

**March 28, 2017 at 10:00am**  
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President & Government Relations

**Re: SCR 155 – Testimony in support**

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My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President and Government Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety.

I write in support for SCR 155 which requests the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the benefits of establishing a sugar-sweetened beverage surcharge program to fund public health programs in the State.

There is overwhelming evidence of the link between diabetes, tooth decay, obesity and the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages. Similar to cigarette taxes, which have been shown in many states to effectively reduce smoking among both youth and adults, increasing the price cigarettes will result in reducing consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages. SCR 155 will provide the information needed to quantify and determine the net benefits of establishing a sugar sweetened beverage surcharge program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

## CPH Testimony

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**From:** keikidoc1998@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jenny Welham <keikidoc1998@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2017 9:42 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in strong support of SCR155

Dear Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

**LATE**

Date: March 24, 2017

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

Re: Strong Support of SCR 155

Hrg: March 28, 2017 at 10:00am at Conference Room 229

I strongly support SCR 155 which requests that the Legislative Reference Bureau conducts a study on the benefits of establishing a sugar-sweetened beverage surcharge program to help fund public health programs in our state. The consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) or sugary drinks is strongly linked to obesity, type 2 diabetes, and tooth decay. Hawai'i already spends \$470 million annually on obesity-related health issues. SSBs are inexpensive, abundant, high in calories, deliver little or no nutrition, and appeal to our taste for sweetness. They are heavily marketed, especially to children. In Hawaii, 1 in 4 adults (22.7%) and high schoolers (28.3%) are obese. Although public health education campaigns are important, policies that would help to reduce sugary drink consumption are also key.

SCR155 would help to look at the benefits of establishing a fee on SSBs and using these funds to support nutrition and physical activity schools, as well as other critically-needed disease prevention efforts. Similar to the successes experienced in lowering our smoking rate, increasing the price of sugary drinks will likely curb consumption and help to reverse current obesity and diabetes trends.

This measure will provide the data necessary to inform the state legislature on potential revenues collected from sugary drinks to fund public health, as well as operating costs necessary to implement the program. With more and more states considering legislation, and cities such as Oakland, San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Boulder to name a few that have passed SSB fees, I ask the legislature to take the next step towards improving public health.

I strongly support SCR155 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jenny Welham  
1842 Mahana St Honolulu, HI 96816-2995  
keikidoc1998@gmail.com

## CPH Testimony

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**From:** diane\_omura@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Diane Omura  
<diane\_omura@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2017 7:11 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in strong support of SCR155

Dear Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

**LATE**

Date: March 24, 2017

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair  
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I strongly support SCR155 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Diane Omura  
2830 Kula Hwy Kula, HI 96790-8767  
diane\_omura@notes.k12.hi.us

## CPH Testimony

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**From:** mesquivel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Monica Esquivel  
<mesquivel@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:09 AM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in strong support of SCR155

Dear Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

**LATE**

Date: March 24, 2017

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair  
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I strongly support SCR155 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Monica Esquivel  
84 -575 Kili Dr Apt 65 Waianae, HI 96792-1598 mesquivel@wcchc.com

## CPH Testimony

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**From:** thejasonhuynh@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jason Huynh  
<thejasonhuynh@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 9:40 AM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in strong support of SCR155

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**LATE**

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The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair  
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I strongly support SCR155 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jason Huynh  
908 Kinau St # B Honolulu, HI 96814-1025 thejasonhuynh@gmail.com