

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA  
DIRECTOR

DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 221

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Friday, February 23, 2018

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director  
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. 2304, S.D. 1, Relating to Tobacco

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments on S.B. 2304, S.D. 1, for the Committee's consideration.

S.B. 2304, S.D. 1, makes it unlawful to sell tobacco products or electronic smoking devices within 500 feet of a school or certain playgrounds. S.B. 2304, S.D. 1, further provides that the Department shall not issue retail tobacco permits for locations within 500 feet of such locations. The bill is effective July 1, 2018.

The Department first notes that determining whether a location is within 500 feet of a school or playground is a labor-intensive process that requires personnel with surveying or other skills necessary to accurately make such a geographical determination. In order to place the responsibility of making this determination on the applicant, the Department respectfully requests Section 3 of the bill be amended to read as follows:

SECTION 3. Section 245-2.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) The retail tobacco permit shall be issued by the department upon application by the retailer in the form and manner prescribed by the department, and the payment of a fee of \$20[-]; provided that the place of business for which the permit is sought shall not be within five hundred feet of a public or private preschool; a public or private elementary, intermediate, or high school; or public playground utilized extensively by minors. Permits shall be valid for one year, from December 1 to November 30, and renewable annually[-]; provided that a permit issued for a place of business that is located within five hundred feet of a public or private preschool; a public or

private elementary, intermediate, or high school; or public playground utilized extensively by minors shall be void, such that the permit shall be valid beyond November 30, 2019.

Whenever a retail tobacco permit is defaced, destroyed, or lost, or the permittee relocates the permittee's business, the department may issue a duplicate retail tobacco permit to the permittee for a fee of \$5 per copy. The distance of five hundred feet shall be measured from the boundary of the preschool, school, or public playground to the boundary of the place of business's premises. Public or private beaches, and public or private day care centers located in or adjacent to commercial areas shall not be deemed schools or public playgrounds for purposes of this subsection. Vocational or licensing schools, or other schools attended primarily by adults, shall not be considered schools for the purposes of this subsection."

To further ensure retail tobacco permit applicants perform their own due diligence in determining that their retail locations are outside the buffer zones contained in this measure, the Department recommends that section 245-2.6(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, be amended to read as follows:

(a) Beginning March 1, 2007, a person or entity required to obtain a retail tobacco permit commits the offense of unlawful tobacco retailing in the first degree if the person or entity knowingly fails to obtain a valid permit required under section 245-2.5 and, for the purposes of retail sale, recklessly sells, possesses, stores, acquires, distributes, or transports five thousand or more cigarettes[-] or any tobacco products. For purposes of this section, a person or entity whose retail permit is void under section 245-2.5(c) shall be deemed to have knowingly failed to obtain a valid permit.

A similar amendment to section 245-2.7(a) could be made as follows:

(a) Beginning March 1, 2007, a person or entity required to obtain a retail tobacco permit commits the offense of unlawful tobacco retailing in the second degree if the person or entity recklessly fails to obtain a valid permit required under section 245-2.5 and, for the purposes of retail sale, recklessly sells, possesses, stores, acquires, distributes, or transports fewer than five thousand cigarettes or any tobacco products. For purposes of this section, a person or entity whose retail permit is void under section 245-2.5(c) shall be deemed to have recklessly failed to obtain a valid permit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 8:20:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalani Matsuura	Testifying for Mokuleia Cigar Company	Oppose	No

Comments:



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

#### **Executive Officers**

**Beau Oshiro**, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Chair*  
**John Erickson**, Meadow Gold Dairies, *Immediate Past Chair*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Vice Chair*  
**Lauren Zirbel**, HFIA, *Executive Director*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Secretary / Treasurer*  
**Stan Brown**, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*  
**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**John Shilf**, Rainbow Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*  
**Barry Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

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TO:  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2018  
TIME: 11am  
PLACE: Conference Room 211

RE: SB 2304 Relating to Tobacco

Position: Oppose

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

The restrictions proposed by this bill would penalize businesses based on arbitrary geographic guidelines that the businesses themselves have no control over. This bill would include almost all of Waikiki and downtown as well as many other commercial and retail districts around the state.

Retailers already face stiff fines and penalties for sale of tobacco to minors and Hawaii is already one of just a handful of states to raise the smoking age to 21. It is unfair to single out certain retailers based on their locations and subject them to additional restrictions, which would essentially ban them from selling a legal product. We ask that this measure be held.



February 21, 2018

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **Strong Support for SB2304**

Hrg: February 23, 2018 at 11:00am room 211

The Hawaii Public Health Association is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strongly supports SB2304 SD1 which would reduce the use, access, and exposure of tobacco products to youth by prohibiting the issuance of retail tobacco permits and sale of a tobacco product or an electronic smoking device within 750 feet of schools, public parks, and public housing complexes.

Tobacco licensing and zoning laws are effective strategies that impact the density of tobacco retailers, access to tobacco products and location of tobacco retailers. When more tobacco retailers are located in a given area, their overwhelming presence and marketing gives residents and youth in that community the impression that tobacco and electronic smoking devices are available, accessible, and acceptable.

Restricting the sale of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices near schools, public parks, and public housing matters because minority populations, youth, and low-income communities are already disproportionately affected by tobacco. When tobacco store proximity and presence is strong in the community, it perpetuates social norms about tobacco use. Whether you are keiki walking to school or playground, daily exposure to these promotions suggest that smoking or vaping is acceptable.

HPHA strongly supports changing our tobacco zoning restrictions to create an area between schools and tobacco stores where our youth will be protected from onslaught of advertising and retail availability of tobacco and e-cigarette products.

SB2304 SD1 is a policy solution that can protect our communities from being disproportionately targeted by tobacco, reduce tobacco-related health disparities, and encourages responsible tobacco retailing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Holly Kessler'.

Holly Kessler, Executive Director  
Hawai'i Public Health Association

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:25:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
PHC HNL	Testifying for Pioneering Healthier Communities of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

The Pioneering Healthier Communities Initiative brings together local, diverse leaders to discuss and support strategies, policies and programs that we can accomplish together to build healthier communities in our island home. The members of PHC are involved in helping children and families to become healthier through schools, afterschool programs, healthcare and more.

E-cigarette use, especially among today's youth, has skyrocketed. Drive by any local Hawaii middle or high school before or after school and you will witness the large number of youth using these devices. But e-cigarettes are far from healthy. They contain chemicals, such as nicotine and diacetyl, that are known to have serious health consequences.

E-cigarette manufacturers are aggressively marketing their products to kids, teens, and young adults. Products are glamorized through the use of celebrities, discounts, and flavorings such as cotton candy, and Maui mango.

Legislation to increase tobacco product price points are a proven strategy to decrease use and adverse health impacts. We urge the legislature to the same to regulate and tax disposable e-cigarette and e-liquid. We feel it's important that a portion of the revenue generated by such a tax should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs.

This bill will also require a permitting and licensing which will allow the state to know who is selling e-cigarettes in Hawai'i and work with these merchants to educate and enforce current tobacco laws.

We strongly support SB2654 SD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Thank you very much for allowing us to testify:

May Okihiro

Michael Broderick

Daniel Leung

Tina Tamai

Diane Tabangay

Jennifer Dang

Paula Adams

Ray L'Heureux

Michael Libertini

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:00:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Johnathon Myers	Testifying for Cigar Rights of America	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this proposed Bill for existing small businesses and retailers. There are plenty of Laws in place already in the State of Hawai'i that prevent youth from purchasing tobacco products--enforce them. Take a look at the prices for e-cigarette e-liquid and devices, as well as tobacco products--it is absolutely unaffordable for youth. If there is a valid statistic that the youth are using e-cigarette or tobacco products, they are most likely acquiring these items by other means than legitimate purchases through legitimate business owners--stop regulating business owners and educate youth and their parents. There are plenty of Laws in place to prevent advertisement and glamorization of tobacco and e-cigarette products at the State and Federal (FDA) level--enforce them. There are plenty of laws in place for zoning commercial businesses--if a tobacco/e-cigarette retailer is licensed and permitted in a commercial zone, then there should not be any further Government overreach. This proposed Bill is a clear example of Government overreach.





# VOLCANO®

February 21, 2018

To: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

From: Cory Smith, VOLCANO eCigs®  
CEO and Owner

**RE: SB 2304 SD1 – oppose.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

VOLCANO eCigs® is the largest wholesaler and retailer of vapor products and vaping accessories in the State of Hawaii. We currently own and operate 13 locations statewide and employ over 80 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 SB 2304 SD1 for the following:

- Vapor products and e-liquids contain NO tobacco, often times contain NO nicotine, and ultimately emit NO smoke when vaporized; yet **SB 2304 SD1 deceptively refers to vapor products as “Electronic Smoking Devices”** to mislead the public and creates a false perception of the nature of these products. This misclassification establishes the idea that vapor products are the same as tobacco products and thus, should be viewed, controlled, and perceived the same way as traditional tobacco products. This is a complete disregard of the fact that vapor products are fundamentally different from tobacco products in every way.
- **SB 2304 SD1 equates to economic suicide for the state and would effectively equate to a ban on the retail sale of all tobacco and vapor products in thousands of existing retail locations statewide.** Considering the small land area of our islands and thousands of businesses would be unable to comply with the restrictions and would in turn most likely be forced out of business resulting in massive economic turmoil, job losses and lost revenues.
- **SB 2304 SD1 states in its justification that the bill is needed to curb youth usage. However, it fails to reference the most recent CDC report and data that shows youth use of tobacco products are at the lowest levels ever. Also, youth use of vapor products has been reported to be in decline since 2015 and recent studies have shown that the majority of youth who have reported using e-cigarettes are not using e-liquids that contain nicotine** - further suggesting that youth who do use e-cigarettes are doing so to replace the use of traditional tobacco cigarettes.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2017/p0615-youth-tobacco.html>  
<https://www.psc.isr.umich.edu/events/archive/feature-detail/1833>



# VOLCANO®

- The most Recent CDC report has shown e-cigarettes have supplanted all other traditional nicotine replacement therapies and are now the most commonly used product by tobacco users to quit using traditional tobacco cigarettes. Access to these products should be improved not restricted further.  
[http://www.journalnow.com/business/business\\_news/local/cdc-report-shows-more-smokers-try-to-quit-with-e/article\\_a33383f3-5300-5178-9f14-28b52884c45c.html](http://www.journalnow.com/business/business_news/local/cdc-report-shows-more-smokers-try-to-quit-with-e/article_a33383f3-5300-5178-9f14-28b52884c45c.html)
- Recent studies have actually shown that the substantial increase in e-cigarette use among US adult smokers was associated with a statistically significant increase in the smoking cessation rate at the population level: <http://www.bmj.com/content/358/bmj.j3262>
- SB 2304 SD1 falsely states “The popularity of these devices is concerning, as electronic smoking devices are not safe alternatives to other tobacco products” yet several recent studies have 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](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)
- Furthermore, a recent study by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine stated: **“there is conclusive evidence that completely substituting e-cigarettes for combustible tobacco cigarettes reduces users’ exposure to numerous toxicants and carcinogens present in combustible tobacco cigarettes.”** The findings add to the already weighty body of evidence showing vaping to be far less hazardous than smoking.  
<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/landmark-e-cigarette-report-explodes-myth-that-vaping-is-as-toxic-as-smoking/article/2646804>  
[http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/reports/2018/public-health-consequences-of-e-cigarettes.aspx?utm\\_source=Hootsuite&utm\\_medium=Dashboard&utm\\_campaign=SentviaHootsuite](http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/reports/2018/public-health-consequences-of-e-cigarettes.aspx?utm_source=Hootsuite&utm_medium=Dashboard&utm_campaign=SentviaHootsuite)

It is our view that this bill and its poorly defined definitions and infeasible requirements would create a massive economic crisis and would result in the loss of thousands of businesses, countless jobs, and massive revenues which are not in the best interests of the State of Hawaii or its’ citizens. 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



VOLCANO®

[cory@volcanoecigs.com](mailto:cory@volcanoecigs.com)

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 6:09:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jon Miyabuchi	Testifying for Minit Stop Stores	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:26:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 12:05:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Charles F Ah Nee Bahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2304 SD1 which would reduce the use, access, and exposure of tobacco products to youth by prohibiting the issuance of retail tobacco permits and sale of a tobacco product or an electronic smoking device within 500 feet of preschools, public and private K-12 schools and public playgrounds used by youth.

Tobacco licensing and zoning laws are effective strategies that impact the density of tobacco retailers, access to tobacco products and location of tobacco retailers. When more tobacco retailers are located in a given area, their overwhelming presence and marketing gives residents and youth in that community the impression that tobacco and electronic smoking devices are available, accessible, and acceptable.

Restricting the sale of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices near schools and playgrounds matter because minority populations, youth, and low-income communities are already disproportionately affected by tobacco. Please allow me to elaborate on this; minority populations= Native Hawaiian, Filipino, Samoan, Tongan, Marshallese, Palauan, Chuukese, Chinese. Low-income communities= Kalihi, Liliha, Chinatown, Pawa, Mo'ili'ili, Waipahu, Pupu'ole, Aiea makai, Wai'anae, Makaha, Nanakuli, Ma'ili. When tobacco store proximity and presence is strong in the community, it perpetuates social norms about tobacco use. Whether you are keiki walking to school or playground, daily exposure to these promotions suggest that smoking or vaping is acceptable.

I strongly support changing our tobacco zoning restrictions to create an area between schools and tobacco stores where our youth will be protected from onslaught of advertising and retail availability of tobacco and e-cigarette products.

SB2304 SD1 is a policy solution that can protect our communities from being disproportionately targeted by tobacco, reduce tobacco-related health disparities, and encourages responsible tobacco retailing.

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 1:06:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
C. Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

[SB2304](#) would create tobacco-free buffer zones near preschools, public and private K-12 schools, and public playgrounds used by youth, helping to reduce the density of tobacco retailers. We know that minority populations, youth, and low-income communities are already disproportionately affected by tobacco. Buffer zones can help address this inequality.

Date: February 21, 2018

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **SUPPORT for SB2304 SD1**, Relating to Tobacco

Hrg: February 23, 2018 at 11:00am at Capitol Room 211

Respected Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing in strong **SUPPORT of SB2304 SD1** that would reduce the use, access, and exposure of tobacco products to youth by prohibiting the issuance of retail tobacco permits and sale of a tobacco product or an electronic smoking device within 500 feet of preschools, public and private K-12 schools and public playgrounds used by youth.

Tobacco licensing and zoning laws are effective strategies that impact the density of tobacco retailers, access to tobacco products and location of tobacco retailers. When more tobacco retailers are located in a given area, their overwhelming presence and marketing gives residents and youth in that community the impression that tobacco and electronic smoking devices are available, accessible, and acceptable.

Restricting the sale of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices near schools and playgrounds matters because youth are indirect targets of tobacco retailing. When tobacco store proximity and presence is strong in the community, it perpetuates social norms about tobacco use. For keiki walking to/from school or the playground, daily exposure to these establishments and their promotions suggests that smoking or vaping is acceptable.

I strongly support changing our tobacco zoning restrictions to create a buffer zone between schools and playgrounds and tobacco stores to protect our keiki from the influence of advertising and retail availability of tobacco and e-cigarette products.

SB2304 SD1 is a policy solution that can protect our youth from being disproportionately targeted for tobacco use, reduce tobacco-related health disparities, and encourage responsible tobacco retailing.

I strongly **support SB2304 SD1** and respectfully ask you to pass this bill out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD  
Keaau, HI



**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:15:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Stensrud	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing today in strong support of SB 2304 to limit the sales of tobacco and vaping products within 500 feet of schools and playgrounds. I think it's very telling that this was selected as the number one priority by kids themselves which I hope the legislators take note of. Who better than our children to realize the impact of walking through a gauntlet of establishments on their way to and from school or a playground that sell tobacco or vaping products. Given the aggressive marketing campaigns that clearly target kids, flavored e liquids for an example, we need to minimize our kids' exposure to the sales of these items.

As a parent and youth volunteer it pains me to see middle school kids walking to school in their school shirts vaping. We need to do everything we can to combat the alarming rise in use of vaping products by children in Hawaii. Prohibiting the sale of these items around our schools and playgrounds seems like a small step in the right direction towards improving the health of our kids.

Please support SB 2304

Sincerely,

Scott Stensrud

Kapolei, HI

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:02:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 5:50:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support this important bill for the health of our keiki s.

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 6:10:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Monika Lopez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 6:30:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cindy Nettles	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:53:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sean Higa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2304-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:37:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dan Domizio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! BUFFER zones for schools are an important strategy in limiting the exposure to children of tobacco products and tobacco users. Reducing the number of children exposed to tobacco will limit the adoption of this harmful habit.

I strongly urge you to create buffer zones.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Dear Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hrg: February 23, 2018 at 11:00am at Capitol Room 211

I am writing in strong support of SB2304 SD1 which would reduce the use, access, and exposure of tobacco products to youth by prohibiting the issuance of retail tobacco permits and sale of a tobacco product or an electronic smoking device within 500 feet of preschools, public and private K-12 schools and public playgrounds used by youth.

Tobacco licensing and zoning laws are effective strategies that impact the density of tobacco retailers, access to tobacco products and location of tobacco retailers. When more tobacco retailers are located in a given area, their overwhelming presence and marketing gives residents and youth in that community the impression that tobacco and electronic smoking devices are available, accessible, and acceptable.

Restricting the sale of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices near schools and playgrounds matter because minority populations, youth, and low-income communities are already disproportionately affected by tobacco. When tobacco store proximity and presence is strong in the community, it perpetuates social norms about tobacco use. Whether you are keiki walking to school or playground, daily exposure to these promotions suggest that smoking or vaping is acceptable.

I strongly support changing our tobacco zoning restrictions to create an area between schools and tobacco stores where our youth will be protected from onslaught of advertising and retail availability of tobacco and e-cigarette products.

SB2304 SD1 is a policy solution that can protect our communities from being disproportionately targeted by tobacco, reduce tobacco-related health disparities, and encourages responsible tobacco retailing.

I am a pediatrician and mother and I strongly support this bill.

Helen Barrow	Kahala Howser	Kendra Medeiros	Stephanie Abe
Alan Trinh	Javier Mendez	Keawe Kaholokula	Jen Azuma Chrupalyk
Ronald Kuriki	Kim Nichols	Candee Rillon	Sharon Hicks
Debbie Apolo	Duquesa Padamada	Elijah Todd-Walden	Annalise Busekrus
Allison Seales	Kathleen Hagan	michelle schiff	Michelle Gray
Marilyn Gagen	Mary Santa Maria	Kathyrn Braun	John Ishoda



Christopher La Chica	Curtis Palmer	Leila Ventar	Mealani Rahmer
Aly Hite	Kathleen Corpuz	Erin Bantum	Shay Chan Hodges
Pualei Kaohelaulii	Alyson Borrego	Dale Cole	Emi Orikasa
Cynthia Chow	Chris Fukui	Patricia Fleck	Jenna Lee
Mae Kyono	Mark Levin	Alohelyn Espejo	Barbara Nosaka
Bev Brody	Charles Racsa	Claudia Hartz	Michael Kellar
Tyler Ralston	Stephanie Moir	Stephen Harris	Patricia Blair
Jan-Marie Osorio	Valerie J Yontz		

Dear Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hrg: February 23, 2018 at 11:00am at Capitol Room 211

I

I strongly support changing our tobacco zoning restrictions to create an area between schools and tobacco stores where our youth will be protected from onslaught of advertising and retail availability of tobacco and e-cigarette products.

SB2304 SD1 is a policy solution that can protect our communities from being disproportionately targeted by tobacco, reduce tobacco-related health disparities, and encourages responsible tobacco retailing.

In Waimea on Hawaii Island, a vape shop opened smack in the middle of four schools - Parker, HPA Elementary, Waimea Elementary and Waimea Public Charter.

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL.

Mahalo,

Carol R. Ignacio

Sincerely,

Carol Ignacio