

From: [Bryan Mih](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:34:56 PM

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

Re: 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

As a pediatrician in Honolulu and medical director of the HEALTHY Quit Smoking Program, 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.

I care for many children that suffer from secondhand smoke and urge you to consider the adverse health effects from tobacco use. 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. Raising the prices of tobacco products helps deter the initiation of tobacco use, especially for young people, who are more sensitive to increased prices of these products.

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. As the medical director of the HEALTHY Quit Smoking Program, I have seen the positive outcomes from cessation efforts.

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.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP
Pediatrician

Bryan Mih
1944 Naniu Pl
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Cynthia Ho](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 5:11:33 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 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,

Cynthia Ho
69-1671 Puako Beach Dr.
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: [Dawn Pung](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:00:57 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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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,

Dawn Pung
645 Ainako Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Francis Wong](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 5:10:05 AM

Date: February 23, 2016

To: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
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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,

Francis Wong
3522 Ala Aloalo Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Helen B](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 1:35:15 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,

Helen B
PO Box 822
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [Jeyci Kaili](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:30:17 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,

Jeyci Kaili
456 Makani Circle
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Koa Robinson](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 10:35:51 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,

Koa Robinson
701 Ilalo Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Laura Guluzzy](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:38:01 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,

Laura Guluzzy
75-202 Malulani Drive
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: [Lorrie Ann Santos](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:08:34 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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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,

Lorrie Ann Santos
45-415 Lolii Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Nora Usita, RN](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:30:21 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

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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,

Nora Usita, RN
170 Aikane circle
Hilo, HI 96720

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: justin@pcgamerzhawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 4:18:45 PM

SB2690

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

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

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

Comments: I oppose any tax increase on the already absurdly overtaxed tobacco products - these have been proven to be ineffective at getting people to stop smoking and disproportionately punish the lower and middle class.

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

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: michiejohns@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 10:17:27 PM

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
Michelle Johnston	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I greatly oppose the idea of taxing nicotine, "e cigarettes", Vaping devices, Vaping accessories, batteries and anything associated with Vaping. I am a small business owner. I own a "Vape Shop" in Kailua-Kona. I got into the business for the purpose of helping others quit smoking in a way that will be successful. Nicotine is not tobacco. To tax it as such is wrong. Vaping is not smoking. To treat it as such is wrong. There is no combustion in Vaping. Nicotine has never been found to cause cancer. Nicotine is a stimulant similar to caffeine. Customers of Hawaii come to my shop because we educate them on safety of Vaping and let them know what is best for beginners to advance Vapers. In this new age the internet can be very easily accessible to anyone in search of buying vape. There isn't someone to educate them on the purchase they are thinking of. There isn't someone checking your ID to see if you are of legal purchasing age. This is why brick and mortar sales are so important. With the change in age law that recently passed we have had to turn away many Vapers whom are legal adults. We card! We up hold the laws of Hawaii! These 18-20 year olds turn to the internet to make their purchases because they can. The age law did not help adults not Vape. It drove revenue away from local businesses that collect GET to the internet. This tax law will make it even worse. My sales will be reduced even further now simply because the tax is senseless "sin tax" that increases the price to a place that no one is willing to pay. I will loose my local brick and mortar sales that collects GET to the internet which doesn't support local business and doesn't collect GET. The state will effectively accomplish nothing positive by taxing nicotine and "Vaping products". It will however successfully turn Vapers to the internet where they will continue to purchase vape products and pay absolutely no tax at all to the State of Hawaii. I had been a smoker for more than 20 Years. I tried quitting many times unsuccessfully. I had been sick and developed bronchitis and other respiratory problems. I have been Vaping for two years. I no longer have any bronchitis or respiratory problems. I don't even get sick but once a year if it's a very bad flu. Vaping has helped me and my family personally and this is the reason I chose to open a store and help others. I do plenty of research on my products before I decide to sell them. I only carry quality e liquids and products. I teach every customer safety and make sure they understand the device they chose to purchase. I keep prices low which in turns keeps my competitors prices low. I pay plenty of taxes! Please I beg you to take into account whom you hurt with the laws

you make. You are not helping anyone by taxing the already taxed products I sell. I am a voter. I am a mother. I am a wife. I am a sister. I am a daughter. I am whom you will hurt with this senseless sin tax. Who will you help with this tax? The General Fund? GET already does that. Aloha and Mahalo for you time. Michelle Johnston
Owner of Sub Ohm Vapes LLC Kailua-Kona, HI

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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