



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2654 SD2 HD1  
RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: April 4, 2018

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of Taxation  
2 (DOTAX) for fiscal implications of implementation and to the Department of the Attorney  
3 General (AG) for fiscal implications for enforcement.

4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports Senate Bill 2654, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1  
5 (S.B. 2654 SD2 HD1) as a measure to protect the public's health. The bill makes unlawful the  
6 shipping of tobacco products and prohibits the remote sale and distribution of cigarettes and  
7 tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices (ESD), to consumers except for licensed  
8 wholesalers or dealers. It provides for the inclusion of e-liquid in the definition of tobacco  
9 products, the imposition of an excise tax, the requirement for licensing and permitting fees, and  
10 increase in licensing and permitting fees. It increases the excise taxes on cigarettes and tobacco  
11 products by unspecified amounts. The DOH defers to DOTAX for implementation, and to the  
12 AG regarding the enforcement of the shipping regulations.

13 Despite tremendous progress in reducing smoking, tobacco use is still the leading cause  
14 of preventable illness and death in the United States and in Hawaii.<sup>1</sup> It is crucial that the  
15 progress made in reducing cigarette smoking among youth and young adults not be  
16 compromised by the initiation of e-cigarettes. In 2017, 8.1% of high students were regular

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs, 2014*. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014

1 cigarette users, but when it came to e-cigarettes, an alarming 25% were regular users, and 42%  
2 had tried them.<sup>2</sup> Several studies have shown that youth who use e-cigarettes are more likely to  
3 use regular cigarettes.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

4 The DOH supports the restriction of shipping tobacco products to anyone other than a  
5 licensed wholesaler/dealer, that is engaged in the business of selling tobacco products and is on  
6 the DOTAX authorized list. This will strengthen protections for youth and young adults.

7 Hawaii is among five states (including California, Oregon, New Jersey, and Maine)  
8 having the strongest age laws in the country that prohibit the sales of tobacco products to any  
9 person under the age of twenty-one years. Such legislation specifically addresses face-to-face  
10 transactions and is meant to prevent youth access and initiation of tobacco use. However, the  
11 acceleration of online tobacco product sales has created a dangerous loophole, undermining  
12 efforts to protect public health, by providing an appealing option for underage smokers. In the  
13 current unregulated online market, youth easily, and often, circumvent the age verification  
14 process for purchasing tobacco. In some transactions age verification simply requires the  
15 consumer to acknowledge that a person is over the legal age to purchase by clicking the word,  
16 “agree,” to advance the transaction.

17 The Internet Tobacco Vendors Study (ITV), supported by the National Cancer Institute  
18 and the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) Center for Tobacco Products, has  
19 monitored the online tobacco industry for over fifteen years, to assess sales practices and public  
20 health impacts. In 2016, its study found that minors were successful in buying ESDs online 93%  
21 of the time despite age restrictions and another study found that ESDs were often shipped from  
22 internet vendors without instructions or health warnings. Due to the easy access for minors

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<sup>2</sup> Hawaii School Health Survey/ Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2017)

<sup>3</sup> Watkins SL, Glantz, SA. Association of Noncigarette Tobacco Products Use with Future Cigarette Smoking Among Youth in the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study, 2013-2015. *JAMA Pediatric*. Published online January 2, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Barrington-Trimis, JL, Urman, R, Berhane, K, Unger, JB, Cruz, TB, Pentz, MA, Samet, JM, Leventhal, AM, McConnell, R. E-Cigarettes and Future Cigarette Use. *Pediatrics*. 2016-0379.

<sup>5</sup> Wills, TA, Knight, R, Williams, RJ, Pagano, I, Sargent JD. Risk Factors for Exclusive E-Cigarette Use and Dual E-Cigarette Use and Tobacco Use in Adolescents. *Pediatrics*. 2014-0760.

1 through online marketing, researchers recommend more vigorous policies to prohibit sales to  
2 minors.<sup>6,7</sup>

3 Unregulated online access provides a way for the purchaser and tobacco industry to avoid  
4 federal and state taxes, resulting in loss of revenue and evasion of an important public health tool  
5 for prevention.<sup>8</sup> Youth are price sensitive and online purchasing options are a less expensive  
6 method for acquiring tobacco products including ESDs. Hawaii has seen ESD use by youth and  
7 young adults increase at an alarming rate.<sup>9</sup> ESDs are now the most commonly used tobacco  
8 product among youth in the nation, and in Hawaii.<sup>10,11</sup> The electronic cigarette industry is  
9 growing rapidly, with retail and online sales of electronic smoking devices projected to reach  
10 \$10,000,000,000 in 2017.<sup>12,13</sup> The pricing, marketing, and variety of youth-friendly flavors are  
11 contributing to the increased use of ESDs.<sup>14</sup>

12 The DOH supports the proposed amendment in the measure to require wholesalers and  
13 retailers of e-liquids to obtain the applicable license or permit. Currently, all that is required of  
14 these vendors is a General Excise License. A statewide survey conducted by the University of  
15 Hawaii Cancer Center identified more than 100 e-cigarette establishments (vape shops) as  
16 separate from tobacco retail outlets. However, this cannot be considered an accurate assessment,  
17 since no specific database exists from the DOTAX regarding the number of vendors. Licensure  
18 and retail permitting would bring e-liquid vendors in alignment with the traditional tobacco

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<sup>6</sup> Williams RS, Derrick J, Ribisl KM. Electronic Cigarette Sales to Minors via the Internet. *JAMA Pediatric*. 2015;169(3): e1563. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2015.63.

<sup>7</sup> Kong AY, Derrick JC, Abrantes AS, Williams RS. *What is included with your online e-cigarette order? An analysis of e-cigarette shipping, product and packaging features*. *Tobacco Control*. [Epub ahead of print] June 29, 2016. doi:10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2016-053061.

<sup>8</sup> *The National Association for Convenience and Fuel Retailing*: <http://www.nacsonline.com/Advocacy/Issues//Tobacco/Pages/RemoteSales of Tobacco.aspx>

<sup>9</sup> Hawaii State Department of Health, *2016-2020 Tobacco Use Prevention and Control in Hawaii, Five-Year Strategic Plan*, p.25.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Tobacco Use Among Middle and High School Students — United States, 2011- 2015," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* 65(14):361-367, April 14, 2016, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/pdfs/mm6514a1.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Hawaii State Department of Health, *Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2015)*

<sup>12</sup> Herzog B, Gerber J. *E-Cigs revolutionizing the tobacco industry, 2013*. <http://www.smallcapfinancialwire.com/wp-content/uploads2013/11/E-Cigs-Rovolutionizing-the-Tobacco-Industry-Interactive-Model.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Craver, R. (September 15, 2013). Analyst projection: *E-cigs will overtake traditional tobacco revenue at Reynolds in 2021*. *Winston-Salem Journal*. [http://www.journalnow.com/business/business\\_news/local/analyst-projection-e-cigs-will-overtake-traditional-tobacco-revenue-at/article\\_948674ca-1ca9-11e3-a0ae-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.journalnow.com/business/business_news/local/analyst-projection-e-cigs-will-overtake-traditional-tobacco-revenue-at/article_948674ca-1ca9-11e3-a0ae-0019bb30f31a.html)

<sup>14</sup> *ibid*

1 retailers and would provide accurate data for compliance surveillance and working with the  
2 vendors to educate and enforce current tobacco laws.

3         The proposed increases in licensure and permitting fees are long overdue. They have  
4 remained unchanged since 1995, despite high tobacco taxes and ever-increasing tobacco industry  
5 expenditures in marketing and advertising. Tobacco licensing is an effective tool for limiting the  
6 negative public health consequences of tobacco use by ensuring that wholesalers and retailers  
7 comply with responsible sales practices. The proposed licensing would apply to those who sell  
8 e-liquids.

9         The DOH supports S.B. 2654 SD2 HD1 as a multifaceted public health measure to help  
10 prevent access to e-liquid, e-cigarettes, cigarettes and tobacco products among youth and young  
11 adults and to encourage users to quit.

12         Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
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LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA  
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To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2018  
Time: 1:30 P.M.  
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director  
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. 2654, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments on S.B. 2654, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, for the Committee's consideration.

S.B. 2654, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, makes unlawful the transport of tobacco products ordered through remote sale to any address other than that of a tobacco wholesaler or dealer. S.B. 2654, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, also expands the tax on tobacco products to include e-liquid used in electronic smoking devices. Under this bill, wholesalers and dealers of e-liquid would be subject to a tax of an unspecified percentage of the wholesale price of the e-liquid, and wholesalers, dealers and retailers of e-liquid would be required to secure licenses and retail permits annually. S.B. 2654, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, also increases the annual fee for a tobacco license from \$2.50 per year to \$250 per year, and the annual fee for a tobacco retail permit from \$20 per location to \$50 per location. Lastly, this measure amends the tax rate on cigarettes and little cigars to an unspecified amount per cigarette or little cigar on or after November, 2018, and amends the rate on tobacco products other than large cigars to an unspecified percentage of their wholesale price on or after July 1, 2018. The bill has a defective effective date of July 1, 3000.

The Department notes that it is able to administer the changes in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

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**SUBJECT:** TOBACCO, Prohibits shipment of tobacco products, adds electronic smoking devices, hikes rates and fees

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 2654, HD-1

**INTRODUCED BY:** House Committee on Health & Human Services

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Prohibits shipment of tobacco products to anyone other than a licensee. Includes e-liquid within the definition of "tobacco products", as used in the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law, thereby making all provisions of the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law that relate to tobacco products applicable to e-liquid as well. Increases the license fees and taxes on cigarettes and tobacco products.

**SYNOPSIS:** Adds a new section to chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to prohibit certain transport of tobacco products other than to a tobacco licensee, unless either (1) the tobacco products are exempt from tax, or (2) the packaging includes a notice to the effect that the State bans the sale of tobacco products to individuals under 21, and that the recipient is legally responsible for all applicable unpaid taxes on the shipped products. Unlawful shipment of tobacco products is a misdemeanor. Provides that any person or entity that purchases, uses, controls, or possesses any tobacco products for which the applicable tax has not been paid, shall be liable for the taxes, plus penalties and interest as provided for by law.

Adds a new definition to HRS section 245-1 of "e-liquid."

Amends the definition of "tobacco products" in HRS section 245 to include e-liquid.

Amends section 245-2, HRS, to raise the annual tobacco license fee from \$2.50 to \$250.00.

Amends section 245-2.5, HRS, to raise the annual retail tobacco permit fee from \$20 to \$50.

Amends section 245-3, HRS, to raise the tax on cigarettes or little cigars from 16 to \_\_\_ cents per stick, and to impose an excise tax on other tobacco products other than large cigars in the amount of \_\_\_% of the wholesale price.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 3000.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** The question that should be asked is the purpose of the tobacco tax. If the goal is to make people stop smoking by making it cost-prohibitive to smoke, then (a) it's working, as hikes in the cigarette tax have begun to exert downward pressure on collections not only locally but also nationally, but (b) it shouldn't be expected to raise revenue, because of (a). If the goal is really to stop the behavior, why are we not banning it?

As the Foundation's previous President, Lowell Kalapa, wrote in the Tax Foundation of Hawaii's weekly commentary on October 28, 2012:

Lawmakers seem to have a simplistic reaction to solving problems the solution to which plagues their constituents – tax it.

Probably the best example is what people like to call sin taxes, those excise taxes that are levied on tobacco and alcohol products. After all, smoking causes cancer and alcohol causes all sorts of problems including driving under the influence. Lawmakers and community advocates shake their heads and push for higher tax rates, arguing that making these products more expensive will deter folks from using these products.

The problem is that lawmakers also like the revenues that are generated from the sales of these products and, in some cases, they have tried to link the use and sale of these products with noble causes such as the funding of the Cancer Research Center that is currently being built. Again, the argument is that smokers should pay for programs and projects which seek to cure the related ill which in this case is cancer caused by smoking.

The irony is that arguments to increase the tax on tobacco and, more specifically, cigarettes, is a goal of getting smokers to quit while depending on the revenues from tobacco and cigarette taxes to fund an ongoing program, in this case the Cancer Research Center. So, which is it folks, stop smokers from smoking and if successful, there won't be any revenues to fund the Cancer Research Center?

The fact of the matter is that it appears that both locally and nationally, higher taxes on cigarettes is having an effect on smokers as, for the first time, tax collections on the sale of cigarettes have fallen below the previous year's tax collections. Certainly some of the decline is due to smokers actually quitting, but to some degree one has to suspect that some purchases were made via mail order from exempt Indian reservation outlets while others may be what is called gray market purchases, that is from sources outside the country.

What should come as a surprise is that most of the folks who have quit are of some means as they are more likely to recognize the health hazard caused by use of this product. That means most of those who are still smoking are among the lower-income members of our community. Thus, the tax is regressive, generating less and less collections from middle and higher-income individuals.

As predicted, programs that have been fed by earmarks from the tobacco tax, like the Cancer Research Center, have become a victim of the success of tobacco cessation programs and publicity. Revenues produced by the tobacco tax have been in steady decline over the past few years, and hoisting the smoking age to 21 in the 2015 session certainly didn't reverse the trend.

Do we really need an elaborate study to tell ourselves that fiscal reliance on earmarked funds from a sin tax is inadvisable or outright dangerous?



Date: April 2, 2018

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT for SB2654 SD2 HD1 Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes**

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 pm at Capitol Room 308

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2654 SD2 HD1 which restricts the shipment of tobacco products to anyone other than a licensee, includes e-liquids in the definition of tobacco products, thereby establishing a tax on e-liquids and requires wholesalers and retailers to obtain a tobacco permit and license, and increases the tax on cigarettes.

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 more than 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.

**1. Electronic smoking devices and all of its components and parts, including e-liquid are tobacco products.**

- As defined in Hawaii Revised Statutes §328J-1: "Electronic smoking device" means any electronic product that can be used to aerosolize and deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, hookah pipe, or hookah pen, and any cartridge or other component of the device or related product, whether or not sold separately.
- As defined federally by the FDA<sup>1</sup> in 2016: "FDA now regulates the manufacture, import, packaging, labeling, advertising, promotion, sale, and distribution of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), including components and parts of ENDS but excluding accessories. Examples of components and parts of ENDS include: E-liquids, A glass or plastic vial container of e-liquid, Cartridges, Atomizers, Certain batteries, Cartomizers and clearomizers, Digital display or lights to adjust settings, Tank systems, Drip tips, Flavorings for ENDS, and Programmable software."

**2. A tax should be established on all e-liquids, whether or not they contain nicotine for public health concerns.**

- There is no public health reason to exempt nicotine-free e-liquids from any tax. In a 2015 study<sup>ii</sup> of more than 58 million e-cigarette units found that 99% of these contained nicotine, whether or



not they were labeled as zero nicotine or nicotine-free. This is evidence that we cannot rely on self-reported information on nicotine content alone. Placing a tax on all e-liquids will also allow the Department of Taxation to administer the tax using the current systems without the burden of having to test whether or not e-liquids are in fact nicotine-free.

- Electronic smoking devices (ESDs) are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax. In a poll<sup>iii</sup> conducted by Ward Research Inc. for the Coalition in November 2018, 81% of registered Hawai'i voters were in support of taxing e-cigarettes at the same rate as cigarettes or other tobacco products. 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.

### 3. ESD and vaping among youth in Hawaii are at an all-time high with up to 50.7% in Maui County and 42.3% statewide.

- According to the 2017 Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey –

Tobacco and Vapor Product Use in Hawaii – High School and Middle School										
	State		Hawaii		Honolulu		Kauai		Maui	
	HS	MS	HS	MS	HS	MS	HS	MS	HS	MS
Ever tried using electronic vapor products	42.3%	27%	49.6%	35.8%	39%	23.8%	45.3%	30.0%	50.7%	32.1%
First tried using an electronic vapor product before age 13 years	9.0%	N/A	10.7%	N/A	8.0%	N/A	11.2%	N/A	11.2%	N/A
Used an electronic vapor product in the past 30 days	25.5%	15.7%	34.1%	23.0%	22.0%	13.4%	31.3%	18.5%	32.3%	18.3%

- Because they remain unregulated, e-cigarette companies have aggressively marketed their products by glamorizing their use, using celebrities and young adults as endorsers, and making false health claims.
- A 2016 report by the Surgeon General concluded that e-cigarettes are dangerous and a health threat to youth and young adults<sup>iv</sup>.

### 4. Hawai'i has one of the lowest tobacco license and retailer fees in the nation.

- The license fee for wholesalers and dealers is only \$2.50 a year, while retail tobacco permit fees cost only \$20 a year. Nationally, license fees in 38 states range from \$200 to \$1500. Permit fees in 32 states range from \$20 to \$1,000. **The Coalition supports increasing the wholesaler and dealer license fee to \$250.00 and the retail tobacco permit fee to \$50.00.** In comparison with other fees, the annual wholesale liquor license for the City and County of Honolulu is \$2,640.

### 5. ESD are currently not required to obtain a tobacco permit or license in order to sell these products.

- Currently, there is no database that tracks who is selling ESDs in the state, making it difficult for state agencies to educate merchants and enforce our Tobacco 21 law, which includes prohibiting the sale of ESDs to anyone under the age of 21. Without permitting and licensing, store density and distribution of these products will only continue to grow.

**6. This measure corrects the loophole in our minimum age selling and tax laws.**

- Online ESD sellers simply ask users to click a button to verify their age – a process that is both ineffective and inadequate. This measure helps to correct this loophole by requiring that ESD products be shipped to a registered and licensed seller allowing the State to enforce current tobacco selling and taxation laws.

**7. The Coalition further recommends that a portion of the revenue collected from ESD and e-liquid taxes be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs.**

- The same statewide poll found that 89% of registered Hawaii voters overwhelmingly agree that it is important for the State to earmark some of the revenue to programs aimed at preventing tobacco use among kids and to helping smokers quit. 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.

The U.S. Surgeon General issued an immediate call to action for all local and state government to enact policies that address the harmful impact of e-cigarettes. Hawai'i has already made enormous progress on tobacco control and we ask the legislature to take the necessary steps to reduce the negative health impact made by e-cigarettes and other emerging tobacco products.

**Part II**

The Coalition also supports Part II of this bill, which was inserted in the House Health and Human Services Committee. Part II of the bill increases the tax on cigarettes by an unspecified amount. Raising taxes is a proven strategy to reduce consumption on tobacco products for both adults and youth. The Coalition notes that there has not been an increase in taxes on cigarettes and little cigars in the last seven years and for other tobacco products, other than large cigars, the last tax increase occurred in 2009.

Majority of registered Hawai'i voters support an increase in cigarette taxes (76%). In addition, the Coalition requests that a portion of the proposed revenue be dedicated to the Department of Health for tobacco cessation programs and education. Currently no money from tobacco taxes are allocated towards tobacco prevention and control. Populations at risk that continue to experience higher rates of smoking would be the primary beneficiaries of these education and cessation activities, helping to provide them with the resources needed to quit smoking and to help curb the high costs associated with tobacco use.

Raising tobacco taxes encourages people to quit smoking and regulating vaping will help to prevent youth and young adults from using tobacco products. Hawai'i has been leading the way in tobacco control, and this bill will continue to champion our efforts in reducing tobacco use and reducing youth e-cigarette rates across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,



Jessica Yamauchi, MA  
Executive Director, HIPHI

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<sup>i</sup> U.S. Food & Drug Administration, "Vapors, E-Cigarettes, and other Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)." from <https://www.fda.gov/TobaccoProducts/Labeling/ProductsIngredientsComponents/ucm456610.htm#regulation>

<sup>ii</sup> Kristy L. Marynak, Doris G. Gammon, Todd Rogers, Ellen M. Coats, Tushar Singh, Brian A. King, "Sales of Nicotine-Containing Electronic Cigarette Products: United States, 2015", American Journal of Public Health 107, no. 5 (May 1, 2017): pp. 702-705. via [http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2017.303660?url\\_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr\\_id=ori%3Arid%3Acrossref.org&rfr\\_dat=cr\\_pub%3Dpubmed&](http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2017.303660?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori%3Arid%3Acrossref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%3Dpubmed&)

<sup>iii</sup> This study by Ward Research, Inc. summarizes findings from a phone survey among n=804 Hawaii registered voters (maximum sampling error +/-3.3%), conducted between October 24 and November 16, 2017.

<sup>iv</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults, a Report from the Surgeon General* (2017). from [https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/2016\\_SGR\\_Exec\\_Summ\\_508.pdf](https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/2016_SGR_Exec_Summ_508.pdf)



## American Heart Association testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2654, SD2, HD1 Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

The American Heart Association **supports** SB 2654, SD2, HD1 which makes unlawful shipment of tobacco products to anyone other than a licensee, includes e-liquid within the definition of “tobacco products,” as used in the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law, and increases the license fee for wholesalers or dealers and the retail tobacco permit fee. The AHA also recommends that a significant portion of the increased revenue from the addition of e-liquid to the state’s tobacco tax be earmarked to support State-funded tobacco prevention, education and cessation programs, which the Department of Health recently reported have saved the state \$1 billion over the last 20 years.

While Federal law already prohibits the delivery and shipment of cigarettes to individuals, adding a state restriction on the direct delivery and shipment of electronic smoking devices to consumers would help to close the online sales loophole of those products and help to protect Hawaii’s youth from unscrupulous marketers of those products.

Internet sales of tobacco products and e-cigarettes are a significant public health concern because they evade state taxes and significantly undermine tobacco control efforts. In Hawaii, it is currently illegal to sell tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to those under the age of 21. Hawaii’s age to 21 law plays a critical role in preventing youth initiation and addiction to tobacco products, yet internet sellers can circumvent this restriction by providing easy access to these products.

E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among Hawaii’s youth. According to recent Department of Health data, almost half of Hawaii’s youths have tried e-cigarettes, and 25 percent are now regular users. Those levels mirror youth cigarette use at its peak in Hawaii. This is concerning because e-cigarettes not only often contain nicotine and serve as a gateway to traditional cigarette use, but recent studies also indicate that **e-cigarette aerosol (whether or not it contains nicotine) produces fine particulate matter that leads to similar cardiovascular and respiratory risks as traditional cigarettes.**

By adding e-liquid within the definition of the state’s “tobacco products” it would apply the tobacco tax to those products. This would have the greatest impact on reducing smoking rates among the lower income and youth markets, which are more price sensitive, and which are the most highly targeted by tobacco industry marketing and advertising. Those groups also suffer the most from tobacco product use and will, consequently, benefit the most from any effective new measures to reduce tobacco use.

Their health problems caused by tobacco use also disproportionately affect Medicaid costs to the state.

The AHA also supports the Part 2 section of the bill added in HD1. A one-time sizeable cigarette tax increase would have a greater impact on reducing smoking rates, especially on the lower

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income and youth markets, which are more price sensitive, and which are the most highly targeted by tobacco industry marketing and advertising.

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

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

Smokers who do not reduce their smoking because of a cigarette tax increase will also still benefit economically, along with every other state taxpayer. In Hawaii alone, tobacco use claims 1,400 lives each year and creates \$526 million in annual health care costs directly caused by smoking (\$141.7 million of that is covered by the state Medicaid program). Hawaii residents' state & federal tax burden from smoking-caused government expenditures is \$836 per household. Hawaii's estimated tobacco tax and license revenue, estimated to be almost \$138.8 million does not come close to offsetting the losses to the state caused by tobacco use. Smoking declines caused by state cigarette tax increases directly reduce these smoking-caused economic burdens for all taxpayers, and Hawaii businesses which bear the brunt of employee healthcare costs in our state.

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

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

Hawaii has made great strides in reducing tobacco use, but despite these advances, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in our state and challenges to tobacco control still exist. Hawaii's current adult smoking prevalence (13%) remains higher than the national Healthy People 2020 target of 12%. Moreover, our low smoking rates can conceal the fact that

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smoking continues to disproportionately affect populations and community groups by race and ethnicity, income and education, mental health and substance abuse, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) orientation.

In Hawaii alone, tobacco use claims 1,400 lives each year and creates \$526 million in annual health care costs (\$141.7 million of that is covered by the state Medicaid program). Hawaii residents' state & federal tax burden from tobacco-caused government expenditures is \$836 per household. Hawaii's estimated tobacco tax and license revenue, estimated to be almost \$138.8 million does not come close to offsetting the losses to the state caused by tobacco use. Smoking declines caused by state taxes directly reduce these smoking-caused economic burdens for all taxpayers, and Hawaii businesses which bear the brunt of employee healthcare costs in our state.

The tobacco industry spends an estimated \$25.5 million each year marketing its products in Hawaii. Hawaii's \$5.3 million investment in tobacco prevention, control and cessation programs pale in comparison, and fall well short of the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) best practice recommendation of a \$13.7 million annual investment. Allocating revenue generated from taxing both e-liquid and cigarettes to community prevention, education and cessation programs would help to increase the desired impact of this legislation by further reducing the use of these products by our youth and the state's most health vulnerable populations.

The American Heart Association urges you to correct the loophole in our state's age restriction, taxation, and public health laws. It is imperative to continue to curtail tobacco use in any form, especially among our youth, if we are to control our state's healthcare costs and keep its Pre-Paid Healthcare law sustainable.

Please support SB2654, SD2, HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Donald B. Weisman  
Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director

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free of cardiovascular  
diseases and stroke."*

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**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 5:01:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Dau	Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition strongly support SB2654.

Thank you  
Lisa Dau, RN  
Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 12:02:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	the Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SB2654 SD2 HD1** relating to the Unlawful Shipment and Transport of Tobacco Products; Electronic Smoking Devices; E-liquid; Tax; Permit; License; and Excise Tax.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **SB2654 SD2 HD1** and supports its passage.

**SB2654 SD2 HD1** is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it prohibits the shipment of tobacco products, and the transport of tobacco products ordered or purchased through a remote sale, to anyone other than a licensee; makes all provisions of the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law that relate to tobacco products applicable to e-liquid; increases the license fee for wholesalers or dealers and the retail tobacco permit fee; amends the taxes on cigarettes and tobacco products; increases the excise tax for each cigarette or little cigar sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer; increases the excise tax on the wholesale price of each article or item of tobacco products, other than large cigars, sold by the wholesaler or dealer.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[w]e support the development of long-term care financing solutions, better pay and working conditions for all health care providers, parity of mental and physical health coverage, and appropriate regulation of health care delivery systems. We also support the development of empirically validated prevention programs targeted at major public health issues." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 361-369, (2016)).



We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition. (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 378-380, (2016)).

Given that **SB2654 SD2 HD1** prohibits the shipment of tobacco products, and the transport of tobacco products ordered or purchased through a remote sale, to anyone other than a licensee; makes all provisions of the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law that relate to tobacco products applicable to e-liquid; increases the license fee for wholesalers or dealers and the retail tobacco permit fee; amends the taxes on cigarettes and tobacco products; increases the excise tax for each cigarette or little cigar sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer; increases the excise tax on the wholesale price of each article or item of tobacco products, other than large cigars, sold by the wholesaler or dealer, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889



April 3, 2018

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Finance

Re: **Strong Support for SB2654, SD2, HD1, Relating to Chapter 245**  
FIN Committee; April 4, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.; Rm 308

My name is Valerie Chang. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition. Our organization provides services and support and improves treatment for Hawaii's people affected by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), more commonly known as emphysema, chronic bronchitis and similar conditions. COPD and other respiratory conditions are the third leading cause of death in the US. Over **46,000 Hawaii adults (4.4%) have been told they have COPD, emphysema and/or chronic bronchitis.** It is estimated that at least an equal number of Hawaii adults remain undiagnosed while suffering from COPD. **COPD is responsible for over \$55 million in emergency and hospital charges each year.** Tobacco smoking is the major cause of these health conditions. For more information and Hawaii Department of Health's Burden of COPD in Hawaii 2010 Report to go <http://hawaiicopd.org>.

The Hawaii COPD Coalition *strongly supports* SB2654,SD2, HD1 raising taxes on other tobacco products, including all electronic smoking devices. The tax increase will bring in greatly needed revenue and reduce tobacco use, particularly in our youth who are especially sensitive to price and discourage youth from experimenting with these products. These funds can help increase tobacco prevention and cessation efforts, since so many want to quit and need services to help them. Youth use of smokeless products is rising in both high and middle school students. Many dangerous health conditions are caused by smokeless tobacco, including cancers, gum disease and increased cardiovascular conditions; research is continuing on conditions caused by electronic smoking devices. Rates must be increased to keep prices comparable to cigarettes and ensure declines in use.

Tobacco causes so many health, social and financial problems in addition to COPD. Please vote in favor of SB2654, SD2, HD1. Thank you for carefully considering this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Aloha,  
Valerie Chang, JD  
Executive Director  
Hawaii COPD Coalition  
Website: <http://hawaiicopd.org>,  
e-mail: [copd.hawaii@yahoo.com](mailto:copd.hawaii@yahoo.com)  
(808)699-9839  
700 Richards Street, Suite 2410  
Honolulu, HI 96813



April 3, 2018

To: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Cory Smith, VOLCANO eCigs®  
CEO and Owner

**RE: SB 2654 SD2 HD1 – 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 2654 SD2 HD1 for the following:

- Vapor products contain NO tobacco, and often times contain NO nicotine, and ultimately emit NO smoke. Nonetheless, **SB 2654 SD2 HD1 aims to unfairly classify all vapor products as “Tobacco Products” and deceptively refers to them as “Electronic Smoking Devices” as a way to deceive the public and to create a false perception that vapor products are the same as tobacco products** in an effort 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 as detailed below.
- SB 2654 SD2 HD1’s justification states that the use of vapor products, specifically “E-Liquid”, carries similar health risks to that of tobacco. **However, 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](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)
  - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-publishes-independent-expert-e-cigarettes-evidence-review>
- 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)
- SB 2654 SD2 HD1 exempts traditional Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) products that contain nicotine even though vapor products 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](http://m.circ.ahajournals.org/content/130/Suppl_2/A14945.short)
- 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 if it is the states goal to further reduce smoking rates.
  - [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 2654 SD2 HD1 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 and continue to fall. 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>
- **SB 2654 SD2 HD1 would not successfully remove vapor products from the Internet. It would simply restrict local based businesses from competing with businesses from the**



**49 other states that would not be subject to this regulation and would result in massive job and revenue losses in the state.**

- Age restriction technologies are already available and can be used to prevent youth access to these products. The alcohol industry has been successful with existing technologies and something as simple as age verification or signature verification through any major shipping provider could be a workable solution that has been completely overlooked in this bill.
- Internet sales provide access to vapor products for many local customers who live in remote locations. By restricting local Internet retailers, those purchases would simply be sent to mainland-based suppliers.
- **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

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 5:21:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Devin Wolery	PCG Enterprises LLC	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Increasing tax will burden those that use vaping to get off of combustible products. And force them back on to them. As even with the tax high on cigarettes. It is still cheaper to use them over vaping.

Requiring verbiage on the outside of the package. will increase mail theft. As now everyone will know what is inside. And the black market will increase.

The black market will also increase due to the high taxes.

Passing this will destroy the local industry and force many shops to close, and let go of their staff.

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 1:17:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerald Honma	Smokeless Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Please do not harm anymore of our States Business, Just for politics.

You folks know that by placing unfair Taxes and Regulations on our Vaping Business

All Hawaii consumers will just order their Vaping products out of State,

Then how are you going to tax these products or verify their age?

Also You Folks who we elect will again lose Tens of Thousands of Dollars

in taxes, By creating Unfair Taxes for our Hawaii Businesses.

Do You Folks not have any knowlegde of what these Unfair Taxes and regulations

Would do to all of Hawaii's Vaping Industries.

For us we would just have all of Customers order our products and E-Liquids directly from our Factory in Florida.

Please Reconsider NOT hurting Hawaii Business anymore!

This Rail is already doing enough Damage to our State's budget and Businesses.

Best Regards,

Smokeless Hawaii Enterprises

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 9:27:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mariner Revell	Irie Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB2654. As a small retail business owner in Hawaii we have a lot of competition from online sellers such as Amazon, ebay, and countless others, we also pay 30-50% MORE in shipping cost to get our goods here to Hawaii . Our profit margins are small and with increased regulations such as the higher minimum wage, state and federal regulations, making it in Hawaii is TOUGH to say the least. The effect of this bills passage is simple, businesses will close and jobs will be lost.

Please do not pass this anti small business bill! We are a Hawaiian owned and operated family business it is hard enough to make ends meet with all of the challenges we face on a daily basis. If any of you have owned a business you know what I am talking about. If you have not owned a business, please go out and talk to your constituents that rely on their small businesses to earn a living.

Furthermore where will the funds of these taxes go to? Our Puna State representative and other legislators uncovered the waste from the a UH medical building. Funds from tobacco tax and others were going to fund these UH projects, they were wasted! Large unused empty conference rooms and more waste of tax dollars. Please stop increased taxes, waste, and hurting small Hawaiian owned businesses.

Thank you for your time.





To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Les Drent  
for the Kauai Cigar Company

Re: SB2654 SD2 HD1 Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Kauai Cigar Company, its employees, and industry partners stand in strong opposition to SB2654 SD2 HD1, Prohibits the shipment of tobacco products, and the transport of tobacco products ordered or purchased through a remote sale, to anyone other than a licensee. Makes all provisions of the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law that relate to tobacco products applicable to e-liquid. Increases the license fee for wholesalers or dealers and the retail tobacco permit fee. Amends the taxes on cigarettes and tobacco products. Increases the excise tax for each cigarette or little cigar sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer. Increases the excise tax on the wholesale price of each article or item of tobacco products, other than large cigars, sold by the wholesaler or dealer. (SB2654 HD1)

Our company is already burdened with enough fees, taxes, and bureaucracy as a result of your regulatory over reach. This bill does nothing to increase revenue to the state of Hawaii.

Furthermore, how does the State of Hawaii intend to enforce a tax liability label law such as the one detailed in SB2654?

Sincerely,

Les Drent  
Farmer/President

**Kauai Cigar Company**

6200 Kawaihau Road, Unit B, Kapaa, HI 96746 USA  
Ph: 808-822-4495 Fax: 808-822-9731

# hawaiiCigar

ASSOCIATION

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Les Drent  
for the Hawaii Cigar Association (HCA)

Re: SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Kauai Cigar Company, its employees, and industry partners stand in strong opposition to SB2654 SD2 HD1, Prohibits the shipment of tobacco products, and the transport of tobacco products ordered or purchased through a remote sale, to anyone other than a licensee. Makes all provisions of the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law that relate to tobacco products applicable to e-liquid. Increases the license fee for wholesalers or dealers and the retail tobacco permit fee. Amends the taxes on cigarettes and tobacco products. Increases the excise tax for each cigarette or little cigar sold, used, or possessed by a wholesaler or dealer. Increases the excise tax on the wholesale price of each article or item of tobacco products, other than large cigars, sold by the wholesaler or dealer. (SB2654 HD1)

The HCA is committed to protecting the freedom of legal-age adults to enjoy cigars. This mail order prohibition would not stop remote sales but would simply encourage more black market sales. The HCA stands united with the Legislature in ensuring that Hawai'i's youth be discouraged from using tobacco of any kind, including cigars.

Furthermore, how does the State of Hawaii intend to enforce a tax liability label law such as the one detailed in SB2654?

Sincerely,



Les Drent  
for the Hawaii Cigar Association

For More Information on the Hawaii Cigar Association please visit

**[hawaiicigarassociation.org](http://hawaiicigarassociation.org)**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 4:45:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vin Kim	Eciggity	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB2654 would not stop any remote sales from Hawaii it would simply put online retailers in Hawaii out of business entirely and not able to compete against mainland websites who will ship to Hawaii anyway. There are also customers who live in remote areas of Hawaii not near a vape shop who use vapor products as smoking session products who would be significantly impacted by this especially because the bill stats it would make those who buy online C Class Felons. This bill also falsely classifies vapor products as tobacco products which is misleading and not accurate representation of the products as they contain no tobacco at all.

Also please check out the updated American Cancer Society's stance on ecigarettes products. Here are some excerpts:

Scientific Summary:

"Based on currently available evidence, using current generation e-cigarettes is less harmful than smoking cigarettes, but the health effects of long-term use are not known. "

Clinical Recommendations:

"The ACS recommends that clinicians support all attempts to quit the use of combustible tobacco and work with smokers to eventually stop using any tobacco product, including e-cigarettes."

"These individuals should be encouraged to switch to the least harmful form of tobacco product possible; switching to the exclusive use of e-cigarettes is preferable to continuing to smoke combustible products."

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:58:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendy Arbeit	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Testimony:

Date: April 3, 2018

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support of SB2654, SD2, HD1 Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Conference Room 308

I strongly support SB2654, SD2, HD1, which would regulate e-liquids and electronic smoking devices (ESDs) as tobacco products through taxation, shipment, and licensing and permitting.

I support this bill because of our findings from research with Hawaii adolescents and adults conducted over the past 4 years. These studies have shown that e-cigarette use is quite prevalent among Hawaii middle and high school students; in recent years over 40% of high school students have used e-cigarettes. Even at younger ages, the prevalence among middle school students can be 15-20% of the school population.

In addition to showing that e-cigarette use is prevalent among Hawaii school students, our studies have shown that e-cigarette use is linked to several adverse outcomes. Notably, using e-cigarettes is related to initiation of cigarette smoking among previous nonsmokers, hence is contributing to adverse outcomes. Our findings from Hawaii have been reported in national and international scientific journals such as JAMA Pediatrics and have been confirmed in several different US sites as well as in Britain, Canada, Finland, and Mexico.

Our research has also shown that e-cigarette use is related to a higher likelihood of symptoms of respiratory disease (asthma and COPD) among Hawaii adolescents and adults. This has recently been reported in the scientific journal Preventive Medicine; our findings on asthma have now been confirmed in two Hawaii studies and two mainland studies. Recent studies have also reported that e-cigarette use is related to higher likelihood of symptoms of cardiovascular disease including chest pain and myocardial infarction (PLoS ONE 2017, Tingting Yao, first author and SRNT 2018, Talal Alzahrani, first author). Thus there is evidence that e-cigarette use may be linked to adverse health consequences as well as adverse behavioral consequences.

I note that recent testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health has made several assertions that are counter to scientific evidence. For example there was testimony maintaining that e-cigarettes are safe because they emit no smoke. This is not true; a number of laboratory studies have shown that e-cigarette vapor contains high levels of ultrafine particles, the same toxic agent linked to disease risk from air pollution. This testimony also cites a 2015 report by Public Health England asserting e-cigarettes are “95% safer than cigarettes.” This conclusion has been widely criticized because it was not based on scientific evidence but rather on the opinion of a few people, who admitted there was no scientific evidence for it. The assertion is counter to the recent conclusions of comprehensive reports by the US Surgeon General (published in 2016) and the US National Academy of Sciences (published in 2018) as well as scientific reviews recently published in American Journal of Physiology: Lung, Cell, and Molecular Physiology (Lauren Chun, first author) and Current Allergy and Asthma Reports

(Ilona Jaspers, corresponding author). Both papers summarize evidence from laboratory studies showing e-cigarette vapor linked to adverse pulmonary consequences at the cellular and immunological level. Also, a recent paper in Pediatrics (Mark Rubinstein, first author) reported that levels of several toxic volatile organic chemicals that are carcinogenic are elevated in the urine of adolescent e-cigarette users.

Testimony has also misquoted the Public Health England report as saying that vapor products are shown to be 95% less toxic than cigarettes. In fact, the 2018 update has abandoned their original assertion and now simply states that saying so is “a good way to communicate” about the risk of e-cigarettes before going on to admit “this does not mean that e-cigarettes are safe” (p. 20). Another misleading assertion is that a large number of smokers are reducing their risk by completely substituting e-cigarettes for combustible cigarettes. In fact, papers in the February 2018 issue of American Journal of Preventive Medicine clearly show that use of e-cigarettes inhibits smoking cessation (Margarete Kulik, first author) and that the great majority of cigarette smokers do not switch to e-cigarettes but remain dual users (Gabriella Anic, first author), conclusions supported by a number of other studies documented in the 2018 issue of the Annual Review of Public Health (Stanton Glantz, first author). Finally, the testimony uses the faulty “cherry picking” logic often used to justify e-cigarettes by noting that CDC reports show youth use of tobacco products currently at a low level. This is true but the decline in US youth tobacco use began in 1998, 10 years before e-cigarettes were marketed in the US, and thus cannot logically be linked to e-cigarette use. Rather, the decline has been linked to regulations that increase the price and decrease the availability of cigarettes, exactly the kind that are proposed in this bill.

We have observed that e-cigarettes are aggressively marketed to Hawaii youth in television, print media, radio, and point-of-sale advertising venues. Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

Because of the adverse consequences known to be related to e-cigarette use, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-cigarettes the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues 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 Hawaii and work with these merchants to educate them and enforce current tobacco laws.

I strongly support SB2654, SD2, HD1 and ask you to pass this.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas A. Wills, Ph.D.  
Director, Cancer Prevention in the Pacific Program  
University of Hawaii Cancer Center

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:07:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2654. Studies from last year indicate 25% of High School students and 15% of Middle School students are using vape products. Recently students that I work with told me that the rate is much higher at their schools. As a long time volunteer with youth organizations it pains me to hear and see this. When students themselves are indicating that vaping is reaching epidemic levels we need to take notice and take action. Despite laws prohibiting vaping my people under 21 kids are having no trouble getting these products. We need to regulate these products like other tobacco delivery devices, know who is selling them and close the online loop hole as well as educate our kids on the dangers of these products. Please support SB 2654

Sincerely,

Scott Stensrud

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 5:27:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Tam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please know my strong support for SB2654, to apply controls and regulations to electronic delivery systems, consistent with the controls applied to cigarettes. Enactment of SB2654 will help protect the public, particularly our youngsters, from exposure to highly addictive nicotine. Whether absorbed first-hand, second-hand, or third-hand (later touching or ingesting deposits of the vapor), nicotine can change the development and function of children's growing nervous, cardiovascular, and respiratory systems.

Strong measures such as SB2654 are needed to counteract the power of tobacco companies, who now control nearly 100% of the e-cig and electronic delivery systems market. Please support SB2654



Date: Apr 2, 2018

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: **SUPPORT for SB2654 SD2 HD1**, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30pm at Capitol Room 308

Respected Members of the House Committee on Finance,

As a concerned parent and healthcare professional, I am writing in strong **SUPPORT of SB2654 SD2 HD1** that would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Use of ESDs among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. ESDs are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While cigarette smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD vaping has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because ESDs provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine.

No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

In addition, research in humans now clearly demonstrates that inhaling the aerosol (vapor) from ESDs causes damage to the respiratory and cardiovascular systems *even when e-liquids contain no nicotine*.

Without regulation, ESD manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing their use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax disposable ESDs and e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy to reduce use. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs.

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

I strongly **support SB2654 SD2 HD1** and respectfully ask you to pass this bill out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD  
Keaau, HI

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:20:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bev Brody	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

From: patti.ornellas@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patti Ornellas  
<patti.ornellas@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:13 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Patti Ornellas  
Lihue, HI 96766

From: cricketlachica@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Christopher La Chica  
<cricketlachica@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:07 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Christopher La Chica  
Mililani, HI 96789

From: kmedeiros@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kendra Medeiros  
<kmedeiros@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:12 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kendra Medeiros  
Lanai City, HI 96763

To the House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

**I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.**

There is substantial evidence that e-cigarette use can be addictive. Exposure to nicotine varies a lot, depending on the device and the e-liquid it uses, as well as the individual vaper's practices. But, the report said, there is also substantial evidence that nicotine intake from e-cigarettes, used by experienced adults, can be comparable to that of conventional cigarettes.

Traditional cigarettes pose serious risks to human health, much of it from toxic tobacco smoke. There is conclusive evidence that most e-cigarette products contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances, and that they increase airborne particulate matter and nicotine indoors.

The FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

**I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.**

Mahalo,

Susan Oshiro-Taogoshi

Date: April 4, 2019

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Raychelle Valiente

Re: **SUPPORT for SB2654, SD2, HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes**

Hrg: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 1:30pm at Conference Room 308

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I **SUPPORT** SB2654, SD2, HD1, which regulates e-cigarette products by restricting the shipment of tobacco products, including e-liquid within the definition of tobacco products, increasing the licensing fee for wholesalers or dealers, and increasing the cost of licensing for retailers of tobacco products.

ESDs are used amongst a wide range of ages, a 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey concluded that 42.3% of high school students have experimented with ESDs. The fun names and pleasing smells of the smoke are aimed to target youth. 1 in 4 high school students regularly use ESDs. E-cigarettes are now the most commonly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. Although many have painted a picture of safety and an alternative to cigarettes, current research shows the latter.

Many people are into the art of manipulating the smoke into different shapes and patterns. Although it may look cool, the smoke is harmful to the smoker and those around him or her. According to a study published in *Environmental Pollution*, ESD smoke is made up of harmful ultrafine particles. Many of the chemicals in the smoke are carcinogens and toxins. These chemicals make exacerbate respiratory diseases in children and adults.

By including ESDs in the definition of tobacco and by increasing licensing fees, youth will be less able to access ESDs. To better regulate and protect our youth, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax disposable e-cigarettes and e-liquid the same way as any other tobacco products. And to further hold adults accountable for our youth by requiring permitting and licensing to better enforce tobacco laws. A portion of the income should also be dedicated to educating our youth about tobacco prevention, especially education on ESDs, and strengthening the Hawai'i Tobacco Quitline.

I strongly support SB2654, SD2, HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Mahalo,  
Raychelle Valiente



**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 12:00:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anne Scharnhorst	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is clearly an area that needs more study and we shouldn't do it vicariously using young people as the test subjects. Please regulate these devices.

From: domizio@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Dan Domizio  
<domizio@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:36 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Dan Domizio  
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Jenna22@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jenna Lee <Jenna22@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:32 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jenna Lee  
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: kbraun2000@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kathryn Braun <kbraun2000@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:29 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Braun  
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: kswartz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kim Swartz  
<kswartz@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:21 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kim Swartz  
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: angelina@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Angelina Mercado  
<angelina@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:19 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Angelina Mercado  
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: kellar@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michael Kellar  
<kellar@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:19 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Michael Kellar  
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: keawe9@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Keawe Kaholokula <keawe9@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:17 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Keawe Kaholokula  
Honolulu, HI 96826



From: mmg2b@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michelle Gray  
<mmg2b@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:17 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Gray  
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: haraldebeling@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Harald Ebeling  
<haraldebeling@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:17 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I am writing to strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs to be tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax, and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use (aka "vaping") has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most widely used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Harald Ebeling  
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: anelalani@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lorrie Santos  
<anelalani@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:39 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Potentially harmful ingredients have been documented in e-cigarette cartridges, including diethylene glycol, genotoxins, animal carcinogens, and diacetyl, a butter flavoring known to cause serious lung damage.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products that mimic common household products, such as pens, lipstick and flash drives to camouflage possession and use by youth. And continue using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Lorrie Santos  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: dshaw@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Diana M Shaw  
<dshaw@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:41 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Diana M Shaw  
Lanai City, HI 96763

From: kahala.howser@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kahala Howser  
<kahala.howser@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:51 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kahala Howser  
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: mgoldsworthy@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mary Goldsworthy  
<mgoldsworthy@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:48 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Mary Goldsworthy  
Tampa, FL 33617

From: mrahmer@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mealani Rahmer  
<mrahmer@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:44 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Mealani Rahmer  
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: kat.foodbaskethi@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Katherine Bumatay  
<kat.foodbaskethi@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:12 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Bumatay  
Hilo, HI 96720



From: sgacayan@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Shani Gacayan  
<sgacayan@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:10 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Shani Gacayan  
Honokaa, HI 96727

FIN-Jo

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From: SB2654SD2HD1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Caroline Azelski  
<SB2654SD2HD1@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:04 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Caroline Azelski  
Kapaau, HI 96755

From: kat.foodbaskethi@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Katherine Bumatay  
<kat.foodbaskethi@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:03 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Bumatay  
Hilo, HI 96720

From: ellentrain@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ellen Train  
<ellentrain@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:00 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Train  
Mountain View, HI 96771

From: lisakehl@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lisa Kehl  
<lisakehl@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:55 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Kehl  
Honolulu, HI 96822

FIN-Jo

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From: pat.fleckconsulting@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patricia Fleck  
<pat.fleckconsulting@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:55 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Fleck

Sincerely,  
Patricia Fleck  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: ctakesue@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Cori Takesue  
<ctakesue@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:54 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Cori Takesue  
Lanai City, HI 96763

From: atrinh3@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alan Trinh <atrinh3@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:28 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Alan Trinh  
Hilo, HI 96720



From: vyontz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Valerie Yontz  
<vyontz@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:32 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308  
Dear Committee Members,

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,

Valerie J Yontz, PhD  
vyontz@hawaii.edu

Sincerely,  
Valerie Yontz  
Kailua, HI 96734

From: lbong@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Linda Bong  
<lbong@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:32 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Linda Bong  
Captain Cook, HI 96704

From: Lovey Silva <lovey.silva@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:44 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: ALERT - Testimony needed on a bad tobacco bill - SB2654 HD1

Dear House Committee on Finance, I am writing in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB2654 HD1. As a retailer taking pride in responsibly selling tobacco products to adults over 21 years of age, I am opposed to cigarette and other tobacco products tax increases of an undetermined amount added to SB 2654 in HD1. This a significant policy aspect added to a bill at this stage of the process. And, this is bad policy – it is regressive hurting low-income adult tobacco consumers most and will result in numerous unintended consequences, such as consumers finding alternative untaxed sources to buy tobacco products, such as over the Internet. This will hurt my business and my XX employees! Even before adding in the cigarette tax, I was opposed to SB 2654 SD2. E-vapor products may present a compelling harm reduction opportunity compared to combustible cigarettes. Tax policy should not dissuade adult consumers from using less harmful alternatives. And, Hawaii will not generate significant tax revenues from e-vapor products. Many e-vapor products do not follow the traditional tobacco product distribution system so it will be very difficult for the state to ensure collection of revenue. Thank you for considering this testimony and I hope you will defer this bill. Aloha,

From: Lovey Silva <lovey.silva@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:44 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: ALERT - Testimony needed on a bad tobacco bill - SB2654 HD1

Dear House Committee on Finance, I am writing in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB2654 HD1. As a retailer taking pride in responsibly selling tobacco products to adults over 21 years of age, I am opposed to cigarette and other tobacco products tax increases of an undetermined amount added to SB 2654 in HD1. This a significant policy aspect added to a bill at this stage of the process. And, this is bad policy – it is regressive hurting low-income adult tobacco consumers most and will result in numerous unintended consequences, such as consumers finding alternative untaxed sources to buy tobacco products, such as over the Internet. This will hurt my business and my XX employees! Even before adding in the cigarette tax, I was opposed to SB 2654 SD2. E-vapor products may present a compelling harm reduction opportunity compared to combustible cigarettes. Tax policy should not dissuade adult consumers from using less harmful alternatives. And, Hawaii will not generate significant tax revenues from e-vapor products. Many e-vapor products do not follow the traditional tobacco product distribution system so it will be very difficult for the state to ensure collection of revenue. Thank you for considering this testimony and I hope you will defer this bill. Aloha,

From: Lovey Silva <lovey.silva@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:44 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: ALERT - Testimony needed on a bad tobacco bill - SB2654 HD1

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From: Lovey Silva <lovey.silva@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:44 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: ALERT - Testimony needed on a bad tobacco bill - SB2654 HD1

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FIN-Jo

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From: Valentino Miranda-kepa <jaisaea521@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:31 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: ALERT - Testimony needed on a bad tobacco bill - SB2654 HD1

Dear House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2654 HD1.

As a retailer taking pride in responsibly selling tobacco products to adults over 21 years of age, I am opposed to cigarette and other tobacco products tax increases of an undetermined amount added to SB 2654 in HD1. This a significant policy aspect added to a bill at this stage of the process.

And, this is bad policy – it is regressive hurting low-income adult tobacco consumers most and will result in numerous unintended consequences, such as consumers finding alternative untaxed sources to buy tobacco products, such as over the Internet.

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And, Hawaii will not generate significant tax revenues from e-vapor products. Many e-vapor products do not follow the traditional tobacco product distribution system so it will be very difficult for the state to ensure collection of revenue.

Thank you for considering this testimony and I hope you will defer this bill.

Aloha,

From: tita@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Charity Kaiwi  
<tita@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:09 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Charity Kaiwi  
Makawao, HI 96768



From: sistaval@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Valerie Toro  
<sistaval@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:09 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

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The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Valerie Toro  
Paia, HI 96779

From: sistaval@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Valerie Toro  
<sistaval@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:09 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

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The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Valerie Toro  
Paia, HI 96779

From: kurikir001@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ronald Kuriki <kurikir001@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:12 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Ronald Kuriki  
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: eocb44@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Erin Bantum <eocb44@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:11 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

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The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Erin Bantum  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: mgagen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Marilyn Gagen  
<mgagen@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:39 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Gagen  
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: patriciablair@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patricia Blair  
<patriciablair@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:47 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Blair  
Kailua, HI 96734

From: selene.legare@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Selene LeGare  
<selene.legare@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:50 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

\*\*\*Our local community college campus has been overrun by vaping over the past year, and the spread of vaping is starting to normalize cigarette smoking so students are smoking outside of designated smoking areas. I have to play the "smoking police" all the time now, where I never did before. Please help our communities contain this.\*\*\*

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Selene LeGare  
Kahului, HI 96732

From: keithm@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Keith Matsumoto  
<keithm@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:50 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Keith Matsumoto  
Honolulu, HI 96826



From: stephandjim@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Stephanie Austin  
<stephandjim@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:49 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Austin  
Haiku, HI 96708

From: ropa@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Denise Ropa  
<ropa@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:53 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Denise Ropa  
Lanai City, HI 96763

From: shay.chanhodges@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Shay Chan Hodges  
<shay.chanhodges@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:21 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Shay Chan Hodges  
Haiku, HI 96708

From: dgkahalas@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tyler Ralston  
<dgkahalas@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:28 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Ralston  
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: cynthia.chow@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Cynthia Chow  
<cynthia.chow@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:52 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Chow  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: nihipalim001@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michele Last Name <nihipalim001@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:52 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Michele Last Name  
Hauula, HI 96717

From: bbreis@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Brijit Reis  
<bbreis@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:38 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Brijit Reis  
Kailua, HI 96734

From: maumindfulness@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tanya Gabriel  
<maumindfulness@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:36 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Tanya Gabriel  
Kihei, HI 96753



From: kcorpuz4@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kathleen Corpuz <kcorpuz4@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:36 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Corpuz  
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: liseebusekrus@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Annalise Busekrus  
<liseebusekrus@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 12:37 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Annalise Busekrus  
Kailua, HI 96734

From: michael.treece@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michael Treece  
<michael.treece@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 12:22 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

As a health professional who specializes in the treatment and care of children and teenagers, I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Vaping is smoking, period. It's inhalation of nicotine. that's cancer-causing and addictive. there's nothing remotely debatable about that.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Michael Treece  
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: ppokhrel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Pallav Pokhrel  
<ppokhrel@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 1:11 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Pallav Pokhrel  
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: rkjinz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ranjini Kandasamy  
<rkjinz@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 1:26 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, it is imperative that the legislature regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now used by almost 50% of our high school youth, who may not realize the addictive nature and health consequences of the nicotine and other by-products. We know that the adolescent brain is more susceptible to the harmful effects of nicotine exposure, and that e-cigarette use may become a gateway to other substance abuse. In addition, the method of vaping involves combustible materials and puts users at risk for burns or serious harm. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple. Our ohana depend upon us to protect our keiki and young adults from this serious health threat.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Ranjini Kandasamy  
Aiea, HI 96701

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 11:02:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is an important first step. Please pass.

From: eeno-orikasa@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Emi Orikasa <eeno-orikasa@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:08 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Emi Orikasa  
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: barbrick@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Barbara Nosaka  
<barbrick@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:11 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD2, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Nosaka  
Honolulu, HI 96822



**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 5:58:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Reid Okada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 4:39:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Garrick Aylesworth	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:12:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chad Kumagai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 2654 because it imposes an undue burden on those like me, who use e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation device.

Prior to trying e-cigarettes, I smoked for ten years. I tried everything I could to quit, but nothing was effective until I tried e-cigarettes. Because of e-cigarettes, I have not smoked a tobacco products in several years and am finally confident that I never will again.

I do not begrudge any of those who provide support this bill. Their reasons for their support are just. Nevertheless, I respectfully believe that those who support the application of this bill to e-cigarettes are ignoring those among us who use e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation device, instead focusing solely on the impact of e-cigarettes on the youth. It also appears that those who support this bills application to e-cigarettes also ignore the science that has shown that e-cigarettes are much safer than tobacco products. While it is obvious that e-cigarettes are not entirely harm-free, this bill deprives those among us who have tried all other methods of quitting tobacco products of an effective means of harm reduction.

I support the legislative end of preventing new users of both tobacco and e-cigarette products. However, this bill ignores those who use e-cigarettes to quit tobacco products of greater harm. There must be a better balance for these two equally important goals.

*To whom It may concern,*

I oppose bill **SB2654 SD2 HD1**. I've been a heavy smoker of traditional tobacco cigarettes for over a decade and only quit the last 3 years after being introduced to the lifesaving technology which we know now as electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes. I am no longer out of breath doing minor chores, getting up in the morning coughing, feeling sick and tired. All this due to switching over to e-cigarettes and have been tobacco cigarette free since.

This bill imposes on what we Americans believe in, which is freedom of choice and consumer rights to options. It's easy for a non-smoker to tell us to "**just quit**" but as a smoker myself it's easier said than done. The best route would be to have options for a healthier & better alternative. A report published by Public Health England (PHE), an agency sponsored by the UK's Department for Health, has concluded that e-cigarettes are 95 percent less harmful than traditional smokes. Also! there's no actual "**Tobacco**" in e-cigarettes!

Yet our U.S. Government continues to deny and ignore these facts and studies due to potential loss in tobacco tax revenues which each State including Hawaii receives. It's like our Government is more concerned about money than American lives which they can potential save by having an open mindedness to this new life saving technology.

On top of imposing on our rights as Americans, this bill is detrimental to small businesses here in Hawaii. Small businesses will "**Go Out of Business**" if this bill is pass, there is no doubt in my mind. Thousands will be out of jobs, unable to support their family and will struggle to survive in a high cost living situation here in Hawaii which many Hawaii residents faces each day. It will force small businesses to move to the mainland which is the total opposite of what we've been trying to do here in Hawaii which is to create more jobs and opportunities.

I implore you to re-review these bills relating to e-cigarettes, look pass all the politics/political gains and see the negative impact it will have on many residents here in Hawaii.

Sincerely, *Vince Tran*

Resident of Honolulu, Hawaii

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:13:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rafael Montero	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 5:27:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alison Bekas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 4:52:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jinna Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I strongly oppose this bill which is making it harder for people like me to stay off of cigarettes. I chose to start vaping as a way to wing myself off of smoking tobacco. I believe vaping has changed my life I am 31 years old and this has helped me quit smoking tobacco. If this bill does pass its also killing all the small buisnesses and mom and pop stores which we would hate to see go out of buisness. I believe it is time for Hawaii to grow and make futures for individuals and taking away small buisnesses will not only create chaos but more people will look for Government help. It is already hard for people looking for jobs just to get by trying to pay for rent. Please take that into consideration when reviewing this bill.

Thank you

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 4:43:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teddy Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:



**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:15:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Rosa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I, Jennifer Rosa, oppose to the bill SB2654.

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 5:24:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matthew Green	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because as someone who works with Ecigs for a living this would leave me & hundreds of other people in the state of Hawaii unemployed. I also feel that this bill would hurt the economy as tourists who smoke would not buy cigarettes with a 70% tax.

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:19:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
P Kuromoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is an unreasonably onerous measure that will hurt the health of Hawaii citizens and businesses for no gain. Health organizations around the world now acknowledge -- as has been told repeatedly to this legislature -- that electronic vapor devices are dramatically lower-risk alternatives to smoking and are an important strategy in reducing harm from smoking. Legislation that attempts to damage the availability of these products attacks the health and very lives of Hawaii residents that have found them effective.

This legislature had the opportunity to listen to the science presented to it years ago, rather than attempt to lead from behind with skewed pharmaceutical-company funded research perpetrated by US anti-tobacco industry researchers.

It is too late to lead but at least catch up with the rest of the world.

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:21:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
taeleipu liliu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:40:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryan Mitchell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

If this passes, it will destroy the industry locally. And put many business out, With all of their employee's. I am one of those employees who will be directly effected as I make commision on vape sales at my job. This would lower my income in the most expensive state to live in the nation.

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 7:06:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
garett uyesugi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a successful ecig/vape company operating in maui. I have been fda compliant, fda inspected, state law compliant. There are only 2 fda compliant companies on maui but many ejuice makers. what this bill will do is just put the compliant ones out of business and the rest will still sell like they do now. fda compliant companies play by the rules and promote safer products for the consumer. Unless there is a effective enforcement strategy any and all laws being considered will actually only make the ones that play by the rules go out of business.

aloha

garett

island ecig and vape co

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 7:08:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Riken Escalona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Passing this bill will lose a major source of income for the business that I work for, resulting in the store closing and losing my job.

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 7:59:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ki Jung Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing to voice my concerns with this bill. I was a heavy smoker of 10 years before I quit. During those 10 years, smoking was what I'd describe as a "necessary evil." It wasn't until I switched to electronic cigarettes that I could finally put down those cancer sticks and work towards a healthier self.

Electronic cigarettes are proven to be less harmful than cigarettes. Several universities, including Harvard Health Publishing reported on this fact. If it wasn't for vaping I'd still be smoking 8 minutes of my life away, one cigarette at a time. To see that a bill will hinder and possibly destroy the chances of many to-be-quitters, I was compelled to write in opposition to such movement.

This bill, more importantly than others, ultimately targets the free trade of electronic cigarettes and therefore indirectly hinder the acquisition and prolonged use of electronic cigarettes. Out of the 10 years that I've smoked, electronic cigarettes have been in the market for 7-8 years. The choice to change ultimately came down to health, price, and feasibility of prolonged use.

It was very apparent that I couldn't quit smoking based on just improving my health. It would take another 8 years for production and availability of e-cigarettes to finally meet my financial needs and it was feasible for me to quit smoking for a cheaper, healthier alternative. By taking the price and ramping it up with unnecessary taxes, I believe it'll ultimately deter those that are in a similar position as I was when I decided to quit.

Please reconsider this bill. I can't imagine how this will benefit any local establishments or people that quit smoking with the help of e-cigarettes. A lot of locals are now buying ecig components and juices via mainland shops simply because it is cheaper. This bill will condemn the remaining few shops into bankruptcy! Help promote this safer alternative to smoking and local businesses flourish by deregulating and supporting electronic cigarette shops on the islands.



**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 10:57:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 11:23:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

From: Allyn Hiramoto <ahiramoto71@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 2:58 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: ALERT - Testimony needed on a bad tobacco bill - SB2654 HD1

Dear House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2654 HD1.

As a retailer taking pride in responsibly selling tobacco products to adults over 21 years of age, I am opposed to cigarette and other tobacco products tax increases of an undetermined amount added to SB 2654 in HD1. This a significant policy aspect added to a bill at this stage of the process.

And, this is bad policy – it is regressive hurting low-income adult tobacco consumers most and will result in numerous unintended consequences, such as consumers finding alternative untaxed sources to buy tobacco products, such as over the Internet.

This will hurt my business and my XX employees!

Even before adding in the cigarette tax, I was opposed to SB 2654 SD2. E- vapor products may present a compelling harm reduction opportunity compared to combustible cigarettes. Tax policy should not dissuade adult consumers from using less harmful alternatives.

And, Hawaii will not generate significant tax revenues from e-vapor products. Many e-vapor products do not follow the traditional tobacco product distribution system so it will be very difficult for the state to ensure collection of revenue.

Thank you for considering this testimony and I hope you will defer this bill.

Aloha,

Allyn Hiramoto

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 9:55:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ASHLEY MATTOS	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 2:15:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

April 3, 2018

**LATE**

To: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

Dear Legislators,

I manage the merchandising of all Minit Stop Stores on the Island of Maui and the Big Island of Hawaii. I strongly oppose SB2654 on the premise of free commerce and fair taxation for responsible retailers. We offer Tobacco and E-Cigarette products in our stores for sale to customers over the age of 21 years. Our stores are vigilant in ensuring that sales of all Tobacco products and E-Cigarette products are never made to anyone under the age of 21 years.

As a responsible retailer we would never engage in the sale of any product that violates the laws we follow in the State of Hawaii and in the United States of America. The retailing of Tobacco and E-Cigarette products are lawful and are governed by rules put in place by our State Legislature that restrict the sales of Tobacco and E-Cigarettes to adults over the age of 21 years.

Supporters of SB2654 suggest their sole motive for supporting this Legislation is to prevent youth access to Tobacco and E-Cigarettes and to discourage their use. This is noble but unnecessary as retailers like Minit Stop ensure zero youth access through our vigorous enforcement of carding prohibiting sales to minors.

Supporters also have an ulterior motive of making the use of Tobacco and E-Cigarettes prohibitively expensive to stop current Tobacco and E-Cigarette users. Raising taxes on Cigarette and other Tobacco products and adding a new tax on Vape products will make it more expensive for law abiding consumers of Tobacco and E-Cigarette products depriving them of exercising their free will to partake in the use of Tobacco and E-Cigarette products.

Is this fair? Is youth access of Tobacco and E-Cigarette product rampant because obtaining these products at retail stores is easy? Should our Legislators govern and regulate morality and free choice? The answers to these questions is NO!

As an advocate of a free market governed by rules and regulations to protect consumers I find bills like SB2654 appalling as it goes against this premise. Adding insult to injury I find it equally appalling to suggest we raise a tax like the tax increase suggested for current Tobacco products but not state what that new tax would be on its face is extremely unfair and not good practice. How do you testify on a bill that has undefined provisions?

SB2654 will hurt our business as Tobacco and E-Cigarette sales is part of the gross sales we generate that supports our stores. We engage in this business fairly and follow all applicable laws. We are not advocates of the use of Tobacco over abstention. We merely provide the choice of purchasing these products or not to law abiding users. We allow our customers to make an informed choice without judgement which is the American way. SB2654 does the exact opposite of this.

All we ask is a fair shake and also Legislative concern for our business by looking at and weighing all ramifications of any bills and new laws being passed. Please consider this in your deliberations in passing this bill, amending it, or not passing it. I commend you all for representing us and allowing concerned citizens like me a platform to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,  
Kim A. Robello  
Free Market Supporter and Advocate of Fair and Unbiased Taxation

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 2:38:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebecca Powell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:



**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 4:06:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dallas Nelson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose all of this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 4:46:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Wells	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Taxing e-cigs more will only hurt people's quit smoking efforts.

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 4:54:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 5:06:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Santiago	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SUBJECT: I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2654

Dear House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2654.

As a retailer taking pride in responsibly selling tobacco products to adults over 21 years of age, I am opposed to cigarette and other tobacco products tax increases of an undetermined amount added to SB 2654. **This piece of legislation represents bad policy and will be detrimental to my business! If this bill goes through it will be a real kick in the teeth for people like me!**

And, this is bad policy – it is regressive hurting low-income adult tobacco consumers most and will result in numerous unintended consequences, such as consumers finding alternative, untaxed sources to buy tobacco products, such as over the Internet.

My business is reliant on tobacco sales and the other sales that adult smokers make when coming into my store. These tax increases will hurt my business and my employees!

Even before adding in the cigarette tax, I was opposed to SB 2654. E-vapor products may present a compelling harm reduction opportunity compared to combustible cigarettes. Tax policy should not dissuade adult consumers from using less harmful alternatives.

And, Hawaii will not generate significant tax revenues from e-vapor products. Many e-vapor products do not follow the traditional tobacco product distribution system so it will be very difficult for the state to ensure collection of revenue.

PLEASE OPPOSE SB 2654

Mahalo for considering this testimony.

Aloha, Brian Santiago

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 5:15:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lani Hernandez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 5:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 5:44:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Anton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 6:15:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Clayton Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:



**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 6:47:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 7:33:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Zehner	Hawaii Smokers Alliance	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

We strongly oppose SB2654. It is an unfair regressive tax increase that yet again singles out our minority group that makes up over 20% for the population. The bill also imposes needless and costly regulation where none is required. Ultimately, mean spirited bills like SB2654 make us all poorer and more oppressed. :(

Already Hawaii often falls dead last in the nation in small business climate and civil liberties. Let's not make it even worse. Please don't allow SB2654 to leave committee.

- Hawaii Smokers Alliance.

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 7:15:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathy Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 7:37:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicholas Winters	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:18:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeff Stevens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:36:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:45:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kimo Cruz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 6:48:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please leave the vaping products out of this bill.



**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 7:08:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dustin Andrews	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 7:14:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

Good Morning, as a member of the armed forces and a citizen of the state of Hawaii I am writing to oppose SB2654 SD2 HD1. If introducing this bill was the intent on forcing the people to quit using tobacco products, you are going at it the wrong way. I believe people will quit when they would want to, and educating the public would be a better alternative. With the cost of living in Hawaii, you will basically be forcing small businesses to pay more taxes on products, forcing the consumer to do the same. Some of these businesses are small "Mom and Pop" stores and depend on the revenue to support their families. You will literally force businesses to be competitive with prices for consumers, and at the end of it all, some business owners will have no choice but to close down (for the ones that rely heavily on e-cigarette sales). As for online sales, banning the buying and selling of products is ineffective in my opinion. This is the century where technology is everything. People buy products everyday online, and even some of these businesses rely on online sales from the mainland. Why restrict everything and make it harder for the people of Hawaii to survive? The cost of living is not enough? Or is this just another way of making more money off the people and the livelihood of others? Didn't you already tax products enough? I have been a cigarette smoker for the last 8 years and since e-cigarettes have come around, I have since stopped smoking completely. I have drastically cut down my nicotine from a high milligram to little or non at all. Please rethink this. You will not only be hurting mainly business owners, but the consumer as well.

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 7:28:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
April Pacheco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Looks like the legislature wants people to smoke more traditional tobacco. Vaping is much, much safer.

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 7:38:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

The ignorance and fear of vaping products needs to stop.

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 8:04:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael S. Nakasone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 8:34:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 8:50:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jenny Chan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

People who vape ARE NOT ASKING FOR THIS BILL. Please don't listen to people outside of our vaping community that have no stake in the issue. They need to mind their own business and stop trying to put their dirty little noses in other peoples' affairs. They also need to get PRIVATE funding for their advocacy from willing private donors and not the unwilling use of government force.



Wednesday, April 4th, 2018 at 1:30pm  
Conference Room 308

**House Committee on Finance**

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

From: Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP  
Medical Director, Kapi'olani Smokefree Families  
Board Certified, Pediatrics  
Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist  
Executive Board Member, American Academy of Pediatrics' Section on Tobacco Control

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2654, SD 2, HD 1  
Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes**

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My name is Dr. Bryan Mih and I am Medical Director of Kapi'olani Smokefree Families, the smoking cessation program at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children. Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children is Hawai'i's only maternity, newborn and pediatric specialty hospital. It is well recognized as Hawai'i's leader in the care of women, infants and children. With 243 beds, the not-for-profit hospital delivers more than 6,000 babies a year, and is also a medical teaching and research facility. Specialty services for patients throughout Hawai'i and the Pacific region include intensive care for infants and children, 24-hour emergency pediatric and adult care, critical care air transport and high-risk perinatal care. Over 1,600 employees and more than 650 physicians provide specialty care at Kapi'olani. The hospital is home to the Kapi'olani Women's Center and the Women's Cancer Center, and offers numerous community programs and services, such as specialty pediatric clinics and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center. Kapi'olani is an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific Health, one of the state's largest health care providers and 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. In addition to Kapi'olani, Hawai'i Pacific Health includes Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Medical Center and Wilcox Medical Center.

I write in strong support of SB 2654 SD 2 HD 1 which makes unlawful the shipment of tobacco products to anyone other than a licensee; includes e-liquid within the definition of "tobacco products," as used in the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law, thereby making



all provisions of the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law that relate to tobacco products applicable to e-liquid as well; and increases the license fee for wholesalers or dealers and the retail tobacco permit fee.

This measure will help to ensure that any consumer who wishes to purchase tobacco products must first present valid identification to verify that they are of appropriate age. Electronic smoking devices (ESDs) have surpassed cigarettes in popularity amongst teens. Ordering ESDs and associated products online is one easy way for underage consumers to circumvent our State's age-based regulation of tobacco. Prohibiting the remote sale and shipment of cigarettes, tobacco products, and ESDs, will improve the enforceability of our Tobacco age laws and ultimately help fewer teens to form dependence on tobacco and electronic smoking products.

There is currently no State tobacco tax attached to e-liquid. Tobacco products other than cigarettes are currently taxed at a lower rate than cigarettes, even though their use carries similar health risks. Increasing taxes on tobacco products and tightening up the prevention of access to e-cigarettes by youth are effective ways to reduce electronic smoking device use among youth and young adults.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of SB 2654 SD 2 HD 1.



3610 Waialae Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
P: (808) 592-4200  
E: tyamaki@rmhawaii.org



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI  
PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
April 4, 2018**

**Re: SB 2654 SD2 HD 1 RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.**

Good afternoon Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a statewide not-for-profit trade organization committed to supporting the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii opposes SB 2654 SD2 HD1 that makes it unlawful to ship tobacco products to anyone other than a licensee, and as well as increasing the license fee for wholesalers or dealers and the retail tobacco permit fee.

Many retailers statewide are already operating on a thin margin and face stiff competition from not only other brick and mortar retailers but online sales as well. By increasing the taxation and fees on these products, small businesses will stand to be hurt as they would have to increase their upfront cost of stocking electronic smoking devices and cigarettes. Many of the businesses that sell electronic cigarettes and e-liquid are small, locally owned shops that will be hit hard by the tax increase. There is only so much the retailer can pass on to the customer before no longer being price competitive. This higher cost of doing business may also force some stores to close, leaving people out of work.

We ask that this committee hold this measure.

Again mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 9:37:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 9:58:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jostin Iriarte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

This bill will increase the tax on eliquid. Which will decimate the local industry! Customers will end up switching back to traditional cigarettes. And causing more harm to themselves. And more tobacco deaths in the future.

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 10:01:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jostin A Iriarte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill,

This bill will increase the tax on eliquid. Which will decimate the local industry! Customers will end up switching back to traditional cigarettes. And causing more harm to themselves. And more tobacco deaths in the future.

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 10:03:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose sb-2654.

Yours Truly,

Tina Moore

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 10:13:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robin Fujiwaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please.... be fair with the vape industry... vaping saves lives and helps people get off of other recreational drugs. By raising taxes and what not makes it not affordable for the people making them resort to what they can afford

Testimony Presented Before the House Legislative  
Session On Health  
Wednesday, April 4, 2018

**LATE**

By  
Wilson Datario

SB 2654 - RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

TO: House Committee on **Consumer Protection & Commerce Chairs and Members,**

I am writing to express my fullest **support** for SB 2654 and **encourage** you to vote for this bill that would regulate ESDs by applying a tax on disposable ESDs and e-liquids and by requiring retailers and wholesalers to be permitted and licensed. ESDs were deemed as tobacco products by the FDA in 2016, but they remain unregulated in Hawai'i and are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax in the state. This bill would also limit online sales to licensed sellers.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Mahalo,

**Wilson Datario, CPhT**  
Student Pharmacist, Class of 2020  
DKICP Tobacco Prevention Project Co-Chair  
The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy  
University of Hawaii at Hilo  
200 W. Kawili St.  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Email: [wdatario@hawaii.edu](mailto:wdatario@hawaii.edu)



**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 11:36:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryan Oswald	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 7:33:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Zehner	Hawaii Smokers Alliance	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

We strongly oppose SB2654. It is an unfair regressive tax increase that yet again singles out our minority group that makes up over 20% for the population. The bill also imposes needless and costly regulation where none is required. Ultimately, mean spirited bills like SB2654 make us all poorer and more oppressed. :(

Already Hawaii often falls dead last in the nation in small business climate and civil liberties. Let's not make it even worse. Please don't allow SB2654 to leave committee.

- Hawaii Smokers Alliance.

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 7:15:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathy Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 7:37:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicholas Winters	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:18:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeff Stevens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:36:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:45:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kimo Cruz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 6:48:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please leave the vaping products out of this bill.



**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 7:08:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dustin Andrews	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 7:14:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM



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

Comments:

Good Morning, as a member of the armed forces and a citizen of the state of Hawaii I am writing to oppose SB2654 SD2 HD1. If introducing this bill was the intent on forcing the people to quit using tobacco products, you are going at it the wrong way. I believe people will quit when they would want to, and educating the public would be a better alternative. With the cost of living in Hawaii, you will basically be forcing small businesses to pay more taxes on products, forcing the consumer to do the same. Some of these businesses are small "Mom and Pop" stores and depend on the revenue to support their families. You will literally force businesses to be competitive with prices for consumers, and at the end of it all, some business owners will have no choice but to close down (for the ones that rely heavily on e-cigarette sales). As for online sales, banning the buying and selling of products is ineffective in my opinion. This is the century where technology is everything. People buy products everyday online, and even some of these businesses rely on online sales from the mainland. Why restrict everything and make it harder for the people of Hawaii to survive? The cost of living is not enough? Or is this just another way of making more money off the people and the livelihood of others? Didn't you already tax products enough? I have been a cigarette smoker for the last 8 years and since e-cigarettes have come around, I have since stopped smoking completely. I have drastically cut down my nicotine from a high milligram to little or non at all. Please rethink this. You will not only be hurting mainly business owners, but the consumer as well.

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 7:28:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
April Pacheco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Looks like the legislature wants people to smoke more traditional tobacco. Vaping is much, much safer.

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 7:38:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

The ignorance and fear of vaping products needs to stop.

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 8:04:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael S. Nakasone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 8:34:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 8:50:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jenny Chan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

People who vape ARE NOT ASKING FOR THIS BILL. Please don't listen to people outside of our vaping community that have no stake in the issue. They need to mind their own business and stop trying to put their dirty little noses in other peoples' affairs. They also need to get PRIVATE funding for their advocacy from willing private donors and not the unwilling use of government force.



Wednesday, April 4th, 2018 at 1:30pm  
Conference Room 308

**House Committee on Finance**

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

From: Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP  
Medical Director, Kapi'olani Smokefree Families  
Board Certified, Pediatrics  
Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist  
Executive Board Member, American Academy of Pediatrics' Section on Tobacco Control

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2654, SD 2, HD 1  
Relating to Chapter 245, Hawai'i Revised Statutes**

---

My name is Dr. Bryan Mih and I am Medical Director of Kapi'olani Smokefree Families, the smoking cessation program at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children. Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children is Hawai'i's only maternity, newborn and pediatric specialty hospital. It is well recognized as Hawai'i's leader in the care of women, infants and children. With 243 beds, the not-for-profit hospital delivers more than 6,000 babies a year, and is also a medical teaching and research facility. Specialty services for patients throughout Hawai'i and the Pacific region include intensive care for infants and children, 24-hour emergency pediatric and adult care, critical care air transport and high-risk perinatal care. Over 1,600 employees and more than 650 physicians provide specialty care at Kapi'olani. The hospital is home to the Kapi'olani Women's Center and the Women's Cancer Center, and offers numerous community programs and services, such as specialty pediatric clinics and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center. Kapi'olani is an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific Health, one of the state's largest health care providers and 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. In addition to Kapi'olani, Hawai'i Pacific Health includes Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Medical Center and Wilcox Medical Center.

I write in strong support of SB 2654 SD 2 HD 1 which makes unlawful the shipment of tobacco products to anyone other than a licensee; includes e-liquid within the definition of "tobacco products," as used in the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law, thereby making



all provisions of the cigarette tax and tobacco tax law that relate to tobacco products applicable to e-liquid as well; and increases the license fee for wholesalers or dealers and the retail tobacco permit fee.

This measure will help to ensure that any consumer who wishes to purchase tobacco products must first present valid identification to verify that they are of appropriate age. Electronic smoking devices (ESDs) have surpassed cigarettes in popularity amongst teens. Ordering ESDs and associated products online is one easy way for underage consumers to circumvent our State's age-based regulation of tobacco. Prohibiting the remote sale and shipment of cigarettes, tobacco products, and ESDs, will improve the enforceability of our Tobacco age laws and ultimately help fewer teens to form dependence on tobacco and electronic smoking products.

There is currently no State tobacco tax attached to e-liquid. Tobacco products other than cigarettes are currently taxed at a lower rate than cigarettes, even though their use carries similar health risks. Increasing taxes on tobacco products and tightening up the prevention of access to e-cigarettes by youth are effective ways to reduce electronic smoking device use among youth and young adults.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of SB 2654 SD 2 HD 1.



3610 Waialae Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
P: (808) 592-4200  
E: tyamaki@rmhawaii.org



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI  
PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
April 4, 2018**

**Re: SB 2654 SD2 HD 1 RELATING TO CHAPTER 245, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.**

Good afternoon Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a statewide not-for-profit trade organization committed to supporting the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii opposes SB 2654 SD2 HD1 that makes it unlawful to ship tobacco products to anyone other than a licensee, and as well as increasing the license fee for wholesalers or dealers and the retail tobacco permit fee.

Many retailers statewide are already operating on a thin margin and face stiff competition from not only other brick and mortar retailers but online sales as well. By increasing the taxation and fees on these products, small businesses will stand to be hurt as they would have to increase their upfront cost of stocking electronic smoking devices and cigarettes. Many of the businesses that sell electronic cigarettes and e-liquid are small, locally owned shops that will be hit hard by the tax increase. There is only so much the retailer can pass on to the customer before no longer being price competitive. This higher cost of doing business may also force some stores to close, leaving people out of work.

We ask that this committee hold this measure.

Again mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 9:37:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 9:58:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jostin Iriarte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

This bill will increase the tax on eliquid. Which will decimate the local industry! Customers will end up switching back to traditional cigarettes. And causing more harm to themselves. And more tobacco deaths in the future.

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 10:01:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jostin A Iriarte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill,

This bill will increase the tax on eliquid. Which will decimate the local industry!  
Customers will end up switching back to traditional cigarettes. And causing more harm to themselves. And more tobacco deaths in the future.

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 10:03:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose sb-2654.

Yours Truly,

Tina Moore

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 6:47:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2654-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 10:13:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robin Fujiwaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please.... be fair with the vape industry... vaping saves lives and helps people get off of other recreational drugs. By raising taxes and what not makes it not affordable for the people making them resort to what they can afford



**LATE**

finance8 - Joy

---

From: john.s.ishoda@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of John Ishoda  
<john.s.ishoda@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 1:57 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
John Ishoda  
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: ddrummon@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Debbie Drummondo  
<ddrummon@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 2:16 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Drummondo  
Aiea, HI 96701

From: james.yee@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of James Yee  
<james.yee@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 5:23 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

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The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
James Yee  
Honolulu, HI 96821

**LATE**

finance8 - Joy

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From: Ishigemura@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lisa A Shigemura  
<Ishigemura@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 4:52 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Lisa A Shigemura  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**LATE**

finance8 - Joy

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From: pualei.kaohelaulii@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Pualei Kaohelaulii  
<pualei.kaohelaulii@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 4:22 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Pualei Kaohelaulii  
Kekaha, HI 96752

From: hallac@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Allie HALL  
<hallac@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 3:26 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Allie Hall, RN, MPH, CTTS-M  
Adventist Health Castle

Sincerely,  
Allie HALL  
Kailua, HI 96734

From: diane\_omura@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Diane Omura  
<diane\_omura@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 3:07 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Diane Omura  
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: jleehorita@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Julie-Ann Lee-Horita  
<jleehorita@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 2:49 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Julie-Ann Lee-Horita, MD

Sincerely,  
Julie-Ann Lee-Horita  
Honolulu, HI 96821



**LATE**

finance8 - Joy

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From: weinerkauai@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Linda Weiner  
<weinerkauai@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 5:45 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Linda Weiner, MD  
Pediatrician

Sincerely,  
Linda Weiner  
Kalaheo, HI 96741

From: Lovey Silva <lovey.silva@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 12:13 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: I write you in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2654

**LATE**

Dear House Committee on Finance, I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2654. As a retailer taking pride in responsibly selling tobacco products to adults over 21 years of age, I am opposed to cigarette and other tobacco products tax increases of an undetermined amount added to SB 2654. This piece of legislation represents bad policy and will be detrimental to my business. And, this is bad policy – it is regressive hurting low-income adult tobacco consumers most and will result in numerous unintended consequences, such as consumers finding alternative, untaxed sources to buy tobacco products, such as over the Internet. My business is reliant on tobacco sales and the other sales that adult smokers make when coming into my store. These tax increases will hurt my business and my employees! Even before adding in the cigarette tax, I was opposed to SB 2654. E-vapor products may present a compelling harm reduction opportunity compared to combustible cigarettes. Tax policy should not dissuade adult consumers from using less harmful alternatives. And, Hawaii will not generate significant tax revenues from e-vapor products. Many e-vapor products do not follow the traditional tobacco product distribution system so it will be very difficult for the state to ensure collection of revenue. PLEASE OPPOSE SB 2654 Thank you for considering this testimony. Aloha, lovey Silva

From: dream@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Martha Yamada  
<dream@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:04 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Martha Yamada  
Hilo, HI 96720

From: mkyono@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mae Kyono  
<mkyono@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:40 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Mae Kyono  
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: hbarrow@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Helen Barrow  
<hbarrow@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:24 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Helen Barrow  
Makawao, HI 96768

From: bmih@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Bryan Mih  
<bmih@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:23 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

As a pediatrician in Honolulu and medical director of the Kapiolani Smokefree Families Tobacco & Nicotine Cessation Program, I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1, which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax disposable e-cigarettes and e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP  
Pediatrician

Sincerely,  
Bryan Mih  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**LATE**

FIN-Jo

From: jlum737@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jeannie Lum <jlum737@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:21 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jeannie Lum  
Honolulu, HI 96816



From: Isato1297@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lorene Ng <Isato1297@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 7:22 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance



Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Thank you hearing this testimony. I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,  
Lorene Ng, MD

Sincerely,  
Lorene Ng  
Honolulu, HI 96826

**LATE**

FIN-Jo

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From: michellek303@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michelle Kwock <michellek303@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 6:56 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Kwock  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**LATE**

FIN-Jo

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From: cnmilne@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Crystal Milne  
<cnmilne@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 6:43 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

As a public health professional, I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

E-cigarette use or vaping among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i have decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening significant public health gains made over the last decade. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the addictive drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Crystal Milne  
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: cbaldwin@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Celeste Baldwin  
<cbaldwin@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 6:18 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance



Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 which would regulate disposable electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and e-liquids as tobacco products through taxation, online shipment restrictions, and licensing and permitting.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-liquid the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs. This bill will also require 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.

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Celeste Baldwin  
Kihei, HI 96753

From: debz96789@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Debbie Apolo <debz96789@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 1:14 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Strong Support of SB2654 SD2 HD1, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance



Hrg: April 4, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

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Without regulation, e-cigarette manufacturers will continue to aggressively market their products by using young adults and celebrities as endorsers, glamorizing its use, promoting deep discounts, and offering popular local e-liquid flavors such as Kona coffee, Maui mango, and pineapple.

I strongly support SB2654 SD2 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Apolo  
Mililani, HI 96789