

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2691 SD2
RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 14, 2016

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None to the Department of Health.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports SB2691 SD2 which
3 proposes to impose an excise tax on disposable electronic smoking devices (ESD) and e-liquids
4 and also requires the acquisition of a retail permit for every retailer, dealer, or wholesaler who
5 sells, possesses, keeps, acquires, distributes, or transports ESDs or e-liquid for retail sale.

6 ESDs are not harmless alternatives to combustible tobacco products as they contain
7 nicotine and low levels of carcinogens.¹ In addition to acute poisoning risks, exposure to
8 nicotine has been shown to harm both maternal and fetal health during pregnancy, and may have
9 a lasting negative impact on adolescent brain development.² Use of ESDs have been associated
10 with symptoms such as airway obstruction, increased diastolic blood pressure, increased heart
11 rate, palpitation, cough, and throat irritation.³ Decreasing the prevalence of nicotine use can
12 significantly benefit public health. Increasing the price through taxation is an effective way to
13 accomplish this goal. Research has shown that increasing the price of tobacco products results in
14 a decrease in initiation by new users and a decrease in the amount of tobacco use by current
15 users.⁴ This is especially true among younger smokers, who are the most price-sensitive

¹ Cheng T. Chemical evaluation of electronic cigarettes. *Tobacco Control* 2014; 23:11-17

² Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. *Raising Cigarette Taxes Reduces Smoking, Especially Among Kids (And the Cigarette Companies Know it)* [www.http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0146.pdf](http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0146.pdf)

³ Pisinger C., Dossing M. A systematic review of the health effects of electronic cigarettes. *Presse Med* 2014; 69:248-260

⁴ *ibid*

1 consumers. Increasing the tax on disposable ESDs and e-liquid is a strategy to accomplish this
2 important public health outcome.

3 The DOH supports this measure to regulate the price of disposable ESDs and e-liquid
4 through taxation and the requirement of a retail permit. Currently, there are over 22 states that
5 have introduced bills that would assess an excise tax on ESDs and e-liquids. Besides the District
6 of Columbia and the city of Chicago, there are four states that have already enacted taxes on
7 ESDs or e-liquids: Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, and North Carolina.

8 The DOH concurs with the legislature that there should not be a lower-priced tobacco
9 alternative to cigarettes in Hawaii, and supports tax parity on disposable ESDs with cigarettes.

10 Several studies have shown that regardless of labeling, e-liquids often contain nicotine.
11 Therefore, the DOH suggests that until the manufacturing and labeling of these products are
12 enforced by the Food and Drug Administration, the tax be applied to all of the e-liquid products
13 and presume that all products contain nicotine unless proven otherwise.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm

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 2691 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 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 and young adults in Hawai'i, a vulnerable population for initiation of both cigarette smoking and e-cigarette use.

The UH Cancer Center perspective on electronic smoking devices is informed by data recently obtained from Hawai'i adolescents and young adults who are participants in original research conducted by our own faculty. Research conducted in Hawai'i high schools by Thomas Wills, PhD, has confirmed that rates of e-cigarette use by Hawai'i adolescents are at least double the rate of e-cigarette use observed in studies of mainland adolescents. Furthermore, his study published in the peer-reviewed journal

Pediatrics clarified a reason why e-cigarette use is growing nationally among teens, as his data suggest that e-cigarettes may be operating to recruit lower-risk adolescents to smoking. And recently Pallav Pokhrel, PhD, and Thaddeus Herzog, PhD, published on the topic of e-cigarettes and motivation to quit smoking. Drs. Pokhrel and Herzog also assessed differences between smokers who used e-cigarettes to quit versus those who used FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapy. Additionally, these researchers have published on the effects of e-cigarette marketing on harm perceptions, as well as e-cigarette use expectancies and their impact on e-cigarette use among young adults.

This research is vital to gaining an evidence-based understanding of what drives acceptance of this emerging technology, what users believe regarding its safety, and what the consequences are for adolescents, whose brains are particularly susceptible to nicotine.

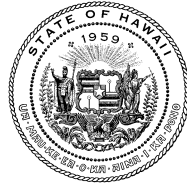
We believe imposing an excise tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, reusable electronic smoking devices, and e-liquid sold by any wholesaler or dealer like the excise tax imposed on the sale of cigarettes creates fairness in the market place. There is serious concern among health professionals that addictive tobacco products other than cigarettes – including snuff, chewing tobacco, loose roll-your-own tobacco, and now electronic smoking devices – are attracting a new generation of tobacco users. While the dangers of smoking are well known, national research also tells us there is no safe form of tobacco use. Taxation also provides a disincentive for e-cigarette use among youth and thus may help to reduce the rate of cigarette smoking.

We respectfully request that a portion of the tax on electronic smoking devices be allocated to the Hawai'i Cancer Research Special Fund. The additional revenue generated would allow the UH Cancer Center to continue to provide innovative clinical trials in Hawai'i to help prevent and treat cancer, and to continue its research on the causes of and cures for cancer, including research into natural products found only in Hawai'i.

We respectfully urge you to pass this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
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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 14, 2016

Time: 2:15 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

From: Maria E. Zielinski, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. 2691, S.D. 2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments on S.B. 2691, S.D. 2 for your consideration.

S.B. 2691, S.D. 2, makes numerous amendments to the Cigarette and Tobacco Tax Law under chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The cumulative effect of these changes is to expand the Tobacco Tax Law to tax disposable electronic smoking devices and nicotine-containing e-liquid. S.B. 2691, S.D. 2, also requires wholesalers and retailers of these products to register with the Department and pay annual license and permit fees. S.B. 2691, S.D. 2 has a defective effective date of July 1, 2050.

First, the Department requests a January 1, 2017 effective date to allow the Department to update its forms and instructions during its regular forms process.

Second, the Department recommends the following amendments, which clarify and carry out the measure's intent that disposable electronic smoking devices and e-liquid be subject to the Tobacco Tax, and that wholesalers and retailers of disposable electronic smoking devices and e-liquid register with the Department and pay taxes similarly to wholesalers and retailers of tobacco products. These amendments are technical in nature and do not substantively alter the intent of S.B. 2691, S.D. 2, as the Department understands it:

- In Section 2 of the bill, beginning on page 5, line 11, amend the definitions of both "dealer" and "retailer" by changing the phrase "electronic smoking device" to "disposable electronic smoking device." Additionally, the same amendment should be made to the definition of "wholesaler" on page 7, line 4. As currently written, this bill would require wholesalers and retailers who deal exclusively in reusable smoking devices (and don't sell disposable devices, e-liquid or other tobacco products) to

register with the Department, and report certain sales, but not pay any taxes. To lessen potential confusion, the Department requests that anyone required to register with it under chapter 245, HRS, be a person subject to the tax, and that any information such persons must report be related to the calculation and collection of the tax. This amendment and the following amendments will result in registration by person subject to the tobacco tax and reporting of this relevant information.

- In Section 2 of the bill, beginning on page 6, line 6, amend the definitions of “sale,” or “sold” by replacing the phrase “electronic smoking device” with the phrase “disposable electronic smoking device.”
- In Section 2 of the bill, beginning on page 6, line 10, amend the definition of “wholesale price” by replacing the phrase “electronic smoking devices, or e-liquid” with the phrase “or disposable electronic smoking devices.” The tax on e-liquid is imposed per milliliter sold as opposed to on the wholesale price. The Department suggests removing reference to e-liquid from the definition of “wholesale price” which will alleviate potential confusion over how the tax is calculated.
- In Section 3 of the bill, replace every instance of the phrase “electronic smoking devices, or e-liquid” with the phrase “disposable electronic smoking devices, or e-liquid.”
- In Section 3 of the bill, beginning on page 11, line 5, amend the language changing subsection (o) by inserting the word “disposable” before the three instances of the phrase “electronic smoking device.”
- In Section 4 of the bill, beginning on page 16, line 2, replace the phrase “electronic smoking devices” with “disposable electronic smoking devices.”
- In Section 5 of the bill, on page 16, line 13, replace the phrase “electronic smoking devices” with “disposable electronic smoking devices.”
- In Section 5 of the bill, on page 17, lines 6 and 7, delete the new paragraph (6); these amounts are not subject to tax under this measure.
- In Section 6 of the bill, beginning on page 17, line 11, replace all instances of the phrase “electronic smoking devices” and “electronic smoking products” with “disposable electronic smoking devices.”
- In Section 7 of the bill, on page 19, replace the two instances of the phrase “electronic smoking devices” with “disposable electronic smoking devices.”
- In Section 8 of the bill, on page 20, line 12, replace the phrase “electronic smoking devices” in the section title with the phrase “disposable electronic smoking devices.”

- In Section 8 of the bill, on page 21, lines 6-9, delete the new paragraph (4).
- In Section 9 of the bill, on page 21, line 15, replace the phrase “electronic smoking devices” in the section title with the phrase “disposable electronic smoking devices.”
- In section 9 of the bill, on pages 21 and 22, replace the two instances of the phrase “electronic smoking devices” with the phrase “disposable electronic smoking devices.”

The Department defers to the Department of Health with respect to the effect S.B. 2691, S.D. 2, would have on the State's health and wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 8:59 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: bsager42@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Sager	Blue Zone Project	Support	No

Comments: Electronic smoking devices (ESDs or e-cigarettes) emit an aerosol which contains nicotine, ultra-fine particles, and toxic chemicals including formaldehyde, lead, nickel, and acetaldehyde, all of which are known to cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm. ESDs are even being used to dap and as a deliver device for a variety of drugs. ESDs are NOT approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a smoking cessation device. In Hawaii, sales of ESDs tripled for high school students from 2011-2013 and usage rates for Hawaii's youth are double the national average. Regulating ESDs will reduce our children's exposure to nicotine and other toxic chemicals.

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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The House Committee on Health

March 14, 2016

2:15 p.m.

Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2691, 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 2691. 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 products and electronic smoking devices.

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.

Please allocate a portion of the additional revenue generated by the taxes on electronic smoking devices to the Cancer Center's Special Fund. The additional revenue generated would allow the Cancer Center to continue to provide innovative clinical trials in Hawaii to help prevent and treat cancer, and will allow the Center to continue its research on the causes and cures for cancer, including our research into the natural products found only in Hawaii.

Thank you the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



American Heart Association Testimony in Support of the Intent of SB 2691, SD2 “Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes”

The American Heart Association supports the intent of SB 2691, SD2.

Youth use of electronic smoking devices (ESD) in Hawaii has increased by over 10-fold over the last four years, largely due to unregulated marketing by ESD companies and retailers which make veiled claims that their products carry no health risks, and the addition of fruit and candy flavorings that appeal to youths.

This increase in teen addiction to nicotine is alarming. A recent study published by the University of Hawaii Cancer Center found that youths who use ESDs are much more likely to eventually graduate to smoking conventional cigarettes than those who don't. Any increases in smoking threatens to undue hard-earned success by the AHA and its health partners to reduce heart disease and stroke death rates, which remain Hawaii's number one and number three killers, with stroke remaining the state's leading cause of major disability.

Another recent study, conducted at the University of California, San Francisco, showed that nicotine use in adolescents can hinder brain development, which can lead to increased risk-taking, impulsiveness, novelty seeking, vulnerability to using and subsequent addiction to drugs.

The AHA feels it important for Hawaii legislators to take action in regulating ESDs to prevent a reversal in the successes the state has achieved in reducing tobacco use among its youths. SB 2691, SD2 by increasing the cost of these products, would add a deterrent to youths looking to experiment, similar to the way that increased taxes on conventional cigarettes have. The AHA also urges that a portion of the tax on ESDs be allocated toward community education, prevention and control efforts related to use of those products.

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: March 11, 2016

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

From: Trish La Chica, Policy and Advocacy Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT for SB2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes**

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15pm at Conference Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

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.

Electronic smoking devices (ESDs) are currently not regulated and should be taxed. ESDs, or e-cigarettes, are battery-powered devices that give the user doses of nicotine and other additives in aerosol form. Multiple federal agencies have determined that there is not enough evidence to prove that ESDs help users to quit smoking cigarettes. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control mention that ESD smokers remain dual users, or smoke cigarettes and e-cigarettes at the same time and are concerned that the trend on ESDs are driving more children to use tobacco products for the first time.

In 2015, the State Legislature extended its smoke-free indoor air policies to include e-cigarettes. In 2015, 22 states introduced legislation to tax e-cigarettes. **The Coalition respectfully recommends a tax of 50 cents per milliliter of e-liquid**, similar to Chicago's tax of 55 cents per milliliter. The Coalition also recommends we **tax disposable ESDs at the same rate of other tobacco products (currently 70%)**. In a poll conducted by Ward Research Inc. for the Coalition in November 2015, 77% of registered Hawai'i voters were in support of taxing e-cigarettes at the same rate as cigarettes or other tobacco products (OTP).

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The Coalition further recommends that a portion of the revenue collected from ESD and e-liquid taxes be dedicated to tobacco prevention and control. The same poll conducted in 2015 found that residents overwhelmingly agree (87%) that it is important for the State to earmark some of the revenue from cigarette and tobacco taxes to fund tobacco prevention and cessation programs. **Currently no revenue from cigarette or OTP taxes is appropriated for tobacco prevention and cessation.** When the price of tobacco increases, more people seek help to quit and we need to ensure programs are available and accessible by the public to help them quit.

Most electronic smoking devices (ESDs) contain nicotine, an addictive drug and other toxic chemicals which are inhaled as an aerosol by the user. Nicotine is derived from tobacco and **last year, the State Legislature defined ESDs as a tobacco product in Hawaii HRS, Chapter 328J-1. Because ESDs are not subject to current State tobacco tax laws, they are seen as lower-priced tobacco alternatives with virtually no restrictions that can be appealing to the youth.**

ESDs have been proven to be harmful. It is important to know the extent of harm that an ESD can bring to users:

- **Poisonous** – There were 3,067 reported cases of nicotine poisoning related to ESD and liquid nicotine exposures in 2015. Most of these cases involved children under the age of 6ⁱ. There has been one documented case of a child dying from nicotine poisoning.
- **Fire Hazard** – ESD batteries are known to explode and have been linked to more than 100 firesⁱⁱ, including exploding in a man’s mouthⁱⁱⁱ. In 2015, the Federal Aviation Administration banned ESDs from checked luggage due to fire concerns.
- **Health Risks** – developing evidence show that ESD use restricts lung function^{iv}, is linked to heart disease^v, and leads to respiratory illnesses such as asthma and bronchitis^{vi}. In addition, e-liquid flavors are toxic to lung cells.^{vii} The CDC reported that exposure to nicotine may have a lasting negative impact on adolescent brain development^{viii}.

Youth use of ESDs are at an all-time high in Hawai’i. According to the Department of Health^{ix}, ESD use in Hawaii tripled among public high school students quadrupled among middle school students. This is 1 in 5 or 22% of high school youth smoking e-cigarettes and 1 in 10 or 12% of middle schoolers. This far exceeds the national average of 13.4% for high school students and 3.9% for middle school students^x. Adult e-cigarette use was 20% in 2014.

Adults and teens are experimenting with e-cigarettes because they are promoted as harmless, fun or as an effective way to quit. An e-cig company based in Hawai’i, promotes e-liquids as getting “the same experience from vaping as you did when you were smoking tobacco cigarettes^{xi}” recommending first-time users to start with an 8mg nicotine strength. Further, reusable ESDs are marketed as inexpensive, telling users that they are “getting 2.5 packs worth of puffs for a fraction of the cost of a traditional cigarette. On top of that, they are refillable and

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reusable meaning you are getting the best bang for your buck..!^{xii} These are the same tobacco marketing tactics called out by the Surgeon General as predatory. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch. Further, Big Tobacco companies are now all active in the e-cigarette business^{xiii}.

Increasing taxes is a proven strategy in encouraging smokers to quit and helping to prevent kids from becoming introduced and addicted to nicotine. The Coalition asks that ESDs be taxed at rates similar to tobacco products because this sends a consistent public health message and helps to address the alarming uptake among our youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish'.

Trish La Chica
Policy and Advocacy Director

ATTACHED:

Chicago Liquid Nicotine Product Tax Ordinance

ⁱ American Association of Poison Control Centers. E-cigarettes and liquid nicotine. American Association of Poison Control Centers. Retrieved from <http://www.aapcc.org/alerts/e-cigarettes/>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/news/11203884/E-cigarettes-linked-to-more-than-100-fires.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ "Man Suffers Severe Injuries After E-Cigarette Explodes in His Mouth" 15 Feb 2012. <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/electric-cigarette-explodes-fla-mans-face/story?id=15645605>

^{iv} Vardavas, C I. et. al. (2012). Short-term pulmonary effects of using an electronic cigarette: impact on respiratory flow resistance, impedance, and exhaled nitric oxide. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22194587>

^v Christensen, J. (2013, December 16). Nicotine in e-cigs, tobacco linked to heart disease. CNN. Retrieved from <http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/16/health/nicotine-e-cigarettes/>

^{vi} Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center. E-cigarettes: Harmful or helpful? Navy Medicine. Retrieved from http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/Documents/health-promotion-wellness/tobacco-free-living/Frequent_Questions_about_Electronic_Cigarettes.pdf

^{vii} "E-Cigarette Flavorings Can Be Toxic to Lung Cells" 18 May 2015. <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/e-cigarette-flavorings-can-be-toxic-to-lung-cells-051815>

^{viii} U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "E-cigarette use triples among middle and high school students in just one year." 16 April 2015. <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p0416-e-cigarette-use.html>

^{ix} <http://governor.hawaii.gov/newsroom/doh-news-release-new-tobacco-prevention-and-control-laws-go-into-effect-january-1/>

^x Ibid.



^{xi} <http://www.volcanoecigs.com/new-to-vaping.html>

^{xii} <http://www.volcanoecigs.com/faq/>

^{xiii} "More E-Cigarettes in the Hands of Big Tobacco ." 3 Feb 2014. <http://blogs.wsj.com/corporate-intelligence/2014/02/03/more-e-cigarettes-in-the-hands-of-big-tobacco/>

CHAPTER 3-47 CHICAGO LIQUID NICOTINE PRODUCT TAX

3-47-010 Title.

This chapter shall be known and cited as the "Chicago Liquid Nicotine Product Tax Ordinance," and the tax herein imposed shall be known and cited as the "Chicago Liquid Nicotine Product Tax."

3-47-020 Definitions.

Whenever any of the following words, terms, or phrases are used in this chapter, they shall have the following meanings:

"Department" means the department of finance of the City.

"Electronic cigarette" has the meaning ascribed to that term in Section 7-32-010 of this Code.

"Liquid nicotine product" means: (1) any electronic cigarette containing liquid, gel, or other solution that contains nicotine; and (2) any other container of liquid, gel, or other solution where the liquid, gel, or other solution (i) contains nicotine and (ii) is intended to be utilized in an electronic cigarette. The term "liquid nicotine product" does not include any product regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration under Chapter V of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. 21 U.S.C. § 301 et seq.

"Product unit" means each individual liquid nicotine product, without regard to whether the product is sold as a single piece or as multiple pieces within the same package.

"Purchaser" means any person who purchases in a retail sale.

"Retail liquid product nicotine dealer" or "retailer" means any person who engages in the business of the retail sale of liquid nicotine products in the City.

"Retail sale" means any sale to a person for use or consumption, and not for resale.

"Sale" or "purchase" means any transfer of ownership or title or both, any exchange or barter, in any manner or by any means whatsoever for a valuable consideration.

"Wholesale liquid nicotine product dealer" or "wholesaler" means any person who engages in the business of selling or supplying liquid nicotine products to any person for resale in the City.

3-47-030 Tax imposed.

A tax is hereby imposed on the retail sale of liquid nicotine products in the City. This tax shall be paid by the purchaser, and nothing in this chapter shall be construed to impose a tax on the occupation of retail or wholesale liquid nicotine product dealer. The tax shall be imposed at a rate of \$0.80 per product unit, plus an additional \$0.55 per fluid milliliter of consumable liquid, gel, or other solution contained in the product.

SECTION 2. Following due passage and publication, this ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2016, and the figures set forth herein shall be deemed to immediately supersede the figures set forth in Section 3-47-030 of the Municipal Code as set forth in the 2016 Substitute Revenue Ordinance, as Amended.

3-47-040 Liability for payment.

The ultimate incidence and liability for payment of the tax imposed by this chapter is to be borne by the purchaser of liquid nicotine product. It shall be a violation of this chapter for a retail liquid

nicotine product dealer to fail to include the tax imposed herein in the sale price of the liquid nicotine product, or to otherwise absorb such tax.

3-47-050 Collection.

A. Except as otherwise provided herein, the tax imposed herein shall be collected by each wholesale liquid nicotine product dealer who sells a liquid nicotine product to a retail liquid nicotine product dealer located in the City. The wholesale liquid nicotine product dealer shall remit the tax and file returns in accordance with Section 3-47-060 of this chapter.

B. Any wholesale liquid nicotine product dealer required to remit the tax imposed by this chapter shall collect the tax from each retail liquid nicotine product dealer in the city to whom the sale of a liquid nicotine product is made, and any such retail liquid nicotine product dealer shall in turn then collect the tax from the retail purchaser of said liquid nicotine product.

C. If any retailer receives or otherwise obtains a liquid nicotine product upon which the tax imposed herein applies and has not been collected by any wholesale liquid nicotine product dealer, then the retailer shall collect such tax and remit it directly to the department in accordance with Section 3-47-060 of this chapter.

D. If a wholesale liquid nicotine product dealer sells a liquid nicotine product to a purchaser for use or consumption and not for resale, such wholesale liquid nicotine product dealer shall collect the tax imposed herein from such purchaser and remit it to the department in the same manner as sales to retail liquid nicotine product dealers.

3-47-060 Tax payments and returns.

A. All tax payments and remittances shall be made in accordance with either Section 3-4-187 (payment of actual tax liabilities) or Section 3-4-188 (payment of estimated taxes) of this Code.

B. All tax returns shall be filed with the department on an annual basis on or before August 15 of each year, in accordance with Sections 3-4-186 and 3-4-189 of this Code.

3-47-070 Returns and payments required upon implementation of the tax and after future tax rate increases.

A. The comptroller is authorized to establish by rule the filing date under this section, which shall be determined based on considerations of administrative efficiency and in no event be later than 24 days after the effective date of this section. The comptroller shall publish in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the city and post on the Department of Finance website a copy of the rule with the filing date a minimum of 10 days before that date occurs.

B. On or before the filing date set in accordance with subsection A of this section, every retail liquid nicotine product dealer shall file with the department, on a form prescribed by the comptroller, a tax return reporting the inventory of liquid nicotine products in the retailer's possession or control for sale in the City on the effective date of this section. The retailer shall include with the tax return any tax due on the inventory of liquid nicotine products in its control and possession for sale in the City for which all applicable tax has not been collected. The retailer shall in turn collect the tax from its retail purchasers.

C. Every retail liquid nicotine product dealer who possesses liquid nicotine products for sale in the City purchased prior to the effective date of a Chicago liquid nicotine products tax increase shall file with the department, on a form prescribed by the comptroller, a tax return attesting to the quantities of such liquid nicotine products in its possession as of the last day prior to the tax

increase and remit to the department the amount of tax due as a result of each rate increase. The retailer shall in turn collect the tax from its retail purchasers. Each such tax return and payment due under this subsection shall be filed and received by the department by the 24th day following the effective date of each tax increase.

D. Every retail liquid nicotine product dealer required to file a tax return under subsection B or C of this section who does not file such tax return by its due date, or alternatively does not provide all required information on such tax return, or fails to remit all required tax due computed thereon, shall be subject to a penalty of \$100.00 per business location required to be reported on the tax return, in addition to all other penalties and interest that may be due under the Uniform Revenue Procedures Ordinance, Chapter 3-4 of this Code.

E. If the comptroller determines that a person subject to the penalty in subsection D of this section had reasonable cause for paying late, underpaying the applicable tax, or filing a late or incomplete tax return, then the applicable penalty shall be waived.

F. The comptroller, or his or her designee, may at any time during the statute of limitations outlined in Section 3-4-120 of this Code examine the books and records of any person required to file a tax return under this section, and may issue a tax determination and assessment to the person per Section 3-4-160 of this Code, if a determination is made that any amount of tax, penalty, or interest is due.

G. Every person required to file a tax return under subsection B or C of this section who files a complete tax return by its due date and makes timely payment of the amount computed thereon shall be eligible to retain a commission in the amount of one percent of the tax computed due thereon.

3-47-080 Books and records.

Every person required to collect the tax imposed by this chapter shall keep accurate books and records of its business or activity, including original source documents and books of entry denoting the transaction that gave rise, or may have given rise, to the tax liability or any exemption that may be claimed. All such books and records shall be kept in the English language and, at all times during business hours of the day, shall be subject to and available for inspection by the department.

3-47-090 Payment of tax required.

The failure of the wholesale or retail liquid nicotine product dealer to collect the tax herein imposed shall not relieve the purchaser of his duty to pay it. If the wholesale and retail liquid nicotine product dealer fail to collect the tax, the purchaser shall be required to pay it directly to the department in the same manner and form as a retail liquid nicotine product dealer.

3-47-100 Authority to appoint collection agents.

In furtherance of administering this chapter, the comptroller shall have the authority to appoint one or more persons within or without the City as collection agents for the tax herein imposed. This includes the authority to enter into service agreements with public and private entities, and to perform any and all acts, including the expenditure of funds subject to appropriation therefor, as shall be necessary or advisable in connection with such service agreements, including any renewals thereto.

3-47-110 Exemptions.

A. This tax shall not apply to the extent it would violate the United States Constitution or the Constitution of the State of Illinois.

B. It shall be presumed that all sales of liquid nicotine product from wholesale or retail liquid nicotine product dealers are subject to tax under this chapter until the contrary is established. The burden of proving that such is not taxable hereunder shall be upon the person so claiming.

3-47-120 Registration.

Every wholesale liquid nicotine product dealer shall register with the department within 30 days after the date of commencing such business.

3-47-130 Supplementary provisions.

Whenever not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, or whenever this chapter is silent, the provisions of the Uniform Revenue Procedures Ordinance. Chapter 3-4 of this Code, as amended, shall apply and supplement this chapter.

3-47-140 Rules and regulations.

The comptroller is authorized to adopt, promulgate, and enforce rules and regulations pertaining to the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

3-47-150 Deposit of funds.

All proceeds resulting from the imposition of this tax, including interest and penalties,

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 7:38 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Kim.Nguyen@lung.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Nguyen	American Lung Association in Hawaii	Support	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



March 14, 2016

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

From: Cory Smith, VOLCANO Fine Electronic
Cigarettes®
CEO and Owner

RE: SB2691 SD2 – oppose.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

VOLCANO Fine Electronic Cigarettes® is the largest manufacturer and retailer of vapor products and vaping accessories in the State of Hawaii. We currently own and operate 11 locations statewide and employ over 70 full-time workers to support sales of our products not only here in Hawaii, but to all 50 states as well as over 30 International countries. We stand in opposition to SB2691 SD2 for the following:

- Vapor products contain NO tobacco, and often times contain NO nicotine, and ultimately emit NO smoke. Nonetheless, **SB2691 aims to unfairly classify all vapor products as “Tobacco Products” and erroneously refers to them as “Electronic Smoking Devices”** to bring vapor products into the same regulatory framework as traditional tobacco cigarettes for the purposes of taxation. This will adversely effect the vapor industry in Hawaii resulting in unintended economic and health consequences detailed below.
- SB2691 SD2 States in its justification that the use of licensing and permit fees “facilitate the enforcement of the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law”. However, seeing as though there are no current laws in place that subject vapor products to a cigarette tax or the tobacco tax law, this bill should be considered premature.
- **SB2691 SD2 would amount to a 9900% increase in licensing fees for wholesalers and a 150% increase for retail dealers. This is a highly unreasonable increase that will result in a significant financial burden. These costs would ultimately be passed on to the consumer.**
- SB2691 SD2’s justification and purpose section provides that the use of Vapor Products, specifically “E-Liquid”, carries similar health risks to that of tobacco. **However research demonstrates that vapor products have not been shown to have the same detrimental**



VOLCANO®

effects of combustible tobacco products. Recent studies have also shown vapor products to be as much as 95% less toxic than traditional Cigarettes.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457102/Ecigarettes_an_evidence_update_A_report_commissioned_by_Public_Health_England_FINAL.pdf

- In fact, Mitch Zeller, Director of the Center for Tobacco Products at the FDA recently stated:

"If a current smoker, otherwise unable or unwilling to quit, completely substituted all of the combusting cigarettes that they smoked with an electronic cigarette at the individual level, that person would probably be significantly reducing their risk."

<http://thedianerehmsshow.org/shows/20140121/newhealthriskscigarettesmoking/transcript>

- Also problematic is that SB2691 SD2 exempts traditional Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) products that contain nicotine even though electronic cigarettes have been shown to be a much more effective tool for helping people quit smoking and have been demonstrated to have a similar risk profile as NRT's.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/add.12623/abstract>

http://m.circ.ahajournals.org/content/130/Suppl_2/A14945.short

- SB2691 SD2's justification states that without taxing vapor products, "smokers may be tempted to purchase less expensive products such as e-liquid". This is false. **Virtually all e-cigarette starter kits and bottles of e-liquid are already higher priced in comparison to tobacco cigarettes.** An average reusable electronic cigarette starter kit ranges in price from \$30 to upwards of \$300 depending on the device. Furthermore, a 15ml bottle of e-liquid (the smallest bottle size currently offered) is currently retailed at \$12.99 at all of our locations, which is nearly 33% more costly than a standard pack of cigarettes, yet it provides nearly the same amount of puffs.
- **The tax framework laid out by SB2691 SD2 is overly broad by applying it to all components and parts of an e-cig and appears to be unenforceable.** The bill aims to tax all vapor devices including all of their components whether or not they are sold separately "including but not limited to atomizers, coils, drips tips, and tanks". Applying the tax to all associated components for vapor products is inequitable since the tobacco tax does not apply to lighters, rolling papers, pipes and any other smoking tool or accessory used to smoke tobacco that does not even contain tobacco. Furthermore the bill appears internally contradictory. The E-liquid section of the bill states that any device sold with e-liquid that does not contain nicotine is exempt from the tax altogether. Because the vapor



components do not contain nicotine, this means that it is exempt from the tax.

- **Most troubling is the fact that by subjecting vapor products to this proposed tax, the additional costs to consumers will likely result in the state seeing less tax revenue, and even worse, former smokers returning to tobacco use. The tax will result in current vapor users purchasing from online vendors who would not be subject to state taxes. Local manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers would be put at a massive competitive disadvantage and most retail customers would send their money out-of-state effectively lowering the tax revenue already being generated by sales of vapor products here in the state.** We would be unable to compete in other out-of-state and international markets with competitors who are not subjected to the same tax, which would put our local operations in severe jeopardy meaning an immediate loss of jobs and existing revenues. This bill would also effectively reduce access to a modified risk product that has been a public health win and would simply prop up and protect the proven deadly tobacco market.

It is our belief that this unjustified regulation and tax will not serve the best interests in the state of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,
Cory N. Smith
CEO & Owner
VOLCANO Fine Electronic Cigarettes®
1003 Bishop Street #1260
Honolulu, HI 96813
cory@volcanoecigs.com



99-082 Kauhale St, Suite #B1
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
(808) 486-0402
Devin@pcgamerzhawaii.com

To: Committee on Health

Re: Opposition to SB2691 SD2

Hearing: Monday, March 14th 2016 2:15pm

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony my name is Devin Wolery from PC Gamerz & Hawaii Vapers United Association.

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

- Electronic Smoking devices, IE Vape products are not Tobacco
 - People that vape, are anti tobacco. We want to get away from the smokers.
 - Devices and atomizers, coils, drip tips, tanks and any other accessory that is sold ala carte, does not contain nicotine and therefore should not be classified as a tobacco product.
 - If that is true for vape products, would that not also make it so that all rolling papers, lighters, glass “tobacco” pipes and other accessories would also be tobacco products?
 - **This bill is internally contradictory. The E-liquid section of the bill states that if it is sold without nicotine it would be exempt from the tax altogether. Therefore any of the devices sold separately would be without nicotine and should be exempt as well.**
 - If the accessories defined under electronic smoking devices are to be reported on similar to products that contain nicotine. Then all products that are used for actual smoking of tobacco products, need to be as well. So all rolling papers, lighters, butane, flints and any other product that can be used to light a cigarette or cigar should fall under the same umbrella.
 - **By placing all accessories under the tobacco product definition, it will add the current 70% TAX to all vaping related products. IT IS NOT JUST A DEFINITION**



**99-082 Kauhale St, Suite #B1
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
(808) 486-0402
Devin@pcgamerzhawaii.com**

- Vape products are already more expensive than cigarettes.
 - Many users do not use cigalikes which are \$20-50 for a starter pack. Currently.
 - Majority of vape shop customers use A la carte devices that cost upwards of \$150-300+ per combined kit.
 - Eliquid costs are already high at \$12 for a 15ml up to \$70 for a 120ml bottle.
 - If under the current proposed 55 cents per ML. This would be the cause and effect of increasing this Tax, for NO legitimate reason. This TAX is not to discourage youth. It is already illegal for them to purchase. This tax, is because the state is losing too much money, from people ACTUALLY quitting tobacco cigarettes.

Size	Current Retail	+ 55cents per ML	+55 cents per ML + GET
15ml	\$12	\$20.25	\$21.20
30ml	\$18-25	\$34.50 - \$41.50	\$36.12 - \$43.45
60ml	\$25-35	\$58.00 - \$68.00	\$60.74 - \$71.20
120ml	\$55-75	\$121.00 - \$141.00	\$126.71 - \$147.65

- As you can see, the prices would be outrageous, and would force people to the black market. Or back to cigarettes. If you truly are about public health. Then a tax of this nature would not achieve it. And would in turn cause more health issues. Please defer this, and wait for FDA to rule on this nature.
- If this definition passes in ANY of the bills through the session.
 - It WILL guarantee a black market on the island. Putting many tax paying shops out of business.
 - Their is already a small black market on Craigslist and Facebook Groups.
 - Those outlets for the products are completely unregulated and do not hold themselves to the standards we want in place for the vape industry.
 - More people will get sick or hurt from this over reach.
 - Please defer this bill and consider discussion with Hawaii Vapers United Association.

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

It is our belief that this unjustified classification and requirements are not in the best interests of the State of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Devin Wolery
Hawaii Vapers United Association

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TOBACCO, Tax on Electronic Smoking Devices

BILL NUMBER: SB 2691, SD-2

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This is a new tax beginning on 1/1/17 on electronic smoking devices at ___% of the wholesale price and ___ cents per milliliter of e-liquid. 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 section 245-1 to add definitions of disposable electronic smoking device, electronic smoking device, e-liquid, and reusable electronic smoking device; amends other definitions to include electronic smoking devices and e-liquid.

Amends HRS section 245-3 to impose an excise tax equal to ___% of the wholesale price of each disposable electronic smoking device sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer on and after 1/1/2017; to impose an excise tax equal to ___ cents per milliliter of e-liquid sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer on and after 1/1/2017;

Makes other conforming amendments to include sales of electronic smoking devices or e-liquid.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2050.

STAFF COMMENTS: The proposed measure would amend the definition of “cigarette” to include “electronic smoking devices” thereby making them subject to the tobacco tax. Traditional cigarettes have been proven to be a health hazard, but electronic smoking devices have only appeared on the market in 2004. Even though such devices contain nicotine, they do not produce other hazardous substances associated with a traditional cigarette.

Given the fact that there is no tobacco being consumed with these electronic smoking devices, it is questionable why these particular products should be placed under the tobacco tax. They may be substitutes for a tobacco product, but so are other products like nicotine gum. How should these latter products be taxed, if at all? As noted many times before, if the health department believes that products such as cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and other forms of tobacco consumption are bad for the community’s health, then those products should be banned altogether. Apparently, lawmakers do not want to give up the revenues they reap from the heavy taxes imposed on these products.

Digested 3/11/2016

The House Committee on Health
March 14, 2016
2:15 p.m.
Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2691, SD2

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

My name is Adelia Chung Dung and I am the current president of the Friends of the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center Board of Directors.

Imagine a world without cancer.

I strongly support SB 2691 and ask that a portion of the revenue generated from the tax on electronic smoking devices be appropriated to the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center special fund.

In Kakaako, a group of dedicated individuals are committed to creating a world where cancer no longer exists.

These researchers who work at the University of Hawaii Cancer Center make it their mission to reduce the burden of cancer through research, education and patient care.

This center is one of only 69 National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated centers in Hawaii and the Pacific. The designated centers are anchors of our nation's cancer research effort.

Earning this designation means we have in our midst an institution that has shown leadership in cancer research and gives local citizens access to cutting edge cancer treatment. This designation allows us to receive funding for projects, collect and share information and move cancer research and training forward.

As a community, we need to recognize the significance of having such a valuable resource in our backyard. We need to partner with the dedicated team of researchers. Your support of the Center is critical.

When our daughter Alana was diagnosed with cancer, we were forced to relocate to Seattle. It meant leaving our jobs, establishing a new household, and having no support system of family and friends.

By supporting the Center in Kakaako, you make it possible for patients to have access to quality care and cutting edge research in the community they live and work in with the support system of family and friends.

As lawmakers, I trust that you will see the value of such a resource and provide it with the financial support it needs to thrive. You can we do your part to help make a world without cancer a reality.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

The House Committee on Health

March 14, 2016

2:15 p.m.

Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2691, 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.

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and request that a portion of the additional revenue generated by the taxes on electronic smoking devices be allocated to the Cancer Center's Special Fund. This will enable the Cancer Center to continue its ground-breaking work for Hawaii.

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 14, 2016

2:15 p.m.

Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2691, 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.

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.

I respectfully request that a portion of the additional revenue generated by the taxes on electronic smoking devices be allocated to the Cancer Center's Special Fund. The additional revenue generated would allow the Cancer Center to continue to provide innovative clinical trials in Hawaii to help prevent and treat cancer, and will allow the Center to continue its research on the causes and cures for cancer, including our research into the natural products found only in Hawaii.

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Lori Phillips, Ed. D.

The House Committee on Health
March 14, 2016
2:15 p.m.
Room 329

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2691, SD2
From Howard Stephenson**

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

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.

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 Center is now in need of further financial support from the state legislature. In the past, the cigarette tax provided more money for operations than it is currently available because the number of smokers has decreased. 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.

Clearly the need for the Cancer Center in Hawaii is great and the cost of closing it would be prohibitive. The Center is presently seeking a new director and several fine candidates have expressed an interest. There are good reasons for funding the Cancer Center which is a part of the Hawaii community and provides a vital service for everyone in our state and the Pacific region.

I respectfully request that a portion of the additional revenue generated by the taxes on electronic smoking devices be allocated to the Cancer Center's Special Fund. The additional revenue generated would allow the Cancer Center to continue to provide innovative clinical trials in Hawaii to help prevent and treat cancer, and will allow the Center to continue its research on the causes and cures for cancer, including our research into the natural products found only in Hawaii. Thank you.

The House Committee on Health

March 14, 2016

2:15 p.m.

Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2691, 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 2691. 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, or have moved to cheaper forms of tobacco products and electronic cigarettes.

I respectfully request that a portion of the additional revenue generated by the taxes on electronic smoking devices be allocated to the Cancer Center's Special Fund. The additional revenue generated would allow the Cancer Center to continue to

provide innovative clinical trials in Hawaii to help prevent and treat cancer, and will allow the Center to continue its research on the causes and cures for cancer, including our research into the natural products found only in Hawaii.

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

House Committee On Health
Representative Dell Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan Vice Chair

March 11, 2016

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE:	Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME:	2:15PM
PLACE:	Conference Room 329

Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

In Hawaii, 1 in 5 high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, over and above cigarette use. The FDA and federal agencies do not approve electronic smoking devices as a smoking cessation device. Electronic cigarette devices are not regulated it can harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

Your support to help prevent our kids from this dangerous addiction is appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted

Rachel Kruse

Master's Social Work Candidate, 2016

rkruse@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 7:46 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: lbuencon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Buenconsejo-Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Bellati and members of the committee: I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine. E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. The tobacco industry continues to prey not only on teens (by using fruit or sweet flavoring), but also continues to target minorities and lower-income groups -- as the availability of these products is proportionally higher in lower income communities. As you all know Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development. E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use. It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. Many of our Native, minority, rural and poorer community members already suffer from disproportionate rates of chronic disease and cancer. These products will only contribute to this health disparity. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee. Mahalo for your consideration.

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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For House Health Committee hearing. SB2691_SD2 Monday 14 March, 2:15 pm

I am submitting personal testimony on SB2691 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.

SB2691 would impose an excise tax on electronic smoking devices.

I strongly support this legislation for several reasons.

1. Use of e-cigarettes increases risk for current and future health problems. A relation to initiation of smoking tobacco cigarettes has been found among adolescents and young adults in three recent publications in JAMA, JAMA Pediatrics, and Tobacco Control. Several other papers by our collaborators also have found that e-cigarette use increases risk for initiation of cigarette smoking. Moreover, recent papers in PLOS One and JAMA Pediatrics have found e-cigarette use among adolescents linked to respiratory problems and a higher number of missed school days.

2. Advocates for e-cigarettes often make the claim that e-cigarette use by cigarette smokers is effective for helping them to quit smoking. However, there is little evidence to support this proposition and most of the available evidence is against it. A recent review in Lancet Respiratory Medicine, covering all 20 available studies, concluded that smokers who use e-cigarettes are less likely to quit compared with smokers who do not use e-cigarettes. This meta-analysis controlled for nicotine dependence and motivation to quit.

3. It has been argued that nicotine can have positive pharmacological benefits for some individuals and this outweighs any behavioral or physiological risks. Although nicotine itself has not been conclusively linked to carcinogenesis, there is evidence for its role as a tumor promoter, as discussed in Grando's 2014 paper in Nature Reviews - Cancer. Furthermore, several papers by developmental psychologists and neurobiologists have noted adverse effects of nicotine on the developing brains of adolescents (e.g., Yuan et al., Journal of Physiology 2015; 293[16]:3397-3412). Given the demonstrated relation of e-cigarette use to onset of cigarette smoking, which has been linked to 15 different types of cancer, and likely adverse brain effects, any pharmacological benefits of nicotine would have to be very large to outweigh these costs.

Our research has indicated that use of e-cigarettes is quite prevalent among adolescents in Hawaii. Our publication in the journal Pediatrics reported that 29% of 9th and 10th 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.

Our continuing research has shown that using e-cigarettes leads to an increased interest in smoking among adolescents, that adolescent nonsmokers who use e-cigarettes are more likely to start smoking 1 year later, and that the effect of e-cigarettes is strongest among youth who are at lower risk for smoking. That is, e-cigarette use increases smoking initiation disproportionately among those adolescents who were least likely to smoke. 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 in different parts of the mainland.

Epidemiological studies show a substantial prevalence of e-cigarette use among adolescents and young adults. Prevalence rates are higher in Hawaii than what is typically found for other parts of the US. Our findings indicate that more action is necessary to reduce the rate of e-cigarette use. Taxation has previously been shown effective for reducing rates of cigarette smoking. Thus there is a justification for imposing a tax on e-cigarettes as well as on tobacco cigarettes, as this is likely to reduce the rate of smoking initiation.

Our research programs provide new knowledge that increases scientific visibility for Hawaii and helps to prevent smoking. In addition they bring money into the Islands that provides jobs for local citizens--both students and community residents. Our study of e-cigarettes, 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 Cancer Center through the NCI designation. For these reasons, I respectfully request that a portion of the additional revenue generated by the taxes on electronic smoking devices be allocated to the Cancer Center's Special Fund. This would help to help support the infrastructure that has made our research possible and continue the mission of the UH Cancer Center to do research on the etiology and prevention of smoking, thus reducing the burden of cancer in the population of Hawaii.

Thomas A.Wills
5079 Maunalani Circle
Honolulu, HI 96816

HLTtestimony

From: Barbara Nosaka <barbrick@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 6:48 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Barbara Nosaka
2216 Hoonanea Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

HLTtestimony

From: Kiara Thompson <kiarat2017@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 6:50 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kiara Thompson
P. O. Box 1733
Kealakekua, HI 96750

HLTtestimony

From: Christopher La Chica <cricketlachica@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 6:56 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Michele Nihipali <nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:01 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, 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: Maria Moreno - Chow <morenochow@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:04 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

The House Committee on Health

March 14, 2016

2:15 p.m.

Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT ON SB 2691, SD2

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

My name is Joe W. Ramos, and I am a Professor (Researcher) and have been with the University of Hawaii Cancer Center for twelve years.

My work at the Cancer Center is focused on understanding how cancers become metastatic and move to other organs in the body. This is what kills 90% of all patients and remains poorly understood. For example, metastasis of breast cancer to the brain is a frequent cause of death. We are using the knowledge we gain from understanding the underlying molecular mechanisms that drive metastasis to develop new drug candidates from local natural products and engineered small molecules. We have published several recent drugs candidates that are currently in testing in pre-clinical models including two promising ones for Kidney Cancer.

I am writing to express my support for SB 2691. 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 presents new challenges for tobacco control and tobacco-related legislation.

The UH Cancer Center perspective on electronic smoking devices is informed by data recently obtained from Hawaii adolescents and young adults who are participants in original research conducted by our own faculty. Research conducted in Hawai'i high schools by Thomas Wills, PhD, has confirmed that **rates of e-cigarette use by Hawai'i adolescents are at least double the rate of e-cigarette use observed in studies of mainland adolescents**. Furthermore, his study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Pediatrics* clarified a reason why e-cigarette use is growing nationally among teens, as his data suggest that **e-cigarettes may be operating to recruit lower-risk adolescents to smoking**. And recently Pallav Pokhrel, PhD, and Thaddeus Herzog, PhD, published on the topic of e-cigarettes and motivation to quit smoking. Drs. Pokhrel and Herzog also assessed differences between smokers who used e-cigarettes to quit versus those who used FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapy. Additionally, these researchers have published on the effects of e-cigarette marketing on harm perceptions, as well as e-cigarette use expectancies and their impact on e-cigarette use among young adults.

This research is vital to gaining an evidence-based understanding of what drives acceptance of this emerging technology, what users believe regarding its safety, and what the consequences are for adolescents, whose brains are particularly susceptible to nicotine.

We believe imposing an excise tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, reusable electronic smoking devices, and e-liquid sold by any wholesaler or dealer like the excise tax imposed on the sale of cigarettes creates fairness in the market place. There is serious concern among health professionals that addictive tobacco products other than cigarettes – including snuff, chewing tobacco, loose roll-your-own tobacco, and now electronic smoking devices – are attracting a new generation of tobacco users. While the dangers of smoking are well known, national research also tells us there is no safe form of tobacco use.

Given that the UH Cancer Center has led the effort to better understand the health effects of electronic smoking devices, **I respectfully request that a portion of the additional revenue generated by the taxes on these devices be allocated to the Cancer Center's Special Fund.** The additional revenue generated would allow the Cancer Center to continue to provide innovative clinical trials in Hawaii to help prevent and treat cancer, and will allow the Center to continue its research on the causes and cures for cancer, including our research into the natural products found only in Hawaii.

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

HLTtestimony

From: Michelle Gray <mmg2b@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:04 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Michelle Gray
430 Lanipuaa Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

HLTtestimony

From: Shay Chan Hodges <shay.chanhodges@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:06 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Shay Chan Hodges
37 Puu Koa Place
Haiku, HI 96708

HLTtestimony

From: Forrest Batz <fbatz@sonic.net>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:07 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes contain nicotine, a highly addictive substance that can harm brain development which continues well into the 20s.

And, e-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that is inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to secondhand aerosol. Recently reported research finds that youth who use e-cigarettes are much more likely to experience severe asthma symptoms, and miss school, than youth who do not use e-cigarettes.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and growing evidence suggests that e-cigarette use among teens can lead to continued use of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting the dangerous addiction to nicotine. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Forrest Batz, PharmD

Forrest Batz
HC3 Box 4730
Keaau, HI 96749

HLTtestimony

From: Kanani Kilbey <kanani.kilbey@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:10 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, 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: Anna Pau <annacpau@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:11 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Anna Pau
94-1210 Mopua Lp., # 6A
Waipahu, HI 96797

HLTtestimony

From: Denise Della <ddella@atsu.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 11:45 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Denise Della
98-662 Puailima Street
Aiea, HI 96701

HLTtestimony

From: Jacqueline Tellei <jtellei@waikikihealth.org>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 8:37 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Jacqueline Tellei
3662 Alani Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

HLTtestimony

From: Manuel Navalta <manuel.navalta@doh.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 7:58 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Stephanie van Emends <Curlytopper777@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 10:03 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Stephanie van Emends
PO Box 1755
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

HLTtestimony

From: Cynthia Chow <Cindy_artemis13@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:17 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Cynthia Chow <Cindy_artemis13@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:17 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Bryan Mih <bmih@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 9:16 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

As a pediatrician in Honolulu and medical director of the HEALTHY Tobacco & Nicotine Cessation Program, I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Electronic smoking devices are clearly products meant to approximate the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products. Electronic smoking devices take a mixture of chemicals, including nicotine, and vaporize it at high temperatures. These devices emit nicotine byproducts and a variety of other chemicals, and they have not been fully studied in regards to safety. E-cigarette vapor has been shown to include carcinogens and toxins including nicotine, nitrosamines, diethylene glycol, formaldehyde, and acetaldehyde. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has exhibited concern regarding the safety of electronic smoking devices as well.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. Thank you for your consideration and support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP
Pediatrician

Bryan Mih

1944 Naniu Pl
Honolulu, HI 96822

HLTtestimony

From: Jayson O'Donnell <jaysonod@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:34 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

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With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Jayson O'Donnell
3311 Campbell Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815

HLTtestimony

From: Kim Swartz <kswartz@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:34 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

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With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Marilyn Gagen <mgagen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:36 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Martha Yamada <martha.yamada@doh.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:44 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned in to an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Martha Yamada
912 Puku Street Hilo HI 96720
Hilo, HI 96720

HLTtestimony

From: Jeyci Kaili <jeyci.kaili@imua.ksbe.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 7:30 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Jeyci Kaili
456 Makani Circle
Hilo, HI 96720

HLTtestimony

From: Mark Levin <levin@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 8:05 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Mark Levin
2108 Hunnewell St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

HLTtestimony

From: Olelo pa'a Ogawa <glow@glowhawaii.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 8:06 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

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With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Ronald Chow <rowser50@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 6:21 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Ronald Chow
548 Ulua Street
Kailua, HI 96734

HLTtestimony

From: Patricia Blair <patriciablair@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 8:38 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

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It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Patricia Blair
522 Uluhala St.
Kailua, HI 96734

HLTtestimony

From: Kaipu Seales <pauwalukai@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 8:39 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

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ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kaipu Seales
2807 Park St
HONOLULU, HI 96748

HLTtestimony

From: Lorrie Ann Santos <anelalani@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 8:41 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Peter Swanzy <dr.swanzy@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 8:55 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 2016

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

I do not support SB 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I do not support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposadble electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigs are a positive alternative to smoking cigarettes, do not leave strong residual odor, and do not generate as much waste - especially on our beaches.

E-Cigs have helped me significantly to stop smoking, and have helped many others I know to do the same.

Taxing E-cigs will have no impact on youth consumption, although I do believe youth consumption is an issue to be dealt with in other ways.

Mahalo,

Peter Swanzy
PO Box 791349
Paia, HI 96779

HLTtestimony

From: Nicole Xavier <nhxavier.16@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 9:14 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Nicole Xavier
Kapolei High School

Nicole Xavier
92-320 Kiowao Pl.
Kapolei, HI 96707

HLTtestimony

From: Lawrence Denis <lbd3emails@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 9:19 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Lawrence Denis
PO Box 385847
Waikoloa, HI 96738

HLTtestimony

From: Beth Irikura <irikura@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 9:31 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Beth Irikura
3049 Kalihi St
Honolulu, HI 96819

HLTtestimony

From: Michael Kellar <Worldmk007@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 9:53 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Patricia Fleck <pat.fleckconsulting@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 10:07 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, 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: Tami MacAller <T_macaller@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 4:14 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use. The middle school students I teach through out West Hawaii are being told by the e-cig businesses and hearing ads on the radio that eCigs are harmless. This is not right! These business owners are just trying to make money and addict kids for life... Just like big tobacco did 50 + years ago!

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Tami MacAller
75-6111 Kaanee Place
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

HLTtestimony

From: Erica Meyer <emmeyer@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 10:25 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Erica Meyer
596 linekona pl
Wailuku, HI 96793

HLTtestimony

From: Alvin Wong <anwprods@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 12:20 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

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It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Alvin Wong
1163 Hooli Circle
Pearl City, HI 96782/1904

HLTtestimony

From: Diane Omura <diane_omura@notes.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 2:33 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Diane Omura
1650 Kaahumanu Ave.
Wailuku, HI 96793

HLTtestimony

From: Courtney Voss <courtney@hiphi.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 10:33 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Courtney Voss
850 Richards Street
Haleiwa, HI 96712

HLTtestimony

From: Nan Pheatt <Npheatt@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 6:32 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Nan Pheatt
75-5919 Alii Dr
N33
Kailua-kona, HI 96740

HLTtestimony

From: Francis Wong <fbad4@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 9:29 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Francis Wong
3522 Ala Aloalo Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96818

HLTtestimony

From: Curtis Palmer <808palmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 7:49 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

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It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Curtis Palmer
45-615 Puuluna Pl
Kaneohe, HI 96744

HLTtestimony

From: Boyd, Manager Richard Boyd <boyd.mgr.mterrace@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 8:01 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, 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: Hau'oli Tomoso <john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 5:31 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,
John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW
51 Ku'ula Street
Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-2906
808-280-1749

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

HLTtestimony

From: Kathryn Braun <kbraun2000@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 9:16 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kathryn Braun
625 Iolani Ave #504
Honolulu, HI 96813

HLTtestimony

From: Ronald Kuriki <kurikir001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 10:05 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Ronald Kuriki
1655-C Palolo Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

HLTtestimony

From: Lee Buenconsejo-Lum <l Buencon@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 7:39 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. The tobacco industry continues to prey on youngsters by flavoring the liquid with fruit and other sweet flavors. The evidence is quite strong -- including by that of research at our own UH Cancer Center -- that these are indeed addictive. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum
47-671 Nukupuu Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

HLTtestimony

From: Rebecca Schweitzer <rjwillia@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 10:15 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Nora Usita, RN <nusita.metrocare@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 6:41 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Nora Usita, RN
170 Aikane circle
Hilo, HI 96720

HLTtestimony

From: Tyler Ralston <dgkahalas@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 10:51 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Tyler Ralston
PO Box 10528
Honolulu, HI 96816

HLTtestimony

From: Erin Bantum <ebantum@cc.hawaii.edu>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 4:35 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Erin Bantum
677 Ala Moana Blvd Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96822

HLTtestimony

From: May Okihiro <mokihiro@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 11:38 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

May Okihiro
46-193 Yacht Club St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

HLTtestimony

From: Kirsten Ralston <Ksmithralston@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 12:52 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

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It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Kirsten Ralston
PO box 10528
Honolulu, HI 96816

HLTtestimony

From: Antonita Villa <antonitavilla@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 12:53 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

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Mahalo,

Antonita Villa
75-689 S. Mea Lanakila Pl
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

HLTtestimony

From: Rachel Kruse <rkruse@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 12:55 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

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With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Rachel Kruse
P.O. Box 1772
Pahoa, HI 96749

HLTtestimony

From: Michelle Kwock <michellek303@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 3:30 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

ESDs are not approved by the FDA and federal agencies as a smoking cessation device. Because ESDs are not regulated, most ESDs contain nicotine, which causes addiction, may harm brain development, and could lead to continued tobacco product use among youth.

It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

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

HLTtestimony

From: Nicole Kerr <nicole.kerr@ah.org>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 9:50 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

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It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Nicole Kerr
520 N. Kalaheo
Kailua, HI 96734

HLTtestimony

From: Charlenee Caraang <caraang7@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 10:12 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Charlenee Caraang
94-1023 Lumipolu St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

HLTtestimony

From: Inji Kim <inji.kim@lung.org>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 2:08 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

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With e-cigarette use at an all-time high, the appeal of ESDs has to stop. Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. ESDs contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that are inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

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It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Inji Kim
810 Richards Street
Suite 750
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Koa Robinson <krobinson@cc.hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 11:05 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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It is time for ESDs to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Koa Robinson
701 Ilalo Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

HLTtestimony

From: Samantha Coloma <scoloma2018@kapaahs.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 10:59 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 which proposes a tax on disposable electronic smoking devices, including e-liquids containing nicotine.

E-cigarettes have rapidly become popular among middle and high school students. Many believe that e-cigarettes are harmless, but that is not the case. E-cigarettes do not emit harmless water vapor; they contain nicotine and other toxic chemicals that are turned into an aerosol that is re-inhaled by the user as well as those exposed to its secondhand smoke. Nicotine is highly addictive and may harm brain development.

E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as a smoking cessation device and its use among teens could lead to continued tobacco product use.

It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Samantha Coloma
puukaa
kapa, HI 96746

HLTtestimony

From: Samantha Coloma <scoloma2018@kapaahs.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 10:59 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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Mahalo,

Samantha Coloma
puukaa
kapa, HI 96746

HLTtestimony

From: Samantha Coloma <scoloma2018@kapaahs.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 10:59 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 2016

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Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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Mahalo,

Samantha Coloma
puukaa
kapaa, HI 96746

From: Helen B <helenb@ccmaui.org>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:05 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB 2691, SD2

Date: March 12, 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 2691, SD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: March 14, 2016 at 2:15 pm at Capitol Room 329

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It is time for e-cigarettes to be taxed similar to other tobacco products to help prevent our kids from starting a dangerous addiction. I strongly support SB 2691, SD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,

Helen B
PO Box 822
Makawao, HI 96768

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 7:27 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mikenakas@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: Dear House Hawaii State House Health Committee, Don't pass SB2691! I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2691. The vapor industry is much misunderstood and this tax will only serve to kill the industry. • Vapor products contain NO tobacco, and often times contain NO nicotine, and ultimately emit NO smoke. None the less, SB 2691 aims to unfairly classify all vapor products as "Tobacco Products" and erroneously refers to the them as "Electronic Smoking Devices" to bring vapor products into the same regulatory framework as traditional tobacco cigarettes for the purposes of taxation. This will adversely effect the vapor industry in Hawaii resulting in unintended economic and health consequences detailed below . • SB2691's justification and purpose section provides that the use of Vapor Products, specifically "E Liquid", carries similar health risks to that of tobacco. However research demonstrates that vapor products have not been shown to have the same detrimental effects of combustible tobacco products. Recent studies have also shown vapor products to be as much as 95% less toxic than traditional Cigarettes .

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457102/E-cigarettes_an_evidence_update_A_report_commissioned_by_Public_Health_England_FINAL.pdf • The tax framework laid out by SB2691 is overly broad by applying it to all components and parts of an e-cig and appears to be unenforceable. The bill aims to tax all vapor devices including all of their components whether or not they are sold separately "including but not limited to atomizers, coils, drips tips, and tanks". Applying the tax to all associated components for vapor products is inequitable since the tobacco tax does not apply to lighters, rolling papers, pipes and any other smoking tool or accessory used to smoke tobacco that does not even contain tobacco. Furthermore the bill appears internally contradictory. The E-liquid section of the bill states that any device sold with e-liquid that does not contain nicotine is exempt from the tax altogether. Because the vapor components do not contain nicotine, this means that it is exempt from the tax. Thank you for your time and I hope you will do the research and listen to the people these products have helped over the

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: Monday, March 14, 2016 1:49 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hilyfevaporz@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jostin Iriarte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: By imposing this tax law on all e-liquid this is going to have a chain reaction on businesses as well as consumers. This will also cause former smokers to go back to smoking cigarettes which have been proven to cause cancer, copd, and lung disease. Vaping has had nothing proven that would entail that it causes anything harmful to your health. Vaping is a healthier lifestyle for people who are trying to quit. I have a program that we offer in our shop that helps people if they want to consider quitting cigarettes. As a former cigarette smoker myself my wife always would cough around me because she has asthma. Since I have started vaping there has been no effect on her. I urge that you reconsider your thoughts and do more studies and get everyone more educated on this for it is the key to a more healthier lifestyle and kid friendly.

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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: Sunday, March 13, 2016 11:04 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: pk.hitest@spangourmet.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
P Kuromoto	Individual	Oppose	No

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

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 10:19 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Markjowens@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Owens	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: Sunday, March 13, 2016 4:29 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kalanik26@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ernest	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: Sunday, March 13, 2016 2:33 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jkcamarena@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JUSTIN K CAMARENA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Making electronic cigarettes even more expensive will cause regular smokers to revert to polluting cigarettes because it is cheaper. Regular cigarettes are disgusting and do nothing but make an area uncomfortable and undesirable for the public.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 2:21 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: shaison0516@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shaison	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: Sunday, March 13, 2016 1:57 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Frederickdomingoadams808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frederick	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: Sunday, March 13, 2016 12:10 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: junez1188@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
taeleipu liliu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 10:21 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: bigcoopatroopa@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: steve@myplaceinparadise.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Miller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: neo777@graduate.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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Cc: dlankfor@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dominick Lankford	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jjw333333@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jake J. Watkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear House Hawaii State House Health Committee, I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2691. The vapor industry is much misunderstood and this tax will only serve to kill the industry. • Vapor products contain NO tobacco, and often times contain NO nicotine, and ultimately emit NO smoke. Nonetheless, SB 2691 aims to unfairly classify all vapor products as “Tobacco Products” and erroneously refers to the them as “Electronic Smoking Devices” to bring vapor products into the same regulatory framework as traditional tobacco cigarettes for the purposes of taxation. This will adversely effect the vapor industry in Hawaii resulting in unintended economic and health consequences detailed below . • SB2691’s justification and purpose section provides that the use of Vapor Products, specifically “E Liquid”, carries similar health risks to that of tobacco. However research demonstrates that vapor products have not been shown to have the same detrimental effects of combustible tobacco products. Recent studies have also shown vapor products to be as much as 95%+ less toxic than traditional Cigarettes .

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457102/cigarettes_an_evidence_update_A_report_commissioned_by_Public_Health_England_FINAL.pdf • The tax framework laid out by SB2691 is overly broad by applying it to all components and parts of an e-cig and appears to be unenforceable. The bill aims to tax all vapor devices including all of their components whether or not they are sold separately “including but not limited to atomizers, coils, drips tips, and tanks”. Applying the tax to all associated components for vapor products is inequitable since the tobacco tax does not apply to lighters, rolling papers, pipes and any other smoking tool or accessory used to smoke tobacco that does not even contain tobacco. Furthermore the bill appears internally contradictory. The E-liquid section of the bill states that any device sold with e-liquid that does not contain nicotine is exempt from the tax altogether. Because the vapor components do not contain nicotine, this means that it is exempt from the tax. Stop the attacks on vapor products now! Thank you for your time and I hope you will do the research and listen to the people these products have helped over the years. Mahalo, Jake

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Cc: heretic.detrie@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Detrie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: mitchieem@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitchell Moreland	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: michrobins3@myself.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: Dear House Hawaii State House Health Committee, I am writing in VERY STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2691. The vapor industry is much misunderstood and this tax will only serve to kill the industry. • Vapor products contain NO tobacco, and often times contain NO nicotine, and ultimately emit NO smoke. Nonetheless, SB 2691 aims to unfairly classify all vapor products as “Tobacco Products” and erroneously refers to the them as “Electronic Smoking Devices” to bring vapor products into the same regulatory framework as traditional tobacco cigarettes for the purposes of taxation. This will adversely effect the vapor industry in Hawaii resulting in unintended economic and health consequences detailed below . • SB2691’s justification and purpose section provides that the use of Vapor Products, specifically “E Liquid”, carries similar health risks to that of tobacco. However research demonstrates that vapor products have not been shown to have the same detrimental effects of combustible tobacco products. Recent studies have also shown vapor products to be as much as 95% less toxic than traditional Cigarettes .

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457102/E-cigarettes_an_evidence_update_A_report_commissioned_by_Public_Health_England_FINAL.pdf • The tax framework laid out by SB2691 is overly broad by applying it to all components and parts of an e-cig and appears to be unenforceable. The bill aims to tax all vapor devices including all of their components whether or not they are sold separately “including but not limited to atomizers, coils, drips tips, and tanks”. Applying the tax to all associated components for vapor products is inequitable since the tobacco tax does not apply to lighters, rolling papers, pipes and any other smoking tool or accessory used to smoke tobacco that does not even contain tobacco. Furthermore the bill appears internally contradictory. The E-liquid section of the bill states that any device sold with e-liquid that does not contain nicotine is exempt from the tax altogether. Because the vapor components do not contain nicotine, this means that it is exempt from the tax. Thank you for your time and I hope you will do the research and listen to the people these products have helped over the years. Yours, Michelle Robinson

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mypurpleplanet@outlook.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: To Della and the committee members: Don't raise my taxes on this.

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Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 2:49 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: awatanabe67@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 2:11 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: wintersnicholas@rocketmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 11:19 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: chevyriderhhh@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: Strongly Oppose new taxes!

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Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 11:01 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: starjenchan@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 9:40 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: teammom_22@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/11/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Fujiwaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This tax is unfair to the people and will only cause more people to live a very unhealthy life smoking cigarettes and adding more carbon monoxide to be in the air. Vaping is safe and harmless to everyone including children. I once had pneumonia and it was not caused from vaping. I am always around vaping and it causes nothing to my breathing nor is it full of toxins. There needs to be more research done in vaping rather than just opinions. Most people get afraid because of the amount of vapor that is produced but it disintegrates in the air unlike cigarettes which leave yellow stains all on the walls, stay in your clothing, bedding, and hair. Please reconsider your thoughts on this matter.

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: konaking@live.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Stevens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 9:30 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: 808aprilpacheco@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: This bill will make e-cigs cost more and encourage people to return to smoking real tobacco.

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: anthony_orozco@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: Dear House Hawaii State House Health Committee, I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2691. The vapor industry is much misunderstood and this tax will only serve to kill the industry. • Vapor products contain NO tobacco, and often times contain NO nicotine, and ultimately emit NO smoke. Nonetheless, SB 2691 aims to unfairly classify all vapor products as “Tobacco Products” and erroneously refers to the them as “Electronic Smoking Devices” to bring vapor products into the same regulatory framework as traditional tobacco cigarettes for the purposes of taxation. This will adversely effect the vapor industry in Hawaii resulting in unintended economic and health consequences detailed below . • SB2691’s justification and purpose section provides that the use of Vapor Products, specifically “E Liquid”, carries similar health risks to that of tobacco. However research demonstrates that vapor products have not been shown to have the same detrimental effects of combustible tobacco products. Recent studies have also shown vapor products to be as much as 95% less toxic than traditional Cigarettes .

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457102/E-cigarettes_an_evidence_update_A_report_commissioned_by_Public_Health_England_FINAL.pdf • The tax framework laid out by SB2691 is overly broad by applying it to all components and parts of an e-cig and appears to be unenforceable. The bill aims to tax all vapor devices including all of their components whether or not they are sold separately “including but not limited to atomizers, coils, drips tips, and tanks”. Applying the tax to all associated components for vapor products is inequitable since the tobacco tax does not apply to lighters, rolling papers, pipes and any other smoking tool or accessory used to smoke tobacco that does not even contain tobacco. Furthermore the bill appears internally contradictory. The E-liquid section of the bill states that any device sold with e-liquid that does not contain nicotine is exempt from the tax altogether. Because the vapor components do not contain nicotine, this means that it is exempt from the tax. Thank you for your time and I hope you will do the research and listen to the people these products have helped over the years. Yours, A. Orozco

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kathyk323@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: atown42065@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce Nagata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I work at Irie Hawaii smoke shop and I have seen e cigs change peoples lives. It also has changed mine. From a pack a day of cigarettes to the lowest level of nicotine of ejuice.. Soon I will switch to no nicotine... This bill has to be re done because it is ridiculous.. Seems like you guys want us to go back to cigarettes

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: brianportal808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 10:30 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: dustinandrewsoahu@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: This bill is as retarded as it is f'ing mean. Screwing the working guy over again with more taxes. WTF!

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My name is Jess Lovely. I'm a registered voter and a resident of Kihei, HI. I strongly oppose the taxation of e-liquid in Hawaii! Raising prices on e-liquid only forces people to continue smoking. E-cigarettes are essentially just diffusers much like the ones used in spas. They diffuse a vegetable glycerin based liquid with or without nicotine, and food flavorings. They are worse case scenario 93% better than smoking. This product has helped millions of people quit deadly tobacco and a mega price increase from tax would make it too expensive for many people. Forcing e-cigarette users back to tobacco use to feed their nicotine habit would only cost the state and federal government more money in healthcare costs! I strongly oppose the proposed tax on e-liquid and hope that you will take my letter into consideration.

Thank you,

Jess Lovely.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:21 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: k.sakumoto48@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

Categories: Blue Category

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: 1hawaii4me@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

Categories: Blue Category

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mauimoonflower@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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creagan3 - Rebekah

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Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 11:27 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: surfmaster008@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2691 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM

SB2691

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: Strong Opposition to this tax bill.

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