

# SB2690

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

**Report Title:** Cigarette Tax and Tobacco Tax Law; Cigarettes; Little Cigars; Taxes; Disposition of Revenue

**Description:** 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. Allocates the increased taxes collected per cigarette or little cigar to various funds, including \$0.01 to the Hawaii cancer research special fund; \$0.01 to the department of health chronic disease prevention and health promotion division, for smoking cessation programs and education in Hawaii; and \$0.02 to the general fund.

**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** CPH, WAM

**Introducer(s):** BAKER, GALUTERIA, Gabbard, Ihara, Keith-Agaran, Kidani, Nishihara



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2690  
RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Hearing Date: February 6, 2016 Room Number: 229

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 SB2690 also proposes to designate a portion of the tax revenues collected to DOH  
11 CDPHPD, for smoking cessation programs and education. These funds would be used to support  
12 ongoing efforts to establish smoke-free policies and social norms, promote cessation, assist  
13 tobacco users to quit; and prevent initiation of tobacco use. Funding would also be used to  
14 enhance educational campaigns, enforce recently enacted tobacco laws, and reduce tobacco  
15 disparities among vulnerable populations.

16 SB2690 significantly increases the excise taxes on tobacco products and is part of the  
17 DOH’s overall comprehensive approach to tobacco control to prevent initiation of youth smokers  
18 and promote cessation among current smokers. Such an increase can produce significant long-  
19 term improvements in health, and make further progress towards a Hawaii that is free from the  
20 burden of tobacco.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

22 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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

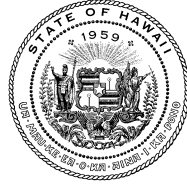
<sup>3</sup> Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Hawaii. 2015, [https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts\\_issues/toll\\_us/hawaii](https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/hawaii), accessed 2/3/2016

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

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540  
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MARIA E. ZIELINSKI  
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

JOSEPH K. KIM  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Date: February 6, 2016

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Maria E. Zielinski, Director  
Department of Taxation

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

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

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

The Department suggests amending section 245-15(7), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to read "after June 30, 2016", instead of "after July 1, 2016", if the intent of the measure is to change the allocation at the start of the new fiscal year.

The Department also suggests deleting subparagraph (F) of section 245-15(7), HRS, because it is unnecessary. Cigarette and tobacco tax revenue already goes to the general fund, unless otherwise specified. As currently written, the new paragraph (7) specifies that 7.625 cents per cigarette or little cigar be distributed to the various funds specified in subparagraphs (A) through (E). The remaining 12.375 cents per cigarette or little cigar and all tax on cigars and other tobacco products would go to the general fund, regardless of subparagraph (F).

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.





Date: February 5, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

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

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

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Conference Room 229

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2690, which proposes to increase the tobacco tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per each cigarette or little cigar sold.

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.

According to the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2015 report, the United Nations health agency said that one person dies from a tobacco-related disease approximately every six seconds or equivalent to about 6 million people per year. In Hawai'i alone, 1.3 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by kids each year<sup>i</sup>. Raising taxes on tobacco products has been proven to be an effective way of to reduce consumption of products that harm our residents and children.

For many years, Hawai'i has benefited from significant gains in tobacco prevention and control. The State Legislature has championed comprehensive smoke-free legislation to protect our workers and residents, as well as our children.

The Coalition urges you to support raising the cigarette tax to twenty cents per stick. Tobacco taxes are a proven strategy to reduce smoking, particularly among youth and young adults. Tobacco use is still the number one preventable cause of death and costs our State \$526 million annually. According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, an estimated 21,000 kids under the age of 18 in Hawai'i will die prematurely as a result of smoking<sup>ii</sup>. President Obama in his 2014 and 2015 federal budgets proposed an additional 94 cent increase per pack to help reduce the

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



number of premature deaths due to smoking. Reducing smoking rates will reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and costs.

An independent poll conducted by Ward Research Inc. in November 2015 reports that majority of registered Hawai'i voters support an increase in cigarette tax (74%) and that nearly nine in ten registered voters (87%) feel it is important for the State to dedicate part of its revenue to tobacco prevention and cessation programs. The Coalition appreciates that this bill does dedicate a portion of the revenue to the Department of Health for tobacco prevention and control. 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.

Raising tobacco taxes encourages people to quit smoking and helps 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 being a vanguard state in the nation.

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

Mahalo,

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

Jessica Yamauchi  
Executive Director

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<sup>i</sup> Coalition for Tobacco-Free Kids. "The Toll of Tobacco in Hawai'i" 25 Sept 2015.

[https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts\\_issues/toll\\_us/hawaii](https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/hawaii)

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.



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

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

**SB 2690 – 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 6.5 percent 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.





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

The American Heart Association strongly supports SB 2690

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

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

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

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

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

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free of cardiovascular  
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Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.





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

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

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

The American Heart Association urges your support of SB 2690.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Donald B. Weisman  
Hawaii Government Relations Director

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

life is why™ es por la vida™ 全为生命™

Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.



Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

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

Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

I strongly support SB 2690, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per cigarette or little cigar sold (to a total of 20 cents per stick) and dedicates one cent to 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.

According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, an estimated 21,000 kids under the age of 18 in Hawai'i will die prematurely as a result of smoking. 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 this bill will continue to champion our efforts in being a vanguard state in the nation.

I strongly support SB 2690 and ask you to pass this out of committee. I can be reached at 808-687-5375 or [Kim.Nguyen@lung.org](mailto:Kim.Nguyen@lung.org), should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,



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

# 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

**INTRODUCED BY:** BAKER, GALUTERIA, Gabbard, Ihara, Keith-Agaran, Kidani, Nishihara

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

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

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

- 3.0 cents per unit to the Hawaii cancer research special fund (1 cent more than current law);
- 1.125 cents per unit, but not more than \$7,400,000 in a fiscal year, to the trauma system special fund (same as current law);
- 1.25 cents per unit, but not more than \$8,800,000 in a fiscal year, to the community health centers special fund (same as current law);
- 1.25 cents per unit, but not more than \$8,800,000 in a fiscal year, to the emergency medical services special fund (same as current law);
- 1.0 cents per unit to the department of health chronic disease prevention and health promotion division, for smoking cessation programs and education in Hawaii (new);
- 2.0 cents per unit to the general fund (new).

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

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

Digested 2/3/2016



Hearing on 2-6-16

**Testimony**

Dear Senate CPH Committee,

The Hawaii Smokers Alliance **STRONGLY OPPOSES SB2690**. This bill is NOT about health as some may claim. It's about greed and financial foolishness.

A few years back, lawmakers were told by the Tax Foundation of Hawaii, Hawaii Smokers Alliance, and others that continued increases in the tobacco tax on cigarettes was jeopardizing the future and stability of cigarette tax revenues. Now in 2015 it is widely known that the aforesaid groups were right. Expected and current tax revenues on cigarettes are down substantially.

We're not sure where this foolish revenue policy came from but it sounds a lot like the way the City of Detroit is run. Raise the property taxes, more people leave because they aren't getting value for their money, and then raise those same taxes still further on the remaining residents to make up for the dwindling tax base. The cycle of decline then continues. Why on Earth is the legislature basing their tax strategy on that the bankrupt Detroit????????

I hope this legislature realizes that accelerating an already failed policy by doing it even more is pure madness. As the saying goes, one "definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." Therefore SB2690 is an insane bill.

Thank You for Your Time and Consideration.

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

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

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

SB2690 would increase the excise tax on electronic smoking devices and would allocate part of the tax to the UH Cancer Center.

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

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

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

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

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

**I support SB2690** for these reasons.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection And Health

Saturday February 6, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Room 229

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT ON SB 2690**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

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

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection  
And Health

Saturday February 6, 2016  
9:00 a.m.  
Room 229

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT ON SB 2690**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is David J. Tamura, and I am a practicing physician in Hawaii specializing in oncology.

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 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. The UH Cancer Center also needs to expand its role in our community and in the advancement of cancer care in Hawaii and even in the nation. Cancer incidence continues to grow in Hawaii and in the nation. Advances in cancer research also continue to grow. Industry, the public and governments around the world are aware of this growth and are focusing more money, time and effort to advance cancer care. Cancer research also creates and trains highly technical and innovative jobs into the local economy. Many local governments and universities advertise their own cancer centers to bring business, jobs, and the best students to them.

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.



The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection  
And Health

Saturday February 6, 2016  
9:00 a.m.  
Room 229

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT ON SB 2690**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Diane T. Ono, and I am a member of the University of Hawai'i Friends of the Cancer Center Board of Directors. I have been involved with 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, 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.

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 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.

Submitted by:

*Diane T. Ono*

Diane T. Ono  
2534 East Manoa Road  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone: 808-585-1087

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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jjw333333@gmail.com](mailto:jjw333333@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 1:11:14 PM

---

**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

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

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

Comments:

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

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jason.park1@aol.com](mailto:jason.park1@aol.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Friday, February 05, 2016 10:42:22 AM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

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

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

Comments:

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

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [1hawaii4me@gmail.com](mailto:1hawaii4me@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Friday, February 05, 2016 11:45:51 AM

---

**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

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

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

Comments:

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [wintersnicholas@rocketmail.com](mailto:wintersnicholas@rocketmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 2:34:09 PM

---

**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicholas Winters	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: The tobacco taxes in Hawaii are insane already. Shame on those who support SB2690.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mauimoonflower@gmail.com](mailto:mauimoonflower@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 4:32:52 PM

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**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

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

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

Comments: What a ripoff. Please vote no on this damn bill.

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

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sean@blacklavavape.com](mailto:sean@blacklavavape.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2690 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 1:08:35 PM

---

**SB2690**

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sean Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: E-Cigarettes??

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [susanlarson78@gmx.com](mailto:susanlarson78@gmx.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Feb 6, 2016 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Friday, February 05, 2016 12:32:19 PM

---

**SB2691**

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

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

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

Comments:

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

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**From:** [Barbara Nosaka](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:46:30 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

I strongly support SB 2690, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per cigarette or little cigar sold and dedicates one cent to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

For many years, Hawai'i has benefited from significant gains in tobacco prevention and control. The State Legislature has championed comprehensive smoke-free legislation to protect our workers and residents, as well as our children.

I urge you to support raising the cigarette tax by 4 cents to a total of 20 cents per stick. Tobacco taxes are a proven strategy to reduce smoking, particularly among teenagers and low-income smokers. 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.

According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, an estimated 21,000 kids under the age of 18 in Hawai'i will die prematurely as a result of smoking. 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 this bill will continue to champion our efforts in being a vanguard state in the nation.

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

Mahalo,

Barbara Nosaka  
2216 Hoonanea Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [Christopher La Chica](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 9:34:50 AM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,  
Christopher La Chica

Christopher La Chica

Mililani, HI 96789

**From:** [Cynthia P Chow](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 6:18:05 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

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

**From:** [Daysha Towata](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:38:41 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Daysha Towata  
201 Pohakulani St  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Debbie Apolo](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Friday, February 05, 2016 10:58:41 AM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Debbie Apolo, CTTS

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

**From:** [Forrest Batz](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:02:21 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Forrest Batz  
HC3 Box 4730  
Keaau, HI 96749



**From:** [Francis Wong](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:55:53 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Francis Wong  
3522 Ala Aloalo Pl.  
Honolulu, HI 96818

**From:** [Jennifer Hausler](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:51:55 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Jennifer Hausler  
1429 kuloko st  
Kuloko  
Pearl city, HI 96782

**From:** [Jermy Domingo](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:18:21 AM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

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

**From:** [Hau'oli Tomoso](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:25:53 AM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

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

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

**From:** [Joseph Humphry](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:12:34 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Joseph Humphry  
3579 Nipo Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:23:17 AM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

I strongly support SB 2690, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per cigarette or little cigar sold and dedicates one cent to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

For many years, Hawai'i has benefited from significant gains in tobacco prevention and control. The State Legislature has championed comprehensive smoke-free legislation to protect our workers and residents, as well as our children.

I urge you to support raising the cigarette tax by 4 cents to a total of 20 cents per stick. Tobacco taxes are a proven strategy to reduce smoking, particularly among teenagers and low-income smokers. 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.

According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, an estimated 21,000 kids under the age of 18 in Hawai'i will die prematurely as a result of smoking. 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 this bill will continue to champion our efforts in being a vanguard state in the nation.

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

Mahalo,

Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula  
581 Kamoku St., Apt. 904  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**From:** [Kanani Kilbey](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 9:22:13 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

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

**From:** [Lance Ching](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:27:38 AM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Lance Ching  
45-633 Haukaekae Pl  
Kaneohe, HI 96744



**From:** [Lani Nagao](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 7:02:29 AM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Lani Nagao  
2850 Kapena St.  
Lihue, HI 96766

**From:** [Lawrence Denis](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:09:36 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Lawrence Denis  
PO Box 385847  
Waikoloa, HI 96738

**From:** [Lesli Yano](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:24:47 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Lesli Yano  
1778 Ala Moana Blvd 812  
Honolulu, HI 96815

**From:** [Lorrie Ann Santos](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 7:24:57 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

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

**From:** [Michael Kellar](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:09:10 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

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

**From:** [Michelle Gray](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:33:09 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Michelle Gray  
430 Lanipua Street  
Honolulu, HI 96825

**From:** [Nicole Kerr](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:55:48 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Nicole Kerr  
520 N. Kalaheo  
Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** [Nora Usita, RN](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:22:30 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Nora Usita, RN  
170 Aikane circle  
Hilo, HI 96720



**From:** [Nyla Tahara-Day](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 9:30:42 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

Help make Hawaii a 'Blue Zone' environment and location! ...I strongly support SB 2690, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per cigarette or little cigar sold and dedicates one cent to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

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

Mahalo,

Nyla Tahara-Day  
1531 Alu Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [Olelo pa'a Ogawa](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:19:42 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Olelo pa'a Ogawa  
PO Box 385669  
Waikoloa, HI 96738

**From:** [Patricia Fleck](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 9:45:46 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

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

**From:** [Paul Ho](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 7:45:48 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Paul Ho  
88 Piikoi Street  
3903  
Honolulu, HI 96814

**From:** [Ramon Sumibcay](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:53:45 AM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Ramon Sumibcay  
92-1269 Umena St.  
Kapolei, HI 96707

**From:** [Raymond Marques](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:46:08 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, an estimated 21,000 kids under the age of 18 in Hawai'i will die prematurely as a result of smoking. 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 this bill will continue to champion our efforts in being a vanguard state in the nation.

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

Mahalo,

Raymond Marques  
P.O.Box 82  
Pahala, HI 96777

**From:** [Rebecca Schweitzer](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 6:10:02 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

I strongly support SB 2690, which proposes to increase the excise tax on cigarettes and little cigars by four cents per cigarette or little cigar sold and dedicates one cent to tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

For many years, Hawai'i has benefited from significant gains in tobacco prevention and control. The State Legislature has championed comprehensive smoke-free legislation to protect our workers and residents, as well as our children.

I urge you to support raising the cigarette tax by 4 cents to a total of 20 cents per stick. Tobacco taxes are a proven strategy to reduce smoking, particularly among teenagers and low-income smokers. 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.

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

Mahalo,

Rebecca Schweitzer  
736 Hawaii St.  
Biomed C103  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**From:** [Ronald Chow](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:04:02 PM

---

Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Ronald Chow  
548 ULUOA ST  
KAILUA, HI 96734



**From:** [Ronald Kuriki](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 7:59:40 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Ronald Kuriki  
1655-C Palolo Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [Shay Chan Hodges](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:32:28 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Shay Chan Hodges  
37 Puu Koa Place  
Haiku, HI 96708

**From:** [Shilpa Patel](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:00:59 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Shilpa Patel

Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [Stephanie Moir](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 11:16:31 AM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,  
Stephanie Moir

Stephanie Moir  
Kukula St.  
Waipahu, HI 96797

**From:** [Steven Pavao](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:20:45 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Steven Pavao  
1648A Owawa Street  
P.O. Box 1407  
Honolulu, HI 96819

**From:** [Theresa Richardson](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 4:20:46 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

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

**From:** [Tyler Ralston](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, HRS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:26:39 PM

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Date: February 4, 2016

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Re: Strong Support of SB 2690, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes  
Hrg: February 6, 2016 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

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

Mahalo,

Tyler Ralston  
PO Box 10528  
Honolulu, HI 96816