscal problems down the road and distract from meaningful spending reforms. Instead of raising taxes on tobacco or anything else, policymakers should consider enacting sensible tax and expenditure limits, reforming the state workforce, and performance auditing. Budget deficits are not a revenue problem, but a spending problem. 8. Smokers are not the only ones harmed by tobacco taxes, which do not prevent further tax hikes. A National Taxpayers Union study found, "Taxpayers face a seven out of 10 chance of seeing another net annual

tax hike within two years of a tobacco tax hike." There is a strong correlation between states that have high tobacco taxes and those that have high overall tax burdens. 9. Tobacco taxes are already high, and states are beginning to experience diminishing returns. According to the Center for Policy Research of New Jersey, the Garden State experienced a net loss of nearly \$24 million in tobacco tax revenue during the two years following a 17.5 cent tax increase. 10. Projections for tobacco tax revenues are frequently over-estimated. Only 16 of the 57 tobacco tax hikes implemented between 2003 and 2007 met or surpassed the projected revenue <https://www.heartland.org/policy-documents/research-commentary-top-ten-reasons-not-raise-tobacco-taxes>

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Cooper	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Wells	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher L. Kahapea	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dallas Nelson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 2:43:25 AM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Devin Wolery	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

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Aloha, I am writing this today to voice my Opposition to SB2690. It has been proven many times that raising the taxes on cigarettes does not decrease the number of smokers. What raising taxes does accomplish, however, is putting an undue tax burden on poor and lower income people in our state. Poor and low income people are disproportionately higher in smoking rates than any other group. They should not be expected to carry additional tax burden in the form of a sin tax. The master tobacco settlement was signed on to by the state of Hawaii and that is where these funds should be coming from, as that is exactly what they were earmarked for. The fact that the revenue from tobacco taxes is declining should be something that is applauded, not a reason to raise taxes to make up for it. These products are already taxed higher than any other product on the market today. There are much more fiscally responsible ways to make up for the decrease in revenue other than expecting your least fortunate citizens to make up for irresponsible spending. Mahalo for your time.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [jason.park1@aol.com](mailto:jason.park1@aol.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 1:54:50 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jason Park	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Chang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jinna Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I believe that having a higher tax on ecigs and products are not going to really help the people who want to quit smoking tobacco. No matter what they will still continue to smoke because they are addicted to the nicotine. What ecigs does is to help people who want to cut out the nicotine to be more cautious of there health. By having a higher tax rate on ecig items you will make it a lot harder for people to quit smoking which will end up them having to make unhealthy life choices.

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**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:54:54 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lani Hernandez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Oshiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The tax burden on me and my family is high enough already. I thought the democrat party always brags about trying to target 1% folks, why are lower income people getting attacked again?

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathy Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Very Strongly Oppose.

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**Cc:** [kawikc@aol.com](mailto:kawikc@aol.com)  
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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
kawika crowley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Hats off to each of you sponsoring this bill...we can always count on each of you to do your part in making our government even more intrusive, excessive, and greedier...no wonder your approval ratings as politicians are just above single digits...kawiks

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**From:** [Marilyn Gagen](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:25:22 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenue for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 2:55:20 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Dietrich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose sb2690. - Mark.

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Owens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The reason the UH "Cancer Center" doesn't have enough money is because the State has overtaxed tobacco. If you guys want more money, you need to increase sales by lowering the cigarette tax instead.

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [michrobins3@myself.com](mailto:michrobins3@myself.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 9:34:25 PM

---

**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Robinson	Individual	Oppose	Yes

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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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [pk.hitest@spamgourmet.com](mailto:pk.hitest@spamgourmet.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:57:33 AM

---

**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
P Kuromoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: These taxes are regressive and unnecessary. And coupled with the intention to classify e-cigarettes as tobacco, it actually encourages people to keep smoking. Terribly policy.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mauimoonflower@gmail.com](mailto:mauimoonflower@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 2:35:00 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sabrina Spencer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [surfmaster008@gmail.com](mailto:surfmaster008@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 1:24:41 PM

---

**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sean Higa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: All this bill will do is expand the cigarette black market in Hawaii even further.

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My name is Steve Miller. I am writing this as a private citizen and I oppose SB2690.

I'm sure you've heard the expression "Be careful what you wish for, you might just get it."

Well congratulations, you've gotten your wish. Smoking rates are as low as they have ever been in Hawaii. The problem is now you are on the downside of the Laffer Curve\* and are stuck with declining tax revenues, a white elephant cancer research center and no clear way to make ends meet. So you're going to go back to the well except it is obvious to all that the well is drying up. A further tax increase on tobacco products will only accelerate the speed at which the well runs dry.

When UH Cancer Center Director Micheal Carbone presented to the UH Board of Regents the plan to build the cancer center, then-Regent Dennis Hirota, asked him, What if people stop smoking cigarettes? How are you going to pay the mortgage and salaries? He got the same question when he presented the proposal to the state Senate. "And I said, if that happens, the regents and the Legislature will have two choices: 1) Close the cancer center; 2) Increase the cigarette tax to make up for reduced revenue. That was true then, and it's true now."

It looks to me like you, the Legislature, failed to properly plan and now you're thinking about option #2. Have you even discussed option #1?

Dispite the 25% bribe to the smoking cessation faction this is not about encouraging more people to quit, this is about raising money. But a tax increase now will mean less revenue, not more. However if you insist on passing this tax increase keep wishing, only next time you will be wishing for a new revenue stream and discussing option #1 because this well will have run dry.

\*In economics, the Laffer curve is a representation of the relationship between rates of taxation and the resulting levels of government revenue.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Teddykim613@yahoo.com](mailto:Teddykim613@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 3:45:28 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teddy Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Aloha, I am writing this today to voice my Opposition to SB2690. It has been proven many times that raising the taxes on cigarettes does not decrease the number of smokers. What raising taxes does accomplish, however, is putting an undue tax burden on poor and lower income people in our state. Poor and low income people are disproportionately higher in smoking rates than any other group. They should not be expected to carry additional tax burden in the form of a sin tax. The master tobacco settlement was signed on to by the state of Hawaii and that is where these funds should be coming from, as that is exactly what they were earmarked for. The fact that the revenue from tobacco taxes is declining should be something that is applauded, not a reason to raise taxes to make up for it. These products are already taxed higher than any other product on the market today. There are much more fiscally responsible ways to make up for the decrease in revenue other than expecting your least fortunate citizens to make up for irresponsible spending. Mahalo for your time.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tinamoore@linuxmail.org](mailto:tinamoore@linuxmail.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 5:02:33 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tina Moore	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This tax hike goes way to far. I'm paying too much already. Vote NO!

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [vinkim@gmail.com](mailto:vinkim@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 3:20:51 PM

---

**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vin Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Taxing a product that helps smokers quit tobacco will make it harder for people who want to quit.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [vtt.grimm@yahoo.com](mailto:vtt.grimm@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 3:47:04 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vinh Tran	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please do not put Ecig as tobacco products, Ecigs do not contain Tobacco or any dangerous chemicals that traditional tobacco cigarettes have, by doing so many vapers who have been using Ecigs as a healthier alternative will have their rights taken away from them. Please make a comment sense decision, and oppose SB 2690, SD1(SSCR2146).

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jjw333333@gmail.com](mailto:jjw333333@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 12:54:07 PM

---

**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jake J. Watkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Alaina Cunningham](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:45:52 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents each per cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenues to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Alaina Cunningham  
2370 Nuunanu Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96825

**From:** [Barbara Nosaka](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:54:06 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Barbara Nosaka  
2216 Hoonanea Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [Brienne Lyn Nagamine](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:45:28 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Brienne Lyn Nagamine  
94-1045 Hapapa St  
Waipahu, HI 96716

**From:** [Christopher La Chica](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:38:57 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Christopher La Chica  
94-1410 Lanikuhana Ave #436  
Mililani, HI 96789



**From:** [Cyd L. Hoffeld](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:45:10 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Cyd L. Hoffeld  
RR2 Box 4549  
Kalapana-Pahoa, HI 96778

**From:** [Cynthia P Chow](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:28:55 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Cynthia P Chow  
46-369 Haiku Road  
D-6  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**From:** [Dale Cole](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:21:21 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Dale Cole  
Kaanee Place  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

**From:** [Danielle Boyer](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 2:45:41 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Danielle Boyer  
113 Komohana Court #202  
Wahiawa, HI 96786

**From:** [Debbie Apolo](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:00:49 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Debbie Apolo, CTTS

Debbie Apolo  
95-045 Waikalani Drive  
#G104  
Mililani, HI 96789

**From:** [fweber@unfi.com](mailto:fweber@unfi.com)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:20:51 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

HI 96740

**From:** [Forrest Batz](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:53:22 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenue for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually.

Increasing the tax on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and other vulnerable groups. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our continuing fight against the damaging effects of tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable members of our community.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Forrest Batz, PharmD

Forrest Batz  
HC3 Box 4730  
Keaau, HI 96749

**From:** [Hau'oli Tomoso](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:19:03 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenue for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW  
51 Ku'ula Street  
Kahului, HI 96732-2906

Hau'oli Tomoso  
51 Ku'ula Street  
Kahului, HI 96732



**From:** [Holly Kessler](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:02:53 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Holly Kessler  
PO Box 61681  
Honolulu, HI 96839

**From:** [Inji Kim](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:27:52 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents each per cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenues to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Inji Kim  
810 Richards Street  
Suite 750  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Jaylen Murakami](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:22:45 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Jaylen Murakami  
801 South Street Apt. 2404  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Jerome Lee](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:36:28 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Jerome Lee  
1319 Punohou St  
Honolulu, HI 96826

**From:** [Kanani Kilbey](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:54:57 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kilbey  
53-510 Kamehameha Highway  
Attn: Dr. Bryan Mih, HEALTHY program  
Hauula, HI 96717

**From:** [Kenneth Nakamura](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:33:15 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kenneth Nakamura  
1319 Punahou St  
Honolulu, HI 96826

**From:** [Kevin Cassel](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:19:11 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kevin Cassel  
1054 Green St  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [Kim Swartz](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:25:05 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kim Swartz  
98-1394 Hinu Pl B  
Pearl City, HI 96782



**From:** [Lawrence Denis](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:24:51 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Lawrence Denis  
PO Box 385847  
Waikoloa, HI 96738

**From:** [Lillian McCollum](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:25:10 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Lillian McCollum  
35 S Kuakini St Apt F  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Manuel Navalta](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:34:14 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Manuel Navalta  
601 Kamokila Blvd, Room 360  
Kapolei, HI 96707

**From:** [Marian Melish](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:30:08 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

I am a physician and am well educated about the harms done by tobacco from a scientific standpoint. In addition I am the daughter of two parents who died of tobacco related diseases so I have a profound belief that we should use every proven tool to keep up-coming generations from becoming tobacco addicted and diseased. Raising the tobacco tax is the right thing to do on both medical and economic grounds.

Mahalo,

Marian Melish  
174 N Kalaheo Ave  
Kailua,, HI 96734

**From:** [Marilyn Gagen](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:25:22 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

**From:** [Mark Levin](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:42:42 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Mark Levin  
2108 Hunnewell St.  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [May Rose Dela Cruz](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:35:19 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

May Rose Dela Cruz  
894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Michael Kellar](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:31:16 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Michael Kellar  
435 Haleloa Place, Apt. E  
Honolulu, HI 96821



**From:** [Michele Nihipali](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:54:51 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents each per cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenues to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

For many years, Hawai'i has led the way in tobacco prevention and control, with the State Legislature championing comprehensive smoke-free laws that protect our workers and residents, as well as our children from the harmful impacts on smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Michele Nihipali  
54-074 Kamehameha Hwy. # A  
54-074 A Kam Hwy  
Hauula, HI 96717

**From:** [Michelle Gray](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:50:45 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents each per cigarette or little cigar sold and earmarks a portion of the revenues to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

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I support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use particularly among teenagers and low-income people. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will earmark a portion of the revenue for tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

I support continuing the fight against big tobacco. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups, such as teenagers. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Michelle Gray  
430 Lanipua Street  
Honolulu, HI 96825

**From:** [Michelle Kwock](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:34:06 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Michelle Kwock  
814 Kinau #303  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Milette Oliveros](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:12:41 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Milette Oliveros  
1319 Punahou St  
Apt 2308  
Honolulu, HI 96826

**From:** [Nan Pheatt](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:02:25 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Nan Pheatt  
75-5919 Alii Drive  
N23  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

**From:** [Nicole Kerr](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:33:27 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Nicole Kerr  
520 N. Kalaheo  
Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** [Patricia Blair](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:48:57 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Patricia Blair  
522 Uluhala St.  
Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** [Patricia Fleck](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:32:40 PM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Fleck

Patricia Fleck  
77-215 Ho'owaiwai Court  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740



**From:** [Patti Ornellas](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:43:56 AM

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Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Patti Ornellas  
3343 Kanakolu Street  
Lihue, HI 96766

**From:** [Rhiana Lau](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:48:59 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Rhiana Lau  
1314 South King Street, Suite 415  
Honolulu, HI 96814

**From:** [Boyd, Manager Richard Boyd](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:25:25 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

**From:** [Ronald Kuriki](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:37:07 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Ronald Kuriki  
1655-C Palolo Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [Sharlene Chun-Lum](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:18:06 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Sharlene Chun-Lum  
894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Stephanie Austin](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 2:46:19 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Stephanie Austin  
495 Awalau Rd.  
Haiku, HI 96708

**From:** [Theresa Richardson](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:01:53 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Theresa Richardson  
P.O.Box 6447  
Oceanview, HI 96737

**From:** [Trisha Udani](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:25:44 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Trisha Udani  
91-1039 Papaa St  
Kapolei, HI 96707



**From:** [True Dinson](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:54:51 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: February 25, 2016 at 9:30am at Capitol Room 211

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

True Dinson  
Walua Road  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**From:** [Tyler Ralston](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:50:41 AM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Tyler Ralston  
PO Box 10528  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [Venkataraman Balaraman](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:33:59 PM

---

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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In spite of our many progressive tobacco prevention and control laws, tobacco use continues to cost our state \$526 million annually. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars will help to decrease use, particularly among teenagers and low-income people. More importantly, the proposed tax increase will allocate two cents towards tobacco control and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking.

Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and I believe that this bill is an important strategy in our fight against tobacco use. A failure to increase taxes on tobacco products will continue to encourage tobacco companies to aggressively market their products and target vulnerable groups.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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