

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2690 SD2

RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

REPRESENTATIVE, DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 23, 2016

Room Number: 309

1 **Fiscal Implications:** SB2690 SD2 proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little
2 cigars sold on or after July 1, 2016 to an unknown amount per cigarette or little cigar. The
3 increased taxes collected will be designated to various funds, including the Hawaii Cancer
4 Research Special Fund and the Department of Health, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health
5 Promotion Division (CDPHPD) for smoking cessation programs and education in Hawaii.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports SB2690 SD2 but recommends that the
7 amounts allocated for the special funds be retained at their current level and supports the
8 increased allocation to the Hawaii Cancer Research Special Fund proposed in SD1. The DOH
9 also recommends changing the tax revenue disposition from the DOH CDPHPD to the Hawaii
10 Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund, since there is a nexus for increased focus on
11 improving the health equity for populations that still experience higher smoking rates in Hawaii.
12 Funding would be used to enhance prevention campaigns, enforce recently enacted tobacco laws,
13 and reduce tobacco disparities. The DOH defers to the Department of Taxation on matters
14 relating to taxation and administration.

15 Tobacco use continues to be the single most preventable cause of disease, disability, and
16 death in the United States and in Hawaii.¹ Despite the successful enactment of smoke-free
17 workplace and public place laws and other strong tobacco control policies that protect Hawaii's

¹ 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 people and communities, there is evidence that smoking continues to exact an enormous health
2 toll and is a significant economic burden for Hawaii: “Health effects associated with smoking
3 include heart disease, cancer, pulmonary disease, adverse reproductive outcomes, and the
4 exacerbation of multiple chronic health conditions.”² Smoking claims 1,400 adult lives each
5 year and contributes to 21,000 premature deaths from tobacco among youth under 18. It adds
6 \$526 million in annual health care expenditures and \$387.3 million in lost productivity costs to
7 the State.³

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

13 Increasing the excise taxes on tobacco products is part of overall comprehensive public
14 health approach to tobacco control to prevent initiation of youth smokers and promote cessation
15 among current smokers. Such an increase can produce significant long-term improvements in
16 health, and make further progress towards a Hawaii that is free from the burden of tobacco.
17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

18 **Offered Amendment:** The Department recommends revising the revenue dispositions under
19 Section 3, sub-paragraph E, Page 13, Lines 15-19 of this measure to read, “[___] cents per
20 cigarette shall be deposited to the credit of the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust
21 Fund, for tobacco prevention and control, as described in §328L-5(c), HRS.”

² *Ibid.*

³ Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. 2015, https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/hawaii, accessed 2/3/2016

⁴ 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

⁵ *Ibid.*



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
March 23, 2016 at 9:45 a.m.

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 SD2 – RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, 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.

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

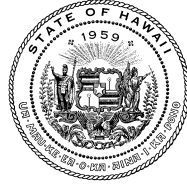
bill will allow the UH Cancer Center to continue to provide new knowledge about prevention of adolescent smoking, continue to provide innovative clinical trials in Hawai'i to help prevent and treat cancer, and continue its research into natural products from organisms found only in Hawai'i that may be 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
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MARIA E. ZIELINSKI
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

JOSEPH K. KIM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Health

Date: March 23, 2016

Time: 9:45 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

From: Maria E. Zielinski, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. 2690, S.D. 2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments on S.B. 2690, S.D. 2, for your consideration.

S.B. 2690, S.D.2, amends the Cigarette and Tobacco Tax Law by changing the tax on cigarettes and little cigars from \$0.16 per cigarette or little cigar to an unspecified amount. S.B. 2690, S.D. 2, also amends the allocation of tax collected on cigarettes and little cigars. This measure has a defective effective date of July 1, 2050, but if the original effective date were inserted, this measure would apply to cigarettes and little cigars sold on or after July 1, 2016.

If the Legislature wishes to adopt this measure, the Department requests that the change in tax imposition be effective no earlier than January 1, 2017, to provide the Department sufficient time to make changes to the tax stamps, forms, instructions and the computer system.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Richard Creagan, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD 2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Conference Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars, 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 urge you to pass SB 2690, SD 2. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,



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



Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health

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

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Conference Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2690, SD2, which proposes to increase the tobacco tax on cigarettes and little cigars 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.

The Coalition supports increasing the tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per stick.

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 programs¹. In its current version, SB2690, SD2 the proposed increased tax for each cigarette or little cigar sold is blank. We support the original language of the bill proposing a four cent increase per stick, and that a portion of the proposed revenue be allocated to the Department of Health for tobacco cessation programs and education. The current draft also blanks out appropriations to various funds and the Coalition respectfully requests that a portion of the revenue from cigarette and little cigars continue to be allocated towards these funds.

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

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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 yearⁱⁱ. **There has not been an increase in taxes on cigarettes and little cigars for the last 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 smokingⁱⁱⁱ. 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, SD2 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

ⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱ Coalition for Tobacco-Free Kids. "The Toll of Tobacco in Hawai'i" 25 Sept 2015.

https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/hawaii

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

March 23, 2016 at 9:45 am
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President -- Government Relations and Community Affairs

Re: Testimony in Support, SB 2690 SD2 – Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations and Community Affairs for Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

HPH is writing in **support** of SB 2690, SD2 which increases the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars, and allocates a portion of the revenue to the Department of Health's chronic disease prevention and health promotion division and the University of Hawaii Cancer Center.

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. Increasing the tax on cigarettes would serve as a further disincentive to tobacco use and decrease the number of people who smoke. This increase is long overdue as the tax rate has not been raised in five (5) years.

The UH Cancer Center, an NCI-designated 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. It is a consortium cancer center, representing the unified basic, translational and clinical cancer research effort benefiting all the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Rim. HPH as well as the other major hospitals here are part of the consortium. Together we work toward reducing the burden of cancer through research and clinical trials.

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 on the mainland. 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.



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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The House Committee on Health
March 23, 2016
9:45 a.m.
Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2690, SD2

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, 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 Hawai'i...

Virginia S. Weinman
President, The Weinman Foundation



Testimony in SUPPORT of the intent of SB 2690, SD2 “Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes”

The American Heart Association strongly supports the intent of SB 2690, SD2.

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 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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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 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 prevention 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.

A coalition of health and community organizations recently completed updating Hawaii's Tobacco Prevention and Control Strategic Plan. The updated plan calls for an increased focus on efforts to reduce disparities in tobacco use in our state. Those disparities exist especially in the Native Hawaiian, lower socioeconomic, LGBT and mental health disease populations. Therefore **the AHA recommends that the tobacco tax be increased by 4-cents per stick, and that half of the newly-generated tax revenue be allocated to the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Special Fund and earmarked specifically to be used to address tobacco use disparities in those population groups.**

The American Heart Association urges your support of SB 2690, SD2 with the recommended amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations Director

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diseases and stroke."*

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DISCUSSION DRAFT

1

SOCIOPOLITICAL STRATEGY (Draft 1/21/86)

CRITICAL ISSUES

TP Cigarette sales are dropping in the U.S. Cigarette volume is affected by two variables: the number of people who smoke (incidence) and the number of cigarettes they smoke (consumption). Incidence is affected largely by the health-risk and social acceptability perceptions associated with smoking; consumption largely by the retail price of cigarettes. Variables affecting incidence and consumption are not necessarily distinct. A tax increase might reduce consumption and lower incidence among young adult smokers. A smoking restriction law might decrease incidence by making smoking less socially acceptable and lower consumption by reducing the number of smoking-opportunity hours. The convergence of the variables effecting incidence and consumption has been most pronounced in the past five years. Where in the past concern for one's own health seems to have lowered incidence, recently concern for self-image among peer group (social acceptability) and authoritative restrictions on smoking have driven incidence and consumption down. The combination of these variables has reduced the incidence of cigarette smoking from 39 percent of all adult in 1974 to 33 percent in 1984. This decline is especially pronounced in our key young adult market. The number of cigarettes smoked has also dropped by about one per day in recent years.

As we stated in last year's plan, PM-USA's strategic objective is to maximize industry volume by aggressively blunting attacks from anti-smoker advocates and improving public perceptions of smoking. PM-USA now has underway several major programs to influence political decision-makers, smokers and non-smokers and the mass media. The major challenges of the plan period remain:

- Social ostracism of smokers and inhibitions about when and where to smoke due to health-risk perceptions, effective lobbying by anti-smoking groups, restrictive smoking policies (public and private), and biased media coverage.
- Restrictions on the type of cigarettes sold how they are sold, and where they are sold, including advertising bans, sampling restrictions, increases in legal age and "self-extinguishing" cigarette bills.
- Pressure for higher excise taxes by federal, state and local governments.
- State legislation on product liability which weakens our ability to defend ourselves in litigation.

next page } Social Ostracism

Social ostracism remains a serious challenge. Surveys demonstrate a hardening of attitudes against smoking, a growing number of smokers who feel uncomfortable about smoking around others, and continued social pressure to

DISCUSSION DRAFT

quit. State and local restrictive legislation show a similar adverse trend. Both of these measures point to continued social intolerance toward smokers.

ATTITUDES TOWARD SMOKING *

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
Segregate Smokers/Non-Smokers in Eating Places	73%	84%	90%	---
Segregate Smokers/Non-Smokers in Work Places	61%	65%	68%	---
Ambient Smoke Probably Hazardous to Non-Smokers	58%	65%	68%	63%
Smokers Frequently Uncomfortable Smoking Around Others	13%	14%	18%	34%

* 1978-84 data from Roper Survey, 1985 from TSI survey. Variations may be result of question structure.

SMOKING RESTRICTIONS BILLS (State and Local)

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
Debated	158	155	165	207	228	182
Enacted	32	45	44	67	66	49

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✓ While the effects of intolerance are difficult to quantify, one way to look at the effects is the smoking opportunity index below.

WEEKDAY SMOKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR A HYPOTHETICAL SMOKER

TIME	ACTIVITY	SMOKING OPPORTUNITY
7:00 a.m.	wake-up, shower	no
7:30	dress	no
8:00	breakfast	yes
8:30	commute	yes (unless banned in public transport)
9:00	work	yes (unless restricted in workplace)
10:30	coffee break	yes (unless restricted in workplace)
10:45	work	yes (unless restricted in workplace)
12:30 p.m.	lunch	yes (unless restricted in restaurants)
1:30	back to work	yes (unless restricted in workplace)
2:30	coffee break	yes (unless restricted in workplace)
2:45	back to work	yes (unless restricted in workplace)
5:30	commute	yes (unless restricted in public transport)
6:00	dinner	no
6:30	home	yes
7:30-11:00	entertainment	yes (unless restricted in theater or sports arena)
11:00-7 a.m.	sleep	no

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✓ In total, the office worker who smokes has roughly 15 hours available to smoke during a weekday. A comprehensive smoking restriction law, such as in Minnesota, could reduce this to fewer than 7 hours. Any evening activity such as a movie, play, or indoor ballgame might further reduce a smoker's smoking opportunities, depending on the applicable restriction. Each restriction on smoking, whether by government or business, reduces the time available to a smoker to smoke. A comprehensive smoking restriction could reduce the smoking opportunity time by 50%. Moreover, perceived social pressure could reduce smoking regardless of the legal situation.

The most serious single threat in this area is proposed Federal legislation to ban or restrict smoking in all federal buildings. If enacted, this proposal would effect the largest work force in the country and set a precedent for all governments and businesses to restrict smoking.

Restrictive smoking legislation at the state and local level is also a major industry problem. Local restrictions will continue to outpace state legislative consideration of smoking restrictions. The shift to the local level is due to better organization of local anti-smoking groups and the industry's strength at the state level. Surgeon General Koop and anti-smoking advocates have targeted the private workplace as a major battleground. Only by working with major business groups to make them aware of the costs of smoking restrictions and, where necessary, by providing technical assistance to businesses interested in establishing voluntary workplace policies can we blunt this effort.

Most state and local proposals are very onerous when first proposed. Despite the fact that we are often able to change the final product to minimize the penalties and restrictions, some state and local governments hold a mind set that "something must pass," not "do we need this type of legislation." Moreover, the legislative battles over each smoking bill generate media attention. Although the final law may contain few actual restrictions, the public perceives that smoking has been banned or greatly restricted by law and this perception reinforces the trend in business that smokers should be segregated.

Market Restrictions

The most serious challenge we will face in this area for the remainder of the decade is the American Medical Association's call for banning all cigarette promotional advertising, changing the legal age for cigarette purchases to 21, and ending vending machine sales. We anticipate legislation to effect these ends will be introduced in plan period. Federal legislation has already been introduced to prohibit cigarette manufacturers from claiming advertising expenditures as a business expense. Various regulatory bodies such as the Federal Trade Commission will also be lobbied by anti-smoker groups to restrict our ability to advertise our products.

Other market restrictions stem largely from bans on sampling, efforts to restrict outdoor advertising by punitive taxation, refusals of public authorities to accept such ads and the movement to ban stadium signs. Since 1980, nine such restrictions have been enacted, the most serious of which

prohibit sampling in Boston and Minneapolis-St. Paul and prohibit cigarette ads on public transportation in Denver.

The 30 month federal study of the "self-extinguishing cigarettes" reduced state legislative activity in this area, but the issue will resurface in 1987 and could result in federal or state cigarette-burn standards, or a new warning label on the product.

In 1985, PM-USA changed laws in the five remaining jurisdictions (New York, New Jersey, Montana, Nevada and the District of Columbia) where the excise tax structure prevented marketing a 25-pack. The 25-pack is now available nationwide. In addition, PM-USA still seeks legislative or administrative redress in states and localities that restrict sample-pack size or fail to provide proper stamps for 25-pack cartons.

Excise Taxation

Since the 16¢ federal excise tax has been made permanent, we anticipate a restoration of some tax stability to cigarette market. State tax increases should be moderate, but we do anticipate some large (8¢ per 20-pack) increases in 1986 as a residue of the 8¢ FET debate. In 1985, the aggregate tax burden on cigarette rose by 3 percent and breaks out as follows:

	1985 <u>Cents per 20-pack</u>	1984 <u>Cents per 20-pack</u>
Federal excise	16.0¢	16.0¢
State excise	16.2¢	15.3¢
Local excise	0.7¢	0.6¢
State/local sales tax	<u>4.5¢</u>	<u>4.1¢</u>
 Total tax	 37.4¢	 36.0¢
% of Retail price	35.6%	38.3%

Apart from the sunset effects, states still impose specific taxes and increase them incrementally 4-5¢ per pack. This increase represents less than 5 percent of the average retail price. Consequently, the aggregate tax burden on cigarettes (federal, state and local) should continue to grow at a rate below inflation and continue to decline as a percent of retail price (see chart).

A critical element to maintaining a stable or declining tax incidence on cigarettes is to prevent any significant move toward ad valorem excise taxation. Although there have been some minor state and local attempts to move in this direction, Hawaii remains the sole U.S. state or locality with an EEC-level ad valorem excise tax. Of concern in this regard is the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Affairs' (ACIR) report recommending that states adopt ad valorem cigarette excise taxes. ACIR is comprised of elected and appointed officials from all levels of government and its recommendations gain wide attention.

PRODUCT LIABILITY

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In 1985, the industry saw the introduction of almost identical bills in Illinois and Wisconsin that would establish a presumption of cigarette manufacturer liability for wrongful death if an individual smoked for a cumulative period of 10 years, and 10 percent of the cigarettes smoked were attributable to a particular cigarette manufacturer, and the individual developed lung cancer or emphysema after the 10 year period. Although both bills have not made it out of committee, we expect product liability legislation to be the new wave of anti-tobacco state legislation in the plan period. Already, research in this area is being conducted by the California State Senate Research Office using the Illinois bill as an example.

The increased public awareness of cigarette liability litigation will intensify pressure at the state level for product liability legislation. County and local governments are often unable to obtain insurance policies for liability coverage or cover disability claims by employees. The Illinois and Wisconsin bills both have subrogation clauses that allow governments to collect for reimbursements they made to victims and families through health care systems. The potential of large damages from cigarette liability suits and possible distribution of these monies to county and city governments will encourage proliferation of this type of legislation. Although the American Medical Association has opposed product liability suits as an inappropriate way to shape public policy, trial lawyers are particularly supportive of this legislation and will be formidable opposition.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS STRATEGIES

In last year's plan, PM-USA reported that the anti-tobacco threat had escalated to "menacing proportions" and we would confront it head on with our own counter-initiatives. The plan we described was not one of simply blindly striking back when faced with the attacks by anti-smoker forces, but to mobilize smokers to act in our and their own behalf. We are well along in the execution of this plan.

To combat the well-organized, well-funded anti-smoker movement in this country and abroad, we have put into place programs that target the following groups whose decisions and actions ultimately determine the long term viability of our marketplace and product:

- Political decision-makers,
- Smokers, business allies and others potentially sympathetic to our aims, and
- The mass media.

Political Decision-Makers

PM-USA is taking actions to improve its ability to participate directly in the political process. To influence federal, state and local politicians, a regional public affairs network has been established to monitor and combat

legislation (in conjunction with the Tobacco Institute) unfavorable to PM-USA interests and coordinate our activity with the field sales force and other allies. State political action committees have been created to make contributions to key political decision-makers in states where direct corporate contributions are not permitted. At the federal level, the revised tobacco program should improve farmer-manufacture relations and strengthen our political base in Congress. We plan to rebuild our relationship with the agricultural community through an active outreach program. We also intend to develop business briefings in the New York headquarters for key legislators during which they will meet senior management and be informed about the cigarette business. We believe these briefings will lessen the bias that clouds our issues.

Smokers and Other Potential Allies

Direct lobbying alone cannot stop the anti-smoking movement or influence an indifferent public and media that tolerate fanatical anti-smoking activities. To enlist public support, PM-USA has begun a comprehensive program of identification, education, recruitment, communication and mobilization to reach out to the smoking and non-smoking public. This program has three goals:

- Secure the freedom to smoke without fear of legal harassment or social ostracism.
- Make the public aware that PM-USA and the industry have a valid and reasonable case on the smoking issue.
- Put anti-smoking groups on the defensive.

Specifically, the constituency development program will target:

- Smokers in PM-USA's direct marketing data base.
- Consumers who communicate directly with PM-USA.
- Retailers who sell and profit from tobacco products.
- Organizations that support or have reason to support the industry.
- Smokers and non-smokers identified through special political mobilizations.

Our principal source for our mass mobilization will be the direct marketing data base which we are working with the Philip Morris U.S.A. Marketing Department to build. The data base will eventually include perhaps half of the 55 million smokers in the U.S. with whom we will communicate in one way or another as we go forward.

As we gather these names, they are entered into our computerized political mobilization system to identify voting districts and elected representatives. When political threats arise, advanced mobilization techniques (described

below) are utilized to encourage these groups to communicate with political decision-makers.

Once these potential allies are identified, they will participate in a comprehensive communication program on smoking issues designed to appeal to the concerns of each group. The most visible communication vehicle is Philip Morris Magazine. It is designed to present PM-USA's point of view on smoking issues in a calm, rational manner devoid of the hyperbole and histrionics of the anti-smokers. The first issue came out in summer 1985 with circulation reaching 650,000 in the most recent issue. It was well received by the media and especially by smokers, while subject to criticism by the anti-smokers. We project significant circulation growth:

Year	Circulation by year's end
1986	1,000,000
1987	5,000,000
1988	7,000,000
1989	10,000,000
1990	12,000,000

By 1990, Philip Morris Magazine will be the largest periodical of its kind in the U.S.

Another activity that is designed to both identify and educate smokers is the Multifilter issues coupon. Beginning in November 1985, we placed a coupon describing the principal issues involving smokers on all packs of Multifilter. To date we have received nearly 4,000 responses, convincing us more than ever that we are reaching smokers who can be mobilized to work in our behalf. The Multifilter smoker who fills out the coupon receives a variety of issue material, most of which has been prepared by The Tobacco Institute. They also receive Philip Morris Magazine. We plan to expand this program to other brands, judiciously and without threat to brand image or sales.

We also solicit allies through select advertisements in newspapers. For example, the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company in Hartford banned smoking among its workers. We took political exception to their action in an open letter in The Hartford Courant to Connecticut Mutual employees and to the citizens of the Hartford area, that presented an alternative view. Although Connecticut Mutual did not reverse their smoking ban, received requests for Philip Morris Magazine from hundreds of readers many of whom are employees of Connecticut Mutual. We ran a similar advertisement in Kansas to generate public debate over an arbitrary administrative decision to ban smoking in a state agency. Again, the response was favorable.

Mass Media

The mass media, like political decision-makers, require a special program to achieve a more balanced presentation of positions in the media. The target audience is the print and broadcast editors, who influence the general public. For the print media, PM-USA has created a comprehensive monitoring system to

track articles and editorials on smoking in daily newspapers and periodicals throughout the U.S. This system allows PM-USA to detect emerging issues and unbalanced reporting in order to respond accordingly. Responses include:

- Rebuttal pieces.
- Letters to the editor from allies.
- Meetings with editorial boards.
- Special press briefings.
- Cultivation of editors and journalists through special events.

In addition to redressing media imbalances, our comprehensive communication program generates media articles and academic pieces on the negative effects of excise taxation, the suppression of research questioning the adverse health-effects of cigarette use, the social engineering fanaticism of anti-smoking groups and the rights of smokers. As noted above, advocacy advertising is also used as a way to communicate PM-USA's side of the issues.

Prototype Mass Mobilization

The last sections have dealt with the identification and education elements of PM-USA's strategy. To demonstrate a mass political mobilization, we review our experience with "Operation Apodosis," our grass roots lobbying effort to keep the cigarette excise tax at 16¢ per 20-pack. The strategy created enormous public pressure on key congressmen for the tax to "sunset" to its original 8¢. Although prospects of an actual sunset were remote, PM-USA had to force the congressional debate to be between 8¢ and 16¢ not between 16¢ and a 40¢ tax proposed by anti-tobacco congressmen.

The mobilization effort used geodemographic clustering—a demographic technique that permits us to speak to smokers and non-smokers geographically, demographically, and attitudinally by breaking down the 250,000 census block groups nationwide into 40 clusters through a factor analysis best summed up with the cliché, "birds of a feather flock together." The results were a deluge of mail to Congress. The President of PM-USA sent a personal letter to 95,000 local business leaders which was followed up by a Western Union letter and a telephone call to the secretary of the individual. All of the communications described the negative effects of excise taxes on business in general. Of the 95,000 persons contacted, fully 51 percent or 48,000 sent a letter to the Congress. In another category, the populist cluster, the results were even better. 80,000 populists received a brochure outlining the issue that focused on their anti-government and anti-tax attitudes, followed by a Western Union letter from the President of PM-USA, followed by a telephone call to ask if their name could be used on a mailgram to their congressman—55 percent, or 44,000 persons agreed. The number of responses was higher among employees, their friends and relatives, retailers and suppliers. In all Operation Apodosis generated 138,100 pieces of mail to the two tax-writing committees of the U.S. Congress. (See chart below). This process is the model PM-USA will use in dealing with serious political threats during the plan period.

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The AMA's Challenge

In December 1985 the American Medical Association resolved to ban the advertising and promotion of cigarettes, to raise the minimum age for tobacco purchase to 21 and to prohibit vending machine sales of cigarettes. These three resolutions strike at the core of PM-USA's business. • The elimination of advertising would channel competition into the couponing-price-value area, where we are not yet competitive, into direct marketing, where RJR has a significant lead, and into the retail environment, where RJR is dominant.

- Raising the legal minimum age for cigarette purchaser to 21 could gut our key young adult market (17-20) where we sell about 25 billion cigarettes and enjoy a 70 percent market share. If we completely lost this market segment, it would significantly reduce our present market share advantage over RJR and cause nearly a \$400 million drop in marginal contribution. Moreover 66 percent of all smokers begin smoking at or before age 18, 80 percent begin before age 21. • Finally, banning vending machines would affect 8 percent of our market (5.4 percent of total industry market)--especially the young adult segment who so often purchase by the pack.

We regard the AMA's action as a seminal event analogous to the 1981 Hirayama Study on the health-effects of "passive smoking". Just as the Hirayama Study sparked a surge in media coverage of the "passive smoking" issue, helped to harden public support for segregating smokers and non-smokers, ignited hundreds of legislative and business proposals to restrict smoking, and made "passive smoking" issue the issue in 1980s, we believe the the AMA resolutions will, unless immediate and forceful counter action is taken, make advertising and marketing restrictions the issue over the next five years. Indeed, within days of the AMA's resolutions federal legislation to prohibit any tax deduction for cigarette advertising expenditures was introduced as was legislation to ban cigarette advertising in Nebraska. Even if these outright bans are defeated, legislators looking for "compromise" might well settle on raising the legal age to 21, severely restricting vending sales, prohibiting outdoor advertising of cigarettes, or banning all sampling.

To confront this very serious threat, we have developed a multifaceted plan to mobilize the support of businesses, government officials and the general public. In essence we will:

1. Define the AMA's resolutions in the public's mind as repugnant to the First Amendment and the U.S. tradition of free speech by generating media articles, conferences and other activities to draw public sympathy to our side of the issue.
2. Build a coalition of non-tobacco businesses, using the Apodosis proto-type, especially advertising firms and print media, which will solidly oppose the AMA's resolutions in political and public arenas because of their effect on livelihoods and values of this coalition.

3. Create a force of lobbyists nationwide to insure through quiet persuasion that none of the AMA's resolutions become law anywhere--especially the 21 year old minimum age and vending machine ban.

We intend to see the AMA's proposals die an unquiet death.

OBJECTIVES FOR PLAN PERIOD

In last year's ^Plan PM-USA identified seven objectives for the plan period; they remain our objectives:

- Stop the growth of public intolerance toward smoking and the social discomfort of smokers enjoying tobacco products in public.
- Keep the growth of aggregate cigarette excise taxes below the inflation rate and a declining share of retail product price.
- Improve media coverage of smoking issues as measured by the media "objectivity index."
- Prevent further marketing restrictions, especially advertising or sampling bans, and remove existing bans of significance through legislation or litigation.
- Slow the increase in legal restrictions on smoking from its current pace of 60+ new laws annually, and reverse select bans to put our opponents on the defensive.
- Forestall any state or local legislation on "self-extinguishing" cigarettes and allow the federal study group to direct appropriate product and/or labelling action, if any, in order to avoid conflicting requirements within the U.S. market.
- Remove any legal restriction on pack-size for sampling our products.

An addition of a new objective, no less important than the rest, illustrates the rapidly changing political threats we face:

- Prevent any legislation from weakening our ability to defend ourselves in product liability litigation.

Insofar as we achieve these objectives, we hope to slow the decline in volume and incidence.

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HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

March 23, 2016

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

Re: SB 2690, SD2 – Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 2690, SD2, which proposes to increase the excise tax on tobacco products, the revenue from which is to be used for cancer research and smoking cessation programs. HMSA supports this Bill.

HMSA believes that preventive health is critical to our efforts to create an efficient and effective health care system. This Bill is a reflection of that. U.S. employers—and their employees—pick up the tab for a significant portion of health care costs, the largest portion of which is associated with potentially modifiable lifestyle-related chronic illnesses (e.g., smoking, obesity, diabetes). To address this, employers and health plans have developed an intense interest in implementing results-oriented wellness programs in the workplace and in the community in general. A key part of that wellness doctrine includes smoking prevention and cessation programs.

The Affordable Care Act mandates coverage, at no cost, for preventive services, including smoking cessation services, delineated by the United States Preventive Services Task Force. HMSA provides a full-range of services to members to assist them with their goal to quit smoking. In addition to providing resources for smoking cessation programs, SB 2690, SD2, will deter individuals from smoking and having to utilize these services in the first place.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony on SB2690, SD2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark K. Oto'.

Mark K. Oto
Director, Government Relations



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817
808.432.9149
www.acscan.org

House Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

SB 2690, SD2 – 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 testimony 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 testimony on this measure.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Health
Paula Yoshioka

From: Paula Yoshioka, Senior Vice President, The Queen's Health Systems
Date: March 22, 2016
Hrg: House Committee on Health Hearing; Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 9:45am, Room 329

Re: **Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes**

My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's). I would like to express my **support for the intent** of SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes. This bill increases the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars sold on or after July 1, 2016.

Queen's supports the intent of this legislation to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars. Revenue collected from this excise tax currently goes towards supporting cancer research, community health centers, emergency medical services, and the trauma system. The trauma system special fund allows the state and local hospitals to maintain and build upon the specialized services needed to treat trauma patients in Hawaii.

The Queen's Medical Center is the only American College of Surgeons (ACS) verified Level 2 trauma center in the state, providing services to close to 2,700 patients a year. Trauma services provided at Queen's include 24/7 on-call coverage and the provision of specialized services and equipment to handle trauma cases. While maintaining this service is costly, the trauma system special fund provides important support for Queen's to maintain this service for the benefit of the people of Hawaii and the greater Pacific region. We appreciate the legislature's support in funding the trauma system special fund.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.



HPCCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Health

The Hon. Della Au Belatti, Chair

The Hon. Richard P. Creagan, Vice-Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2690, SD2
Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes
Submitted by Dustin Stevens, Public Affairs and Policy Director
March 23, 2016, 9:45 am, Room 329

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 2690, seeking to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars sold on or after July 1, 2016.

Each year in Hawaii, tobacco causes nearly 1,400 deaths and it is estimated that 21,000 children in Hawaii will ultimately die prematurely from smoking. In addition, each year smoking costs approximately \$526,000,000 in direct health care expenditures and \$387,000,000 in lost productivity in the state.

For community health centers, the effects of smoking are especially acute, as studies have shown a direct link between lower socio-economic status and smoking prevalence. In 2014 alone, health centers provided tobacco use screening and cessation intervention for more than 70% of adult patients.

Senate Bill 2690 seeks to lower both the health and financial burdens on the state by increasing the tax on cigarettes and small cigars. Previous measures like this have proven to have a deterrent effect on smoking rates in the state, and we support this measure with hopes that it will do the same.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The House Committee on Health

March 23, 2016

9:45 a.m.

Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2690, SD2

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charles Miller and I am a practicing physician in Hawaii specializing in oncology. I have been in practice for over 30 years.

I am writing to express my support for SB 2690, SD2. Cigarette and tobacco use are the leading preventable causes of cancer. Smoking also leads to other health problems 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. It plays a crucial role in community oncologists being able to provide clinical trials to their cancer patients.

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.

Sincerely,

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 3:27 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: devin@pcgamerzhawaii.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Devin Wolery	Hawaii Vapers United	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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Hearing on 3-23-16

Testimony in Strong Opposition to Senate Bill 2690

Dear House HLT Committee,

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. The history of Tobacco taxes in Hawaii is stunning proof that the Laffer Curve is very real and that the State is way past the peak of the curve.
4. The bill seeks to give more money to the same ant-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 attempts.

Sincerely,

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

808-952-0275. Hawaiiismokersalliance.net

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 3:13 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: wfujio@abcstores.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy	ABC Stores	Oppose	No

Comments: . Harm Retailers According to the National Association of Convenience Stores, cigarettes are the top revenue generator, accounting for 32.7% of in-store sales nationwide. Increasing the excise tax will hurt legitimate retailers as smokers shift purchases to other outlets, such as the Internet. 2. Increases Illegal Smuggling An excise tax increase could provide incentives for smuggling and other contraband activities, resulting in lost tax revenues and increased crime. This is a real thing. There was something close to \$5Billion dollars lost in revenue nationwide last year.

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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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 Ways and Means

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This is a ___% 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 ___ 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:

- ___ cents per unit to the Hawaii cancer research special fund;
- ___ cents per unit, but not more than \$7,400,000 in a fiscal year, to the trauma system special fund (the upper limit is the same as current law);
- ___ cents per unit, but not more than \$8,800,000 in a fiscal year, to the community health centers special fund (the upper limit is the same as current law);
- ___ cents per unit, but not more than \$8,800,000 in a fiscal year, to the emergency medical services special fund (the upper limit is the same as current law);
- ___ 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, 2050.

STAFF COMMENTS: This measure is apparently intended to be 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, this source of revenue is drying up, and a rise in rate will not necessarily bring in more 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.

We are also concerned about that part of the bill that earmarks a certain amount of the tobacco tax on cigarettes to be deposited to the credit of the department of health chronic disease prevention and health promotion division, for smoking cessation programs and education in Hawaii. In 2002, the Legislature set requirements for establishing and continuing special and

revolving funds. Sections 37-52.3 and 37-52.4, HRS, now state that the criteria used to review special and revolving funds are the extent to which each fund:

- Serves a need, as demonstrated by the purpose of the program to be supported by the fund; the scope of the program, including financial information on fees to be charged, sources of projected revenue, and costs; and an explanation of why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process;
- Reflects a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the program users or beneficiaries, or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue—as opposed to serving primarily as a means to provide the program or users with an automatic means of support, removed from the normal budget and appropriation process;
- Provides an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity, that is used only when essential to the successful operation of the program or activity; and
- Demonstrates the capacity to be financially self-sustaining.

These requirements show that the Legislature is concerned about using special and revolving funds to bypass the appropriation process. This provision brazenly bypasses the appropriation process without even using a special or revolving fund. If the Department does not now provide for smoking cessation programs and education in Hawaii, it should be making its case to do so through the appropriation process, which is how almost every other agency justifies its programs and services.

Digested 3/21/2016

The House Committee on Health

March 23, 2016

9:45 a.m.

Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2690, SD2

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Howard Stephenson. As a former chair of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii and a longtime supporter of the UH Cancer Center, it is my opinion that the Center is one of the most important components of the university system and is of great value to the state of Hawaii.

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 our Cancer Center 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.

The Cancer Center is one of only 69 centers in the US that have earned the prestigious and much-sought-after designation of the National Cancer Institute. Having the NCI designation provides millions of dollars in grants to the Center which otherwise would not be available. These funds not only enable the center to carry out its important research and conduct cancer-related clinical trials for our communities, but also provide considerable economic value to the state. Losing this designation would be a black mark on the university's reputation nationally as few NCI-designated centers have ever given up this distinction. Of note is the fact that our Center is one of only a few not located in the eastern US, giving further credence to rarity of the NCI designation.

The work being done at the Center is of value to all people in Hawaii since much of the research is focused on key cancers that impact us here. The facilitation of cancer trials has opened new possibilities for Hawaii's people in being able to participate in trials without traveling to the mainland. Like myself, anyone who has had immediate family members diagnosed with rare or advanced stages of cancer can appreciate the value that being part of a clinical trial can bring.

In the past, the cigarette tax provided more money for operations than it is currently available because the number of smokers has decreased. 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.

The House Committee on Health

March 23, 2016

9:45 a.m.

Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2690, SD2

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, 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.

I strongly support SB 2690, SD2.

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.

The House Committee on Health

March 23, 2016

9:45 a.m.

Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2690, SD2

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, 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.

The House Committee on Health

March 23, 2016

9:45 a.m.

Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2690, SD2

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, 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.

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and committee members:

I am a senior citizen and a resident of House District 19 and Senate District 9. I am a member of the CARE Coalition and active in AARP, Kokua Council and the Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans as well as the Legislative Committee of PABEA.

I urge your strong support of SB2690,SD2. As a former smoker who continues to suffer effects, I am especially concerned about this. My father, a physician, died of emphysema, after smoking for 50 years.

Although levying additional taxes is never popular, I believe we all should do whatever we can to discourage cigarette smoking. Many friends and co-workers made the final decision to quit smoking when they could no longer afford it. Raising the price of cigarettes truly does discourage smoking!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service

HLTtestimony

From: Jayson O'Donnell <jaysonod@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 12:37 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for 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 increasing the cigarette tax by four cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars encourages adults to quit and helps prevent youth from starting. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, I strongly support that a portion of the revenue generated from the proposed tax increase be allocated towards tobacco prevention 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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Jayson O'Donnell
3311 Campbell Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815

HLTtestimony

From: Barbara Nosaka <barbrick@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 12:40 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Barbara Nosaka
2216 Hoonanea Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

HLTtestimony

From: Helen B <helenb@ccmaui.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 12:40 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Helen B
PO Box 822
Makawao, HI 96768

I am submitting personal testimony on SB2690-SD2 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-SD2 would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars. **I strongly support this legislation** because our research indicates that smoking cigarettes is still prevalent among adolescents in Hawaii. Our latest data from 11th grade Hawaii school students show that 23% have smoked cigarettes. Rates are even higher for our limited sample of 12th grade students. Moreover, our study showed that only 57% of 11th graders had never used a tobacco product; 20% used e-cigarettes only, 3% used cigarettes only, and 21% of this sample of adolescents used both e-cigarettes and cigarettes. Although there are age restrictions on access to tobacco products, there is still an appreciable rate of exposure to a known carcinogen among adolescents in Hawaii.

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 this 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 activities continue. **I strongly support SB2690-SD2** for these reasons.

Thomas A. Wills
5079 Maunalani Circle
Honolulu, HI 96816

HLTtestimony

From: Marilyn Gagen <mgagen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 12:41 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for 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 increasing the cigarette tax by four cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars encourages adults to quit and helps prevent youth from starting. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, I strongly support that a portion of the revenue generated from the proposed tax increase be allocated towards tobacco prevention 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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Nicolette Montizor <nmontizor@napuuwai.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 12:41 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Nicolette Montizor
PO Box 1349
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

HLTtestimony

From: Bev Brody <bbrody1@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:59 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Bev Brody
4751 Wailapa Road
Kilauea, HI 96754

HLTtestimony

From: Courtney Voss <courtney@hiphi.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 12:45 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Courtney Voss
850 Richards Street
Haleiwa, HI 96712

HLTtestimony

From: Michelle Gray <mmg2b@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 12:48 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Michelle Gray
430 Lanipua Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

HLTtestimony

From: Hau'oli Tomoso <john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 12:53 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 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
808-280-1749

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

HLTtestimony

From: Kanani Kilbey <kanani.kilbey@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:00 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 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

HLTtestimony

From: Kirsten Ralston <Ksmithralston@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:05 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kirsten Ralston
PO box 10528
Honolulu, HI 96816

HLTtestimony

From: Forrest Batz <fbatz@sonic.net>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:00 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars, and, earmark a portion of the revenues for 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 keiki from the harmful impacts of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

I support increasing the cigarette tax by four cents per stick. Increasing the tax on cigarettes and little cigars encourages adults to quit and helps prevent youth from starting. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, I strongly support that a portion of the revenue generated from the proposed tax increase be allocated toward tobacco prevention and cessation activities, to help individuals who wish to quit smoking and encourage those who do not smoke to remain tobacco-free.

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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Forrest Batz, PharmD

Forrest Batz
HC3 Box 4730
Keaau, HI 96749

HLTtestimony

From: Theresa Richardson <tylerrose1023@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:08 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Jasmine Kalama <jasmine.kalama@seariders.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:10 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Jasmine Kalama
87-198 Kaukamana Rd. Apt. C
Waianae, HI 96792

HLTtestimony

From: Michele Nihipali <nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:10 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 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

HLTtestimony

From: Lawrence Denis <lbd3emails@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:10 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Lawrence Denis
PO Box 385847
Waikoloa, HI 96738

HLTtestimony

From: Christopher La Chica <cricketlachica@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:14 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: May Rose Dela Cruz <mdelacruz@papaolokahi.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:19 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

May Rose Dela Cruz
894 Queen Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

HLTtestimony

From: Curtis Palmer <808palmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:20 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Curtis Palmer
45-615 Puuluna Pl
Kaneohe, HI 96744

HLTtestimony

From: Antonia Papica <antoniapapica@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:21 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Antonia Papica
1702 Kewalo Street #308
Honolulu, HI 96822

HLTtestimony

From: Nora Usita, RN <nusita.metrocare@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:21 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Nora Usita, RN
170 Aikane circle
Hilo, HI 96720

HLTtestimony

From: Michelle Kwock <michellek303@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:30 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Michelle Kwock
100 N. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

HLTtestimony

From: Joseph Humphry <jhumphry@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:33 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Joseph Humphry
3579 Nipo Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

HLTtestimony

From: Holly Kessler <holly@hollykessler.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:37 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Holly Kessler
PO Box 61681
Honolulu, HI 96839

HLTtestimony

From: Erica Meyer <emmeyer@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:38 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,
Erica Meyer-Agonoy RN, BSN

Erica Meyer
596 Iinekona pl
Wailuku, HI 96793

HLTtestimony

From: Stephanie Moir <twinkle_toez54@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:39 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I am a Tobacco Treatment Specialist and work in community health. In order to keep helping the people in our communities, it is vital that we earmark the funds to go into tobacco prevention and control. I am one of 11 other grantees that are working in Hawai'i communities to not only help people quit their habit, but also to prevent the next generation from starting.

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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Stephanie Moir, MPH

Stephanie Moir
94-1117 Kukula St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

HLTtestimony

From: Danielle Boyer <danielle.montgomery@kapiolani.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:40 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Danielle Boyer
113 Komohana Court #202
Wahiawa, HI 96786

HLTtestimony

From: Scott Stensrud <sctensrud@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:40 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Scott Stensrud
91-1033 Wahipana St
Kapolei, HI 96707

HLTtestimony

From: Stacey krenelka <skrenelka@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:41 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, 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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Stacey krenelka
172 waipahe st
kihei, HI 96753

HLTtestimony

From: Nicole Kerr <nicole.kerr@ah.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:44 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for 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 increasing the cigarette tax by four cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars encourages adults to quit and helps prevent youth from starting. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, I strongly support that a portion of the revenue generated from the proposed tax increase be allocated towards tobacco prevention 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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Nicole Kerr
520 N. Kalaheo
Kailua, HI 96734

HLTtestimony

From: Manuel Navalta <manuel.navalta@doh.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:45 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: John Hunt <huntj017@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 2:04 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for 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 increasing the cigarette tax by four cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars encourages adults to quit and helps prevent youth from starting. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, I strongly support that a portion of the revenue generated from the proposed tax increase be allocated towards tobacco prevention 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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

John Hunt
P.O. Box 32
POB 32
Kilauea, HI 96754

HLTtestimony

From: Ronald Kuriki <kurikir001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 2:07 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

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I support increasing the cigarette tax by four cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars encourages adults to quit and helps prevent youth from starting. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, I strongly support that a portion of the revenue generated from the proposed tax increase be allocated towards tobacco prevention 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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Ronald Kuriki
1655-C Palolo Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

HLTtestimony

From: Cynthia P Chow <cyn.artemis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 2:08 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: aimee rice <dh1lighthouse@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 2:20 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

aimee rice
1166a 20th ave
honolulu, HI 96816

HLTtestimony

From: Trisha Udani <tjudani@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 2:36 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Trisha Udani
91-1039 Papaa St
Kapolei, HI 96707

HLTtestimony

From: Patricia Blair <patriciablair@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 2:52 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Patricia Blair
522 Uluhala St.
Kailua, HI 96734

HLTtestimony

From: Patricia Fleck <pat.fleckconsulting@hawaiiintel.net>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 3:31 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 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

HLTtestimony

From: Maile Goo <goomaile@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 3:37 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,
Maile Goo
3683 Woodlawn Terrace Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Maile Goo
3683 Woodlawn Terrace Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

HLTtestimony

From: Cyd L. Hoffeld <cyd.hoffeld@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 3:37 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Maria Moreno - Chow <morenochow@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 4:23 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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 increasing the cigarette tax by four cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars encourages adults to quit and helps prevent youth from starting. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, I strongly support that a portion of the revenue generated from the proposed tax increase be allocated towards tobacco prevention 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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Maria Moreno - Chow
548 Ulua st.
Kailua, HI 96734

HLTtestimony

From: Ronald Chow <rowser50@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 4:24 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for 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 increasing the cigarette tax by four cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars encourages adults to quit and helps prevent youth from starting. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, I strongly support that a portion of the revenue generated from the proposed tax increase be allocated towards tobacco prevention 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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Ronald Chow
548 Ulua Street
Kailua, HI 96734

HLTtestimony

From: Boyd, Manager Richard Boyd <boyd.mgr.mterrace@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 5:00 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for 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 increasing the cigarette tax by four cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars encourages adults to quit and helps prevent youth from starting. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, I strongly support that a portion of the revenue generated from the proposed tax increase be allocated towards tobacco prevention 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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Bryan Mih <bmih@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 5:26 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

As a pediatrician in Honolulu and medical director of the HEALTHY Quit Smoking Program, I strongly support SB 2690, S D 2, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars 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

HLTtestimony

From: Shay Chan Hodges <shay.chanhodges@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 7:14 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for 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 increasing the cigarette tax by four cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars encourages adults to quit and helps prevent youth from starting. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, I strongly support that a portion of the revenue generated from the proposed tax increase be allocated towards tobacco prevention 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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Shay Chan Hodges
37 Puu Koa Place
Haiku, HI 96708

HLTtestimony

From: Roxine Iijima <roxinemijima@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 9:25 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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 increasing the cigarette tax by four cents per stick. Increasing the taxes on cigarettes and little cigars encourages adults to quit and helps prevent youth from starting. Tobacco use costs our State \$526 million annually, and reducing smoking rates will help us reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs. More importantly, I strongly support that a portion of the revenue generated from the proposed tax increase be allocated towards tobacco prevention 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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Roxine Iijima
45-610 Hinamoe Loop
Kaneohe, HI 96744

HLTtestimony

From: Lorrie Ann Santos <anelalani@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 11:31 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Jo Ann Ikehar <Jikehara@lava.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 5:51 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room

I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo, Jo Ann ikehara, RRT (Registered Respiratory Therapist)

Jo Ann Ikehar
2515 N. School St
Honolulu, HI 96819

HLTtestimony

From: Michael Kellar <Worldmk007@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 6:20 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Linda Bong <lbong@pidfoundation.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 6:56 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Linda Bong
PO Box 684
Captain Cook, HI 96704

HLTtestimony

From: Haylee Chung <hayleec@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 7:08 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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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. 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, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Haylee Chung
1232 Kinoole Street
Hilo, HI 96720

HLTtestimony

From: Kim Swartz <kswartz@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 7:15 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Jermy Domingo <jermy@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 7:30 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Jermy Domingo
91-1036 Koka St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

HLTtestimony

From: John Ishoda <john.s.ishoda@doh.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 9:04 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

John Ishoda
1700 Lanakila Ave., Rm. 104
Honolulu, HI 96817

HLTtestimony

From: Helen Barrow <hbonmaui@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9:01 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony. I strongly support SB 2690, SD 2, which would increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars and earmarks a portion of the revenues for 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.

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee. Mahalo nui loa for your kokua.

Mahalo,

Helen Barrow
Makawao
Makawao, HI 96768

HLTtestimony

From: Tyler Ralston <dgkahalas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 1:22 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Tyler Ralston
PO Box 10528
Honolulu, HI 96816

HLTtestimony

From: Valerie Yontz <vyontz@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 2:37 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 21, 2016

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support for SB 2690, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 23, 2016 at 9:45am at Capitol Room 329

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I strongly support SB 2690, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Many thanks. Valerie Yontz
vyontz@hawaii.edu

Valerie Yontz
677 Auwina Street
677 Auwina Street Kailua, HI 96734-3430
Honolulu, HI 96822

The House Committee on Health

March 23, 2016

9:45 a.m.
Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT ON SB 2690, SD2

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, 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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9:11 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jason.park1@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Park	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9:20 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: lovemyhello@kittymail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Powell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The ruling party in Hawaii is out of control. Stop ripping people off with sky-high taxes!

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 6:52 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: bubbleheadchad@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Wheeling	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Senate bill 2690 is money grab and an insult to working people.

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 10:39 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: surfmaster008@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Higa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: All this bill will do is expand Hawaii's thriving cigarette black market and cause even greater tax shortfalls.

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 3:26 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Teddykim613@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teddy Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 3:27 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: vinkim@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vin Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 4:03 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jinnakim85@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jinna Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 4:10 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: a.sunshiine@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This is unacceptable. There is already a tax on cigarettes and you guys are trying to add more tax per cigarette. Is the state of Hawaii so broke you guys have to find things to further tax "to various funds?" How about maybe try budgetting the state's money better. I know, while we are at it, lets just tax water per cup and add some tax to the air we breathe while we are at it.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 4:23 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: michrobins3@myself.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Robinson	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Make a voter happy. Use this opportunity to lower my taxes, not raise them.

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 10:01 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: dustinandrewsoahu@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dustin Andrews	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 11:41 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mypurpleplanet@outlook.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lani Hernandez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 2:51 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: wintersnicholas@rocketmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicholas Winters	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The time is now to back off on tax increases.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 12:05 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kathyk323@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 10:28 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jjw333333@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jake J. Watkins	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Committee, your overtaxing is destroying the tax base of cigarettes. Overtaxing still more will bring in LESS MONEY and not more. It is a basic law of cost-demand economics. Cancer center needs to wake up and realize that they need to find other revenue sources or attract private funds. The easy tobacco tax money is drying up thanks to the anti-smoking efforts that put the center in this position to begin with.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 3:37 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: vtt.grimm@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vinh	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please oppose against taxing Ecig products, we have come a long way to find a healthier alternative to smoking tobacco cigarettes. This can also be our future for in-taking other type of medication in the future. By taxing Ecig products and labeling them under "Tobacco" you're not only going to kill the industry that is striving here in Hawaii, you will also be killing hundreds of jobs that Ecig industry has provided. We have worse things to worry about, drugs, homeless, unemployment problems. Getting rid of something that helps tobacco cigarette smokers cut back or even quite is the worse thing Hawaii can do to their people.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 9:41 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: chevyriderhhh@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Wells	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 5:20 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: darkkittywhitty@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monika Lopez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 9:58 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: awatanabe67@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 2:35 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mauimoonflower@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sabrina Spencer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 7:21 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: anthony_orozco@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Make due with what you have just as somebody on a fixed income has to do. In other words, rearrange the existing funding. Yours, Aloha, Anthony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 10:23 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mikenakas@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael S. Nakasone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I'm in strong opposition to this unfair tax increase.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:25 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: brianportal808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Santiago	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 7:41 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: seventh-power@outlook.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David McCann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 10:05 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: 808aprilpacheco@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
April Pacheco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 7:28 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: markjowens@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Owens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 4:23 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: garrickaylesworth@live.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Garrick Aylesworth	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 6:59 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: neo777@graduate.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Patterson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 6:06 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: alex.abe@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Abe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: 1hawaii4me@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Dietrich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 10:14 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jchangworld@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Chang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:42 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: starjenchan@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Chan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 11:31 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: antonchris10@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Anton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 2:24 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: tinamoore@linuxmail.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tina Moore	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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HLTtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 4:29 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: bill@ejlounge.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Comerford	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I feel this is a very unsound way to generate tax income to fund these various funds including the cancer research center. If we are taxing the tobacco products too much now and seeing a dwindling revenue stream then increasing the taxes will only diminish the income stream further thus demanding what? Another increase? Do we not look foolish seeking to solve this funding problem through a diminishing resource in a never ending cycle of diminishing returns. This cycle thus makes the legislature appear to be a pet chasing its own tail Please defer this bill and look elsewhere to fund the cancer research center.

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HLTtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 4:19 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: bigcoopatroopa@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Cooper	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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HLTtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 4:50 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: freedom1979hi@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cindy Nettles	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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HLTtestimony

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Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 6:24 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: protechoahu@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clayton Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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[COMMITTEE ON HEALTH](#)

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

Testimony in opposition to SB 2690 SD2

The Hawaii Bar Owners Association strongly opposes this bill.

We often carry cigarettes for sale and find this an onerous and troubling bill.

If government agencies cannot survive with existing tax monies and must demand higher taxes even when those higher taxes fail to produce the required income it sets a very bad and disturbing precedent. That rather than finding a solution, the legislature's sole "go to solution" is to raise taxes anyway to the detriment of the product sold or the business selling it and to the eventual detriment of the benefiting agency.

This could be described as madness because we all know the result that is coming yet you most likely will do it anyway. And sadly it will be the way you will continue to fund government while business continues to dwindle around you.

Will you eventually tax all business into oblivion or find more rational solutions.

Representatives, we ask you to defer this action by opposing SB 2690 SD2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Comerford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Comerford,

Spokesman for the Hawaii Bar Owners Association

10 Marin Lane

Honolulu, HI 96817

HLTtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9:00 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: pipelinemax@outlook.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimo Cruz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 7:04 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: michiejohns@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/23/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

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

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HLTtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 5:56 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: ironbuffedg@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ned Garcia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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HLTtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 5:20 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: ryan.oswald@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM*

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Oswald	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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HLTtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 4:17 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: susanlarson78@gmx.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Larson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: sb2690 is a plan doomed to fail. You can't keep squeezing money out of a dying revenue source.

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HLTtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 4:40 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: timlemke20@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM

SB2690

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 23, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tim Lemke	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Honorable Health Committee, The proposed bill will not solve UH Cancer Research Center's management problems. It will indeed pinch the cigarette tax money supply even more so. As a life long non-smoker I am also concerned that the ruining of the tobacco tax source in the future will cause the taxes to be shifted to non-smokers such as myself who don't believe the Cancer Center is doing a good job or worth my tax dollars. -Tim L.

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